

Proposed Changes to Existing Measures for HEDIS 2010: Medical Assistance With Smoking Cessation (MSC)

NCQA seeks comments on proposed modifications to the *Medical Assistance With Smoking Cessation (MSC)* measure suite, which comprises three separate measures for which data are collected from the CAHPS 4.0 patient survey:

1. **Advising tobacco users to Quit:** A rolling average (data collected over two years) represents the percentage of members 18 years of age and older who were current tobacco users, who were seen by a health plan practitioner during the measurement year and who received advice to quit smoking or using tobacco.
2. **Discussing Cessation Medications:** A rolling average represents the percentage of members 18 years of age and older who were current tobacco users, who were seen by a practitioner during the measurement year and who discussed or were recommended cessation medications.
3. **Discussing Cessation Strategies:** A rolling average represents the percentage of members 18 years of age and older who were current tobacco users, who were seen by a practitioner during the measurement year and who discussed or were recommended cessation methods or strategies.

To maintain relevance to guidelines that were updated in 2008, we propose broadening the language of the measure questions, from referring specifically to cessation of cigarette smoking to including cessation of use of other tobacco products (e.g., pipes, snuff, and chew). Furthermore, we intend to clarify survey language by adding examples in the smoking cessation medication question and smoking cessation strategy question. Response options will reflect frequency categories (Never, Sometimes, Frequently). In addition to changes to survey items, NCQA proposes changing the measure name to *Medical Assistance With Tobacco Use Cessation*.

In late 2008, NCQA conducted a cognitive test for reevaluation of the *Medical Assistance With Smoking Cessation* measure suite for proposed revisions to survey wording and response options. Results of the evaluation showed that the reliability of numerical response options was inadequate. Cognitive interviews revealed that survey respondents comprehended and preferred the modified question language to the original language.

Supporting documents for the proposed measure include the draft measure specifications.

NCQA thanks and acknowledges the contributions of the Smoking Cessation MAP.

Medical Assistance With Tobacco Use Cessation

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO HEDIS 2010

- [Updated commercial survey response options to categorical response format.](#)
- [Revised survey language to include tobacco use in addition to smoking cigarettes.](#)

Description

The following components of this measure assess different facets of providing medical assistance with tobacco use cessation:

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| Advising <u>Tobacco Users</u> to Quit | A rolling average represents the percentage of members 18 years of age and older who were current <u>tobacco users</u> , who were seen by a health plan practitioner during the measurement year and who received advice to quit smoking <u>or using tobacco</u> . |
| Discussing Cessation Medications | A rolling average represents the percentage of members 18 years of age and older who were current <u>tobacco users</u> , who were seen by a practitioner during the measurement year and who discussed or were recommended cessation medications. |
| Discussing Cessation Strategies | A rolling average represents the percentage of members 18 years of age and older who were current <u>tobacco users</u> , who were seen by a practitioner during the measurement year and who discussed or were recommended cessation methods or strategies. |

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Eligible Population

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| Product lines | Commercial, Medicaid, Medicare (report each product line separately). |
| Ages | 18 years and older as of December 31 of the measurement year. |
| Continuous enrollment | <i>Commercial:</i> The measurement year. <i>Medicaid:</i> The last six months of the measurement year. <i>Medicare:</i> Six months prior to the CMS administration of the survey. |
| Allowable gap | No more than one gap in enrollment of up to 45 days during the measurement year. To determine continuous enrollment for a Medicaid beneficiary for whom enrollment is verified monthly, the member may not have more than a 1-month gap in coverage (a member whose coverage lapses for 2 months [60 days] is not considered continuously enrolled). |
| Current enrollment | Currently enrolled when the survey is completed. |

Protocol and Survey Instrument

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| Commercial, Medicaid | Collected annually as part of the CAHPS Health Plan Survey 4.0H, Adult Version using rolling average methodology. |
| Medicare | Collected by CMS using the Medicare CAHPS survey. Only the <u>Advising Tobacco Users to Quit</u> rate is collected for the Medicare product line. |

Questions Included in the Measure

The following tables list the questions included in the measure for commercial and Medicaid product lines.

