



What is HEDIS^{®1}?

Leveraging HEDIS to Measure Health Care Quality

HEDIS, the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set, is a standardized population health management tool that employers can use to understand the health of their employees and measure the quality of care their population receives.

HEDIS is the most widely used performance improvement tool in health care. Its measures are based on scientific evidence, input from key stakeholders and experts in health measurement. Data collected from health plans, health care organizations and government agencies are used to determine the effectiveness of care provided to plan members.

HEDIS comprises more than 90 standardized measures that look at a variety of care delivery, including:

- Overuse and appropriateness of care.
- Chronic condition management.
- Behavioral health management.
- Screening and prevention.
- ED utilization and hospital readmissions.

In addition to collecting, analyzing and publishing metrics at the health plan level, NCQA calculates national performance statistics and benchmarks to give insight into the variations of plans' performance. HEDIS measures are also used to set standards for measures in NCQA Accreditation.

What HEDIS tells employers

HEDIS measures provide employers with:

- A clear picture of the appropriateness of care their employees receive from a health plan.
- Insights into how well the plan manages population health.
- Identified areas where care is lacking and could improve.
- How a plan compares to its competitors and to national and regional benchmarks.



HEDIS provides employers with a set of standardized measures to benchmark their health plan's performance.

How employers can use HEDIS

HEDIS can help employers:

1. **Select a health plan.** Employers can use HEDIS measures, in conjunction with NCQA's Health Plan Ratings, to evaluate plans and select a plan that can manage the health of their population.
2. **Target programs.** If employers offer employee benefits outside health insurance, it's important that those additional resources and programs are targeted to what the population needs. HEDIS can help identify areas of greatest need.
3. **Measure population health improvement.** Measuring improvement in a population's health is often a challenge. HEDIS provides a set of measures that are evidence-based and standardized—there is little room for misinterpretation and mismeasurement.

For employers, HEDIS provides a standardized measurement tool for assessing their population's health and the quality of care provided by the health plan.

RELEVANT NCQA RESOURCES

The **State of Health Care Quality Report** summarizes performance from the previous calendar year for key HEDIS measures.

Quality Compass^{®2} displays quality improvement and benchmark plan performance through online access to health plan HEDIS data.

Health Plan Report Cards allows users access the Accreditation status and key measures of performance for NCQA-Accredited health plans.

² Quality Compass[®] is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

For more information, visit www.ncqa.org



The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit that uses measurement, transