



October 1, 2015

Dear Colleague:

NCQA is pleased to present the HEDIS^{®1} 2016 *HEDIS for the Quality Rating System Technical Update*. With this release, NCQA freezes the technical specifications for HEDIS for the Quality Rating System, with the exception of the Risk Adjusted Utilization and Relative Resource Use (RRU) measure and measures that require pharmacy data—these will be final when the Standard Pricing Tables (SPT), risk-adjustment tables and National Drug Code (NDC) lists are posted on November 2, 2015.

This memo contains the following information:

- Random Number (RAND) table for 2016 HEDIS for the Quality Rating System.
- Corrections, policy changes and clarifications to 2016 *HEDIS for the Quality Rating System Technical Specifications*.

This memo does not contain changes to medications. Refer to the *NDC List Technical Update* document posted with the NDC lists in November for all medication changes.

This memo does not contain coding changes. Organizations must go to the NCQA Download Center (<https://downloads.ncqa.org/customer/Login.aspx>) and download the October 1 version of the Value Set Directory (VSD) which will contain all coding changes. Refer to the summary of changes spreadsheets in the VSD to identify codes and value sets that were added, deleted or revised.

Review all items in the table below, and incorporate them into your implementation processes. HEDIS Compliance Auditors will consider these documents to be part of the specifications. If you have questions about information included in the *HEDIS for the Quality Rating System Technical Update* or about other measure specifications, contact us through our Policy Clarification Support (PCS) system at <http://my.ncqa.org>. We wish everyone a successful HEDIS data collection season!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindy Ottone".

Cindy Ottone, MHA
Director, Policy

Enclosure

¹HEDIS[®] is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

RAND Table for Measures Using the Hybrid Method

Measure	RAND
Adult BMI Assessment	.49
Weight Assessment and Counseling for Nutrition and Physical Activity for Children/Adolescents	.77
Childhood Immunization Status	.20
Immunizations for Adolescents	.19
Human Papillomavirus Vaccine for Female Adolescents	.90
Cervical Cancer Screening	.25
Colorectal Cancer Screening	.71
Controlling High Blood Pressure	.96
Comprehensive Diabetes Care	.26
Prenatal and Postpartum Care	.12

Specification Updates

This document contains corrections, policy changes and clarifications to 2016 *HEDIS for the Quality Rating System Technical Specifications*. NCQA has identified the appropriate page number, measure/guideline and head/subtitle for each item.

Page	Measure/Guideline	Head/Subtitle	Update		
23	General Guideline 6	Audit Preparation	Replace task 18 in the HEDIS Audit Timeline with the following text: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Organization completes all corrective actions and follow-up requests and submits the plan-locked commercial, Medicaid, Medicare and Marketplace submissions and patient-level data files to auditor.</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">June 8</td> </tr> </table>	Organization completes all corrective actions and follow-up requests and submits the plan-locked commercial, Medicaid, Medicare and Marketplace submissions and patient-level data files to auditor.	June 8
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Replace task 15 in the HEDIS Audit Timeline with the following text: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Organization submits patient-level data for Medicare products to the designated CMS contractor.</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">June 15</td> </tr> </table>	Organization submits patient-level data for Medicare products to the designated CMS contractor.	June 15			
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24	General Guideline 7	Reporting—Material bias	Replace the reference to " <i>Appendix 10: Bias Determination</i> " with " <i>Appendix 9: Bias Determination</i> ."		
29	General Guideline 23	Supplemental Data	Add the following bullet to the "Supplemental data may not be used for:" section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk adjustment. Organizations may not use supplemental data sources when applying the risk adjustment methodology to the Plan All-Cause Readmissions and Relative Resource Use for People With Diabetes measures. 		
59	Guidelines for Relative Resource Use Measures	Inpatient facility standard price	Replace the reference to "ICD-9-CM" with "ICD-9-CM/ICD-10-CM."		
66	Guidelines for Relative Resource Use Measures	Calculating Total Standard Cost and Frequency: Inpatient Facility—Step 6	Replace all references to "ICD-9-CM" with "ICD-9-CM/ICD-10-CM."		
74	Adult BMI Assessment	Administrative Specification—Numerator	Replace all references to "21 years" with "20 years."		
75	Adult BMI Assessment	Hybrid Specification—Medical Record	Replace all references to "21 years" with "20 years."		

