



CMCS Informational Bulletin

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SUBJECT: 2018 Updates to the Child and Adult Core Health Care Quality Measurement Sets

This informational bulletin describes the 2018 updates to the core set of children's health care quality measures for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (the Child Core Set) and the core set of health care quality measures for adults enrolled in Medicaid (the Adult Core Set).

Background

The Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services (CMCS) has worked with stakeholders to identify two core sets of health care quality measures that can be used to assess the quality of health care provided to children and adults enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP (see <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/performance-measurement/index.html>).

The core sets are tools states can use to monitor and improve the quality of health care provided to Medicaid and CHIP enrollees. Under statute, state reporting on these measure sets is voluntary.^{1, 2} The goals of this effort are to encourage national reporting by states on a uniform set of measures and to support states in using these measures to drive quality improvement.

Part of implementing an effective quality measures reporting program is to periodically reassess the measures that comprise it since many factors, such as changes in clinical guidelines and experiences with reporting and performance rates, may warrant modifying the measure set. In addition, CMCS continues to prioritize working with federal partners to promote quality measurement alignment across programs (e.g., Quality Payment Program), recognizing that this reduces burden and helps to drive quality improvement across payers and programs.

¹ The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA) required the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish a program to standardize the measurement of health care quality for children in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and facilitate voluntary reporting and use of the measures for quality improvement.

² The Affordable Care Act required the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish an adult health care quality measurement program to standardize the measurement of health care quality across state Medicaid programs and facilitate voluntary reporting and use of the measures for quality improvement. This program builds and expands upon HHS's quality measurement program established for children as part of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) of 2009.

For the 2018 updates to the Child and Adult Core Sets, CMCS worked with the National Quality Forum's (NQF) Measure Applications Partnership (MAP),³ a public-private expert body comprised of state Medicaid representatives, health care providers, health plans, and patient advocates that reviews measures for potential use in federal public reporting and identifies ways to improve the core sets. CMS obtains additional input from state Medicaid agencies through Quality Technical Advisory Group (QTAG). This extensive stakeholder outreach helps to ensure that the Core Set measures are evidence-based and promotes measure alignment across CMS since NQF also reviews measures for other CMS reporting programs.

Since the core sets were established in 2010 and 2012, states have made significant progress reporting on the core measures. All states and the District of Columbia (DC) voluntarily reported at least one Child Core Set measure in FFY 2016, with 45 states voluntarily reporting at least 13 of the 27 Child Core Set measures for FFY 2016. States reported a median of 18 child core set measures for FFY 2016 an increase from the median of 16 measures reported in FFY 2015. Notably, 36 states reported more Child Core Set measures for FFY 2016 than for FFY 2015. For the Adult Core Set, the number of states reporting measures has increased steadily from 30 states in FFY 2013 to 41 states for FFY 2016. The median number of Adult Core Set measures reported by states is 17 measures for FFY 2016, up from 16 measures reported in FFY 2015. Thirty-one states reported at least 14 of the 30 Adult Core Set measures for FFY 2016. In addition, 21 states reported more Adult Core Set measures for FFY 2016 than for FFY 2015, including two states reporting for the first time for FFY 2016.

2018 Child Core Set

Since the release of the initial Child Core Set in 2010, CMCS has collaborated with state Medicaid and CHIP agencies to voluntarily collect, report, and use the measures to drive quality improvements. Section 1139A of the Social Security Act, as amended by Section 401(a) of the Children's Health Insurance Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) of 2009, provides that, beginning annually in January 2013, the Secretary shall publish recommended changes to the core measures.⁴ This year CMS will be adding three measures to the Child Core Set and retiring four measures.

For the 2018 Child Core Set update, CMCS will add three measures:

- Screening for Clinical Depression and Follow-Up (CDF) (NQF # 3148) (the percentage of patients ages 12-17 screened for clinical depression on the date of the encounter using an age appropriate standardized depression screening tool AND if positive, a follow-up

³ http://www.qualityforum.org/Setting_Priorities/Partnership/Measure_Applications_Partnership.aspx

⁴ The first update was issued via a State Health Official Letter "2013 Children's Core Set of Health Care Quality Measures," SHO #13-002. <http://www.medicaid.gov/Federal-Policy-Guidance/downloads/SHO-13-002.pdf>. The 2014 update was issued via a CMCS Informational Bulletin "2014 Updates to the Child and Adult Core Health Care Quality Measurement Sets." <http://medicaid.gov/Federal-Policy-Guidance/Downloads/CIB-12-19-13.pdf> as was the "2015 Updates to the Child and Adult Health Care Quality Measurements Sets." <http://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/cib-12-30-2014.pdf>, "2016 Updates to the Child and Adult Core Health Care Quality Measurement Sets." <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/cib-12-11-15.pdf>, and "2017 Updates to the Child and Adult Core Health Care Quality Measures Sets." <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/cib120516.pdf>.

plan is documented on the date of the positive screen).⁵ The CDF Measure is an assessment of screening and follow up care for depression which is the most common underlying disorder among those who attempt suicide and is already in the Adult Core Set. In addition, the CDF measure aligns with U.S. Prevention Task Force (USPSTF) recommendations that primary care clinicians screen adolescents and adults for depression when appropriate systems are in place to ensure adequate diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.⁶

- Contraceptive Care (NQF #2903) – Most & Moderately Effective Methods (the percentage of women aged 15-20 years at risk of unintended pregnancy that is provided a most effective or moderately effective FDA-approved methods of contraception).⁷
- Asthma Medication Ratio (NQF # 1800) (the percentage of patients 5–18 years of age who were identified as having persistent asthma and had a ratio of controller medications to total asthma medications of 0.50 or greater during the measurement year).⁸

The addition of these three measures will allow CMCS and states to expand the measurement of quality of care in Medicaid in two areas – children with chronic health conditions and behavioral health, and addresses the important gap issue of access to contraception. For consistency and to ease the reporting burden for states, both NQF # 1800 and NQF #2903, will also be added to the Adult Core Set in 2018.

