



TO: Primary HEDIS Contacts

FROM: Wendy Talbot

DATE: December 1, 2017

RE: Patient-Level-Detail Files: Medicaid, Marketplace, and Commercial

Dear Plan Contact,

We are pleased to tell you that we are suspending the requirements for the Patient-Level-Detail (PLD) files for Medicaid, Marketplace, and commercial populations for 2018. This decision is a direct response to your comments about the number of measures and the burden of the work associated with collecting and reporting the data.

One important note: although this decision should help reduce burden immediately, CMS still requires PLD files for the Medicare population.

To be clear, NCQA believes that following the flow of data—from member detail through to summary counts—is integral to the audit. Even so, we understand that building and comparing two separate processes and files is neither optimal nor productive. As we continue to explore ways to improve quality measurement while reducing the burden of the HEDIS® and audit processes, more efficient and robust methods for data reporting are a priority. As part of that effort, we are evaluating alternate ways of specifying, developing, collecting and reporting HEDIS measures.

We anticipate that this new, future-state approach will reduce the complexity of measure specifications, allow for more granular comparisons of plans by geographic and patient characteristics, and allow auditors to follow one data stream from the start of the measure calculation to the final reporting.

In the meantime, we appreciate your efforts to fulfill our requests, and we are especially grateful for your patience while we used the results to determine their effectiveness, but we want to be responsive in a timely way when our efforts do not yield what we had hoped.