Page	Measure/Guideline	Head/Subtitle	Update								
103	Breast Cancer Screening	Exclusion (optional)	<p>Delete all of the text above the Note and add the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of bilateral mastectomy (History of Bilateral Mastectomy Value Set). Any combination of codes that indicate a mastectomy on both the left and right side on the same or different dates of service. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Left Mastectomy (any of the following)</th> <th>Right Mastectomy (any of the following)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unilateral mastectomy (<u>Unilateral Mastectomy Value Set</u>) with a left-side modifier (<u>Left Modifier Value Set</u>) (same date of service) </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unilateral mastectomy (<u>Unilateral Mastectomy Value Set</u>) with a right-side modifier (<u>Right Modifier Value Set</u>) (same date of service) </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of the left breast (<u>Absence of Left Breast Value Set</u>) </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of the right breast (<u>Absence of Right Breast Value Set</u>) </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Left unilateral mastectomy (<u>Unilateral Mastectomy Left Value Set</u>) </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right unilateral mastectomy (<u>Unilateral Mastectomy Right Value Set</u>) </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Left Mastectomy (any of the following)	Right Mastectomy (any of the following)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unilateral mastectomy (<u>Unilateral Mastectomy Value Set</u>) with a left-side modifier (<u>Left Modifier Value Set</u>) (same date of service) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unilateral mastectomy (<u>Unilateral Mastectomy Value Set</u>) with a right-side modifier (<u>Right Modifier Value Set</u>) (same date of service) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of the left breast (<u>Absence of Left Breast Value Set</u>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of the right breast (<u>Absence of Right Breast Value Set</u>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Left unilateral mastectomy (<u>Unilateral Mastectomy Left Value Set</u>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right unilateral mastectomy (<u>Unilateral Mastectomy Right Value Set</u>)
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96	Appropriate Testing for Children With Pharyngitis	Description	Replace "2–18 years of age" with "3–18 years of age."								
97	Appropriate Testing for Children With Pharyngitis	Ages	Replace "2 years" with "3 years."								
132	Controlling High Blood Pressure	Exclusions (<i>optional</i>)	<p>Replace step 3 in the third bullet with the following text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Identify the admission date for the stay. 								
121	Comprehensive Diabetes Care	HbA1c Control <8%	<p>Add the following sentence to the asterisked note below the Value Set table.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The date of service for the Category II code and the test result must follow the requirements outlined in <i>General Guideline 25</i> (i.e., the dates of service for the code and the test result must be no more than seven days apart). 								
125	Comprehensive Diabetes Care	Note	<p>Add the following bullet under the second bullet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Hypertensive retinopathy is not handled differently from diabetic retinopathy when reporting the eye exam indicator; for example, an eye exam documented as positive for hypertensive retinopathy is counted as positive for diabetic retinopathy and an eye exam documented as negative for hypertensive retinopathy is counted as negative for diabetic retinopathy. The intent of the eye exam indicator is to ensure that members with evidence of any type of retinopathy have an eye exam annually, while members who remain free of retinopathy (i.e., the retinal exam was negative for retinopathy) are screened every other year.</i> 								
123	Comprehensive Diabetes Care	HbA1c Testing	Delete the following paragraph from the numerator language and add it above to the denominator language: Organizations may reduce the sample size using the current year's administrative rate or the prior year's audited, product line-specific for lowest product line- specific administrative rate among all the reported CDC indicators. The lowest rate for all reported indicators must be used when reducing the sample size. Refer to the <i>Guidelines for Calculations and Sampling</i> for more information on reducing sample size.								

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124	Comprehensive Diabetes Care	Eye Exam	Delete the last bullet, which reads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The most recent HbA1c level (performed during the measurement year) is <8.0% as identified by automated laboratory data or medical record review. 																							
136	Follow-Up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness	Event/diagnosis	Replace "3. Identify the discharge date for the stay. Use only facility claims to identify denominator events (including readmissions or direct transfers). Do not use professional claims." with the following: 3. Identify the discharge date for the stay: Use only facility claims to identify discharges and diagnoses for denominator events (including readmissions or direct transfers). Do not use professional claims.																							
183	Use of Imaging Studies for Low Back Pain	Anchor date	Replace "December 31 of the measurement year" with "IESD".																							
166	Plan All-Cause Readmissions	Step 4—Example	<p>Replace the Example text and table with the following text:</p> <p>Example Assume a stay with the following comorbid CCs: CC-85, CC-17 and CC-19 (assume no other CCs).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CC-85 does not have a map to the ranking table and becomes HCC-85. HCC-17 and HCC-19 are part of Diabetes Ranking Group 1. Because CC-17 is ranked higher than CC-19 in Ranking Group Diabetes 1, the comorbidity is assigned as HCC-17 for Ranking Group 1. The final comorbidities for this discharge are HCC-17 and HCC-85. <p>Example: Table HCC—Rank</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ranking Group</th> <th>CC</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Rank</th> <th>HCC</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>NA</td> <td>CC-85</td> <td>Congestive Heart Failure</td> <td>NA</td> <td>HCC-85</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Diabetes 1</td> <td>CC-17</td> <td>Diabetes with Acute Complications</td> <td>1</td> <td>HCC-17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CC-18</td> <td>Diabetes with Chronic Complications</td> <td>2</td> <td>HCC-18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CC-19</td> <td>Diabetes without Complication</td> <td>3</td> <td>HCC-19</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ranking Group	CC	Description	Rank	HCC	NA	CC-85	Congestive Heart Failure	NA	HCC-85	Diabetes 1	CC-17	Diabetes with Acute Complications	1	HCC-17	CC-18	Diabetes with Chronic Complications	2	HCC-18	CC-19	Diabetes without Complication	3	HCC-19
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167	Plan All-Cause Readmissions	Step 5—Example	<p>Replace the Example text and table with the following text:</p> <p>Example For a stay with comorbidities HCC-17 and HCC-85 (assume no other HCCs), assign HCC-901 in addition to HCC-17 and HCC-85. This <i>does not</i> replace HCC-17 or HCC-85.</p> <p>Example: Table HCC—Combo</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">Combination: Diabetes and CHF</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Comorbid HCC</th> <th>Comorbid HCC</th> <th>Comorbid HCC</th> <th>Combination HCC</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>HCC-17</td> <td>HCC-85</td> <td>NA</td> <td>HCC-901</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HCC-18</td> <td>HCC-85</td> <td>NA</td> <td>HCC-901</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HCC-19</td> <td>HCC-85</td> <td>NA</td> <td>HCC-901</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Combination: Diabetes and CHF				Comorbid HCC	Comorbid HCC	Comorbid HCC	Combination HCC	HCC-17	HCC-85	NA	HCC-901	HCC-18	HCC-85	NA	HCC-901	HCC-19	HCC-85	NA	HCC-901
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