

Quality of Care for Children and Adults in Medicaid and CHIP: Overview of Findings from the 2017 Child and Adult Core Sets

Introduction

At the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), we are focused on transforming the healthcare system into one that delivers better value to patients through competition and innovation. To achieve this, we have three main objectives: empowering patients, focusing on results, and unleashing innovation. Together, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) serve almost 74 million children and adults.¹ The Child and Adult Core Sets promote our objective of focusing on results by supporting federal and state efforts to collect, report, and use a standardized set of measures to drive improvement in the quality of care provided to Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries. CMS's goals for state reporting of the Core Sets include: maintaining or increasing the number of states reporting Core Set measures; maintaining or increasing the number of measures reported by each state; and improving the quality and completeness of the data reported. CMS annually reports information on state performance on the Child and Adult Core Set measures. This fact sheet summarizes state progress in reporting the Child and Adult Core Set measures for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2017, including an overview of performance for measures reported by at least 25 states and which met CMS standards for data quality.

Status of FFY 2017 Child Core Set Reporting

The number of states reporting at least one Child Core Set measure as well as the number of states reporting each measure have increased substantially since the

release of the Child Core Set in 2010. All states voluntarily reported at least one Child Core Set measure for FFY 2017, with 45 states reporting at least half (13) of the measures.² The median number of measures reported by states was 18, which is consistent with FFY 2016 and an increase from the median of 16 measures for FFY 2013 through FFY 2015. In addition, 21 states reported more Child Core Set measures for FFY 2017 than for FFY 2016.

CMS has also worked with states to increase the number reporting performance for both Medicaid and CHIP populations. For FFY 2017, 47 states included both Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries for at least one measure, an increase from 45 states for FFY 2016.

CMS annually releases Child Core Set data for measures that were reported by at least 25 states and met CMS standards of data quality. For FFY 2017, 20 of the 27 Child Core Set measures³ met CMS's threshold for public reporting of state-specific results. The most frequently reported Child Core Set measures for FFY 2017 focused on primary care access and preventive care (receipt of well-care visits, children and adolescents' access to primary care practitioners, chlamydia screening in women ages 16 to 20, and immunizations for children and adolescents), children's use of preventive dental services, and emergency department visit rates. The most frequently reported measures remained consistent between FFY 2016 and FFY 2017.

CMS analyzed state performance on the 20 publicly reported Child Core Set measures for FFY 2017:

¹ May 2018 Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment Data Highlights are available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/program-information/medicaid-and-chip-enrollment-data/report-highlights/index.html>. Numbers reflect Medicaid and CHIP enrollment data as of May 2018, as reported by 50 states and the District of Columbia.

² The term "states" includes the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

³ The 2017 Child Core Set includes 27 measures. Data for one Child Core Set measure, Pediatric Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI), are reported by hospitals to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network. CLABSI is not included in the count of publicly reported Child Core Set measures.

- Median state performance was above 75 percent on measures of access to primary care practitioners and timeliness of prenatal care.
- Median performance was below 50 percent on measures of dental and oral health care (preventive dental services and dental sealants), the developmental screening measure, the medication management for children with asthma measure, and follow-up after hospitalization for mental illness within 7 days of discharge.
- Median performance was also below 50 percent on three indicators of adolescent health care (well-care visits, human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination, and chlamydia screening).

Status of FFY 2017 Adult Core Set Reporting

For FFY 2017, 45 states voluntarily reported data for the Adult Core Set, up from 41 states for FFY 2016. The median number of Adult Core Set measures reported by the states was 17, which is consistent with FFY 2016 and an increase from the median of 16 measures for FFY 2015. Thirty-four states reported at least half (15) of the measures for FFY 2017. In addition, 33 states reported more Adult Core Set measures for FFY 2017 than for FFY 2016, including four states reporting for the first time for FFY 2017.

As with the Child Core Set measures, CMS annually releases data for Adult Core Set measures that were reported by at least 25 states and met CMS standards of data quality. For FFY 2017, CMS is publicly reporting state performance on 19 of the 30 Adult Core Set measures, up from 13 measures for FFY 2015 and 16 measures for FFY 2016. The most frequently reported measures for FFY 2017 focused on access to primary care and preventive care (breast cancer screening, cervical cancer screening, and chlamydia screening in women ages 21 to 24), care of acute and chronic conditions (diabetes management and monitoring for patients on persistent medications), maternal and perinatal health (postpartum care visits), and behavioral health (follow-up after hospitalization for mental illness). These measures are consistent with the most frequently reported measures for FFY 2016.

CMS is publicly reporting three Adult Core Set measures for the first time for FFY 2017, all of which focus on outcomes of care for acute and chronic conditions:

- Comprehensive Diabetes Care: Hemoglobin A1c Poor Control (>9.0%): Ages 18–75
- Prevention Quality Indicator (PQI) 05: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) or Asthma in Older Adults Admission Rate: Age 40 and Older
- PQI 15: Asthma in Younger Adults Admission Rate: Ages 18–39.

CMS analyzed state performance on the 19 publicly reported Adult Core Set measures for FFY 2017. Median state performance was above 75 percent for two measures of care for acute and chronic conditions (monitoring of patients on persistent medications and hemoglobin A1c testing for people with diabetes), a behavioral health care measure (diabetes screening for people with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder who are using antipsychotic medications), and a primary and preventive care measure (adult body mass index assessment). Median state performance was below 50 percent for at least one component of care for three behavioral health measures: antidepressant medication management, follow-up after hospitalization for mental illness, and initiation and engagement of alcohol and other drug dependence treatment.

Continued public reporting of Child and Adult Core Set measures and the addition of public reporting for three Adult Core Set measures for FFY 2017 is the result of technical assistance to states to increase the number of states reporting and improve the quality of data reported for these measures over previous years of reporting.

For More Information

More information on the Child Core Set is available at <https://www.medicare.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/performance-measurement/child-core-set/index.html>.

More information on the Adult Core Set is available at <https://www.medicare.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/performance-measurement/adult-core-set/index.html>.

Context for Number of Measures Reported

CMS is required to update the Core Sets annually, which results in changes to the measures included in the Core Sets. These updates may affect the number of measures publicly reported each year. For FFY 2017, the HPV vaccine measure was retired and a new HPV vaccine rate is now included in the Immunizations for Adolescents measure.