For 2018 Child Core Set, CMCS will retire:

- Frequency of Ongoing Prenatal Care measure (NQF #1391). This measure is being retired by the measure steward.^{9, 10}
- Medication Management for People with Asthma child core set measure (NQF #1799).¹¹ CMS recognizes the importance of this health area and will replace this core set measure with Medication Management for People with Asthma Medication Ratio (NQF #1800).
- Behavioral Health Risk Assessment (for pregnant women) measure. This measure has been retired by the measure steward.¹²
- Child and Adolescent Major Depressive Disorder (MDD): Suicide Risk Assessment measure (NQF #1365)¹³ will be retired by CMS due to state reported challenges in reporting. CMS recognizes the importance of behavioral health care and will add the measure Screening for Clinical Depression and Follow-Up (CDF) (NQF #3148) to the Child Core Set.

⁵ Measure Steward: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, NQF # [3148](#)

⁶ U.S. Prevention Task Force. [Final Recommendation Statement Suicide Risk in Adolescents, Adults and Older Adults: Screening.](#)

⁷ Measure Steward: US Office of Population Affairs, NQF # [2903](#)

⁸ Measure Steward: National Committee for Quality Assurance, NQF # [1800](#)

⁹ The measure steward refers to the organization that is responsible for providing the required measure information for the measure maintenance process that occurs approximately every three years and is responsible for making the necessary updates to the measure and for informing NQF about any changes that are made to the measure on an annual basis.

¹⁰ Measure Steward: National Committee for Quality Assurance, NQF # [1391](#)

¹¹ Measure Steward: National Committee for Quality Assurance, NQF # [1799](#)

¹² Former Measure Steward: American Medical Association- Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement

¹³ Measure Steward: American Medical Association- Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement, NQF # [1365](#)

Additional information about the 2017 Child Core Set MAP review process and their recommendations to CMCS can be found at: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/performance-measurement/child-core-set/index.html>.

2018 Adult Core Set

In January 2012, CMCS released its initial Adult Core Set. Section 1139B of the Social Security Act, as amended by Section 2701 of the Affordable Care Act, notes that the Secretary shall issue updates to the Adult Core Set beginning in January 2014 and annually thereafter.¹⁴ This year CMS will add three measures to the Adult Core Set. No measures will be retired.

For the 2018 Adult Core Set update, CMCS has decided to add three measures to the Adult Core Set:

- Asthma Medication Ratio (NQF#1800) (the percentage of patients 19-64 years of age who were identified as having persistent asthma and had a ratio of controller medications to total asthma medications of 0.50 or greater during the measurement year).¹⁵
- Concurrent Use of Opioids and Benzodiazepines (the percentage of individuals 18 years and older with concurrent use of prescription opioids and benzodiazepines).¹⁶
- Contraceptive Care – Most & Moderately Effective Methods (NQF #2903) (the percentage of women aged 21-44 years at risk of unintended pregnancy that is provided a most effective or moderately effective FDA-approved methods of contraception).¹⁷

The addition of these three measures will allow CMCS and states to expand the measurement of quality of care in Medicaid for three population groups – adults with substance use disorders, chronic health conditions, and reproductive age women.

Additional information about the 2017 Adult Core Set MAP review process and their recommendations to CMCS can be found at: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/performance-measurement/adult-core-set/index.html>.

Next Steps

The 2018 updates to the Core Sets will take effect in the FFY 2018 reporting cycle, which will begin no later than fall 2018. To support states in making these changes, CMCS will release updated technical specifications for both Core Sets in spring 2018 and make them available at: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/index.html>. States with questions or that need further assistance with reporting and quality improvement regarding the Child and Adult

¹⁴ The first update was issued via a CMCS Informational Bulletin “2014 Updates to the Child and Adult Core Health Care Quality Measurement Sets.” <http://medicaid.gov/Federal-Policy-Guidance/Downloads/CIB-12-19-13.pdf>. The 2015 update was issued via a CMCS Informational Bulletin “2015 Updates to the Child and Adult Core Health Care Quality Measurement Sets.” <http://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/cib-12-30-2014.pdf>. The 2016 update was issued via a CMCS Information Bulletin “2016 Updates to the Child and Adult Core Health Care Quality Measurement Sets.” <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/cib-12-11-15.pdf>. The 2017 update was issued via a CMCS Information Bulletin “2017 Updates to the Child and Adult Core Health Care Quality Measurement Sets.” <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/cib120516.pdf>

¹⁵ Measure Steward: National Committee for Quality Assurance, NQF #1800

¹⁶ Measure Steward: [Pharmacy Quality Alliance](#)

¹⁷ Measure Steward: US Office of Population Affairs, NQF # 2903

Core Sets can submit questions or requests to: MACQualityTA@cms.hhs.gov. If you have questions about this bulletin, please contact Karen Matsuoka, PhD at Karen.Matsuoka@cms.hhs.gov or (410)786-9726.