

## MVC Value Coalition Campaign: Preoperative Testing Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the purpose of MVC’s Preoperative Testing Value Coalition Campaign (VCC)?

MVC’s Preoperative Testing VCC aims to reduce the use of unnecessary preoperative testing for surgical procedures to improve quality, reduce cost, and improve the equity of care delivery in Michigan.


### Why is preoperative testing important?

Preoperative testing, especially in low-risk surgical procedures, often provides no clinical benefits to patients. Despite this, these services continue to be ordered regularly at hospitals across Michigan. Eliminating this unnecessary and, in some cases, potentially harmful preoperative testing represents a clear opportunity to improve value in surgery. The Coordinating Center plans to use claims data and engagement with MVC members to reduce the use of unnecessary preoperative testing for surgical procedures to improve quality, reduce cost, and improve the equity of care delivery in Michigan.

### PREOP VCC


#### Why do we care?

Choosing Wisely guidelines

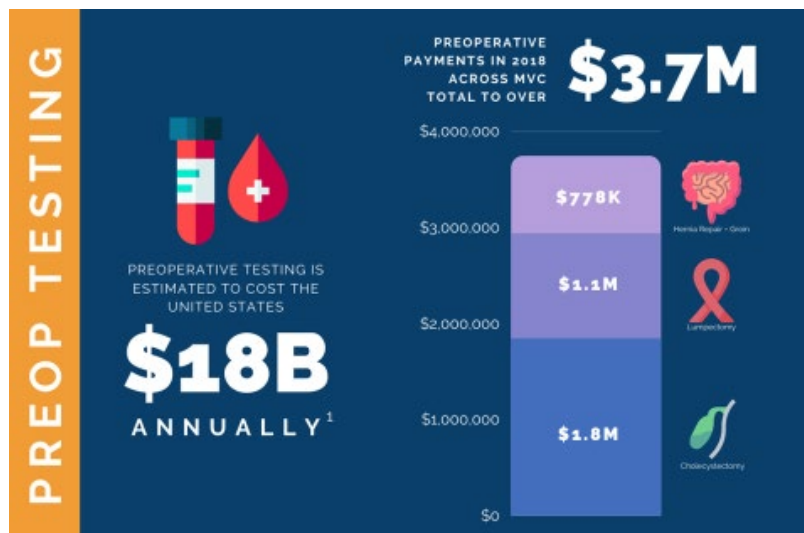


No effect on patient outcomes

Avoid routine preop testing for low-risk surgeries without a clinical indication



Leads to treatment cascade



### **How does the VCC plan to improve equity of preoperative testing?**

The MVC Coordinating Center is working to incorporate social determinants of health information into the VCCs. We hope to identify any existing disparities in preoperative testing in order to help hospitals improve equity.

### **Where can I find data and information related to preoperative testing for my institution?**

For a push report of your hospital's data please contact the MVC Coordinating Center ([michiganvaluecollaborative@gmail.com](mailto:michiganvaluecollaborative@gmail.com)). The Coordinating Center is also working to develop preoperative testing dashboards for the MVC registry. This will allow members to track their metrics over time and monitor performance improvement. If you are interested in specific indicators or certain preoperative tests, the Coordinating Center is on hand to conduct such analyses.

### **What conditions will the VCC focus on?**

Currently, the VCC is focusing on low-risk procedures for which there is little need for preoperative testing. This includes laparoscopic inguinal hernia repair, laparoscopic cholecystectomy, and lumpectomies. As the VCC develops, we expect to branch into other conditions. If there is a specific condition for which you would like preoperative testing data please contact the Coordinating Center.

### **What patients are included in the preoperative testing data?**

The preoperative testing data comes from the general MVC data, meaning it will include any payer currently included in MVC data. Conditions may have additional restrictions put on them to narrow down to the elective surgical population. For example, only outpatient episodes were evaluated for laparoscopic inguinal hernia repair, laparoscopic cholecystectomy, and lumpectomies.

### **How are preoperative testing rates calculated?**

We evaluate the 30 days prior to the surgery as well the day of the surgery for CPT codes for the following types of tests: electrocardiography, trans-thoracic echocardiography, cardiac stress tests, chest X-ray, urinalysis, complete blood count, basic metabolic panel, coagulation tests, and pulmonary function tests. For the complete list of CPT codes evaluated please see the [CPT code list document](#). Tests that occur in the emergency department or inpatient setting are not counted as preoperative tests.

### **Will outpatient testing data be impacted by the trend to test for COVID-19 before elective procedures?**

COVID testing is not included as one of the preoperative tests that the VCC is tracking and will not affect preoperative testing rates

### **Is testing variation in pre-operative testing risk-adjusted for things such as age or comorbidities?**



Currently the risk adjustment data is not adjusted for patient factors. The Coordinating Center will continue to evaluate if and how risk adjustment or stratification is necessary.

**How can I get involved with this VCC?**

The MVC Coordinating Center has developed a bi-annual member stakeholder group to inform ongoing activity related to preoperative testing. If you or someone from your institution is interested in participating in these discussions, please reach out to the MVC Coordinating Center for more information ([michiganvaluecollaborative@gmail.com](mailto:michiganvaluecollaborative@gmail.com)).