

Reducing Duplicative Quality Reviews

Maximize Use of Accreditation for Managed Care Compliance & Oversight

What is Deeming?

Medicaid’s “non-duplication” provision authorizes states to use certain information obtained from nationally-recognized accreditors in lieu of reviews by the state or its External Quality Review Organizations (EQRO). This process is known as “deeming.”

Value to States

- **Maximizes** use of existing accreditation requirement for state with accreditation mandates.
- **Simplifies** administrative review efforts (i.e., reduces staff time).
- **Promotes** department efficiency (i.e., allows you to reallocate resources to other priority projects).
- **Demonstrates** state’s commitment to quality and judicious use of resources.

Deeming in Action

Twenty-five states mandate NCQA Accreditation to drive quality and value in Medicaid managed care. Twelve of these states deem NCQA Accreditation to streamline regulatory oversight, as authorized by CMS. States without mandates can do this too!

Deeming Case Study: Tennessee Medicaid (TennCare)		
Managed Care Contract	Quality Strategy	Annual EQRO Technical Report
Section A.2.15.5 – NCQA Accreditation. “TENNCARE shall require the contractor to be NCQA accredited or obtain NCQA accreditation within the timelines specified below.”	“Annually all contractual requirements are compared with the most current NCQA standards. Those contractual requirements that are greater than the comparable NCQA standard remain a part of the TennCare Annual Quality Survey. If any contractual standards are equal to or lesser than the NCQA standards they will be deemed met by the NCQA survey.” (pp. 58-68)	“If the contract risk agreement requirements were the same or less stringent than the NCQA standards for MCO accreditation, they were not included in the Access, Timeliness, and Quality [evaluation] to avoid duplication.” (p. 12)

We Can Help!

NCQA offers support for state agencies looking to **align their quality strategy and operational standards with our requirements**. We can work with you to interpret NCQA standards and share examples from states making the most of accreditation and deeming.

To get started, contact Kristine Thurston Toppe, Director of State Affairs, Toppe@ncqa.org or 202-955-1744