Table MSC-1: Medical Assistance With Tobacco Use Cessation—Commercial Product Line

| Question | Response Choices |
|----------|---|
| Q45 | <p><u>Do you now smoke cigarettes or use tobacco every day, some days, or not at all?</u></p> <p>Every day Some days Not at all → If Not at all, Go to Question 49 Don't know → If Don't know, Go to Question 49</p> |
| Q46 | <p>In the last 12 months, on how many visits were you advised to quit smoking <u>or using tobacco</u> by a doctor or other health provider in your plan?</p> <p><u>No contact in the last 12 months</u> <u>Never</u> <u>Sometimes</u> <u>Frequently</u></p> |
| Q47 | <p><u>How often was medication recommended or discussed to assist you with quitting smoking or using tobacco? Examples of medication are: nicotine gum, patch, nasal spray, inhaler, or prescription medicine.</u></p> <p><u>No contact in the last 12 months</u> <u>Never</u> <u>Sometimes</u> <u>Frequently</u></p> |
| Q48 | <p><u>How often did your doctor or other health provider discuss or provide methods and strategies other than medication to assist you with quitting smoking or using tobacco? Examples of methods and strategies are telephone helpline, individual or group counseling or cessation program?.</u></p> <p><u>No contact in the last 12 months</u> <u>Never</u> <u>Sometimes</u> <u>Frequently</u></p> |

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Table MSC-2: Medical Assistance With Tobacco Use Cessation—Medicaid Product Line

| Question | Response Choices |
|----------|---|
| Q37 | <p><u>Do you now smoke cigarettes or use tobacco every day, some days, or not at all?</u></p> <p>Every day Some days Not at all → If Not at all, Go to Question 41 Don't know → If Don't know, Go to Question 41</p> |
| Q38 | <p><u>In the last 12 months, on how many visits were you advised to quit smoking or using tobacco by a doctor or other health provider in your plan?</u></p> <p>No contact in the last 12 months Never Sometimes Frequently</p> |
| Q39 | <p><u>How often was medication recommended or discussed to assist you with quitting smoking or using tobacco? Examples of medication are: nicotine gum, patch, nasal spray, inhaler, or prescription medicine.</u></p> <p>No contact in the last 12 months Never Sometimes Frequently</p> |
| Q40 | <p><u>How often did your doctor or other health provider discuss or provide methods and strategies other than medication to assist you with quitting smoking or using tobacco? Examples of methods and strategies are telephone helpline, individual or group counseling or cessation program.</u></p> <p>No contact in the last 12 months Never Sometimes Frequently</p> |

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Table MSC-3: Medical Assistance With Smoking Cessation—Medicare Product Line

| Question | Response Choices |
|----------|---|
| Q57 | <p><u>Do you now smoke cigarettes or use tobacco every day, some days, or not at all?</u></p> <p>Every day Some days Not at all → If Not at all, Go to Question 59 Don't know → If Don't know, Go to Question 59</p> |
| Q58 | <p>In the last 6 months, on how many visits were you advised to quit smoking <u>or using tobacco</u> by a doctor or other health provider in your plan?</p> <p><u>Never</u> At least 1 visit I had no visits in the last 6 months</p> |

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Calculation of Medical Assistance With Tobacco Use Cessation

For the commercial and Medicaid product lines, rolling averages are calculated using the formula below. A rolling average is not used for the Medicare product line.

$$\text{Rate} = (\text{Year 1 Numerator} + \text{Year 2 Numerator}) / (\text{Year 1 Denominator} + \text{Year 2 Denominator})$$

- If the denominator is less than 100, NCQA assigns a measure result of NA
- If the denominator is 100 or more, NCQA calculates a rate

If the health plan did not report results for the current year (Year 2) NCQA assigns a measure result of *Not Reportable (NR)*.

If the health plan did not report results in the prior year (Year 1) but reports results for the current year and achieves a denominator of 100 or more, NCQA calculates a rate; if the denominator is less than 100 NCQA assigns a measure result of NA.

Changes in submission entity

If a health plan reports HMO and POS products separately in the prior year and reports HMO/POS combined in the current year, Year 1 numerators and denominators are created by combining data from the separate HMO and POS results. The combined Year 1 numerators and denominators are used for the rolling average calculations.

Alternatively, if a health plan reports HMO/POS combined in the prior year and reports HMO and POS separately in the current year, the reporting entity is considered to be changed and prior year data is not used for any rolling average calculations.

Question numbers reference the adult survey for the commercial product line. The rate for the Medicaid product line is calculated by substituting the corresponding questions and response options.

Advising Tobacco Users to Quit—Commercial and Medicaid Product Lines

Denominator

The number of members who responded to the survey and indicated that they were current tobacco users and had one or more visits during the measurement year.

Member response choices *must* be as follows to be included in the denominator:

- Q45 = “Every day” or “Some days”
- Q46 = “Never” or “Sometimes” or “Frequently”.

Note: Members who respond “No contact in the last 12 months” to Q47 or Q48 are excluded (Q46 is coded as “No contact in the last 12 months”).

Numerator The number of members in the denominator who indicated that they received advice to quit from a doctor or other health provider.

Member response choices *must* be as follows to be included in the numerator:

- Q46 = “**Sometimes**” or “**Frequently**”.

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Advising Tobacco Users to Quit—Medicare Product Line

Denominator The number of members who responded to the survey and indicated that they were current tobacco users and had one or more visits during the measurement year.

Member response choices *must* be as follows to be included in the denominator:

- Q57 = “Every day” or “Some days”
- Q58 = “**Never**” or “**At Least 1 Visit**”

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Numerator The number of members in the denominator who indicated that they received advice to quit from a doctor or other health provider by answering “**At Least 1 Visit**” to Q58.

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Discussing Cessation Medications—Commercial and Medicaid Product Lines

Denominator The number of members who responded to the survey and indicated that they were current tobacco users and had one or more visits during the measurement year.

Member response choices *must* be as follows to be included in the denominator:

- Q45 = “Every day” or “Some days”
- Q47 = “**Never**” or “**Sometimes**” or “**Frequently**”.

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Note: Members who respond “No contact in the last 12 months” to Q46 or Q48 are excluded (Q47 is coded as “No contact in the last 12 months”).

Numerator The number of members in the denominator who indicated that medication to assist with quitting was recommended or discussed.

Member response choices *must* be as follows to be included in the numerator:

- Q47 = “**Sometimes**” or “**Frequently**”.

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Discussing Cessation Strategies—Commercial and Medicaid Product Lines

Denominator The number of members who responded to the survey and indicated that they were current tobacco users and had one or more visits during the measurement year.

Member response choices *must* follow one of the two paths to be included in the denominator:

- Q45 = “Every day” or “Some days”
- Q48 = “**Never**” or “**Sometimes**” or “**Frequently**”

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Note: Members who respond “No contact in the last 12 months” to Q46 or Q47 are excluded (Q48 is coded as “No contact in the last 12 months”).

Numerator The number of members in the denominator who indicated that their doctor or health provider recommended or discussed methods and strategies other than medication to assist with quitting.

Member response choices *must* be as follows to be included in the numerator:

- Q48 = “Sometimes” or “Frequently”

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Percentage of Current Tobacco Users—Supplemental Calculation

This calculation is provided to support analysis of *Medical Assistance With Tobacco Use* rates. A health plan with a small number of tobacco users may not be able to obtain a large enough denominator to achieve reportable rates (and may receive NA results). This calculation provides additional context for NA results.

Percentage of current tobacco users is calculated using data collected during the current reporting year only (not calculated as a rolling average).

Denominator The number of members who responded “Every day,” “Some days,” “Not at all” or “Don’t know” to the question “Do you now smoke cigarettes or use tobacco every day, some days, or not at all?”

Numerator The number of members in the denominator who responded “Every day” or “Some days” to the question “Do you now smoke cigarettes or use tobacco every day, some days, or not at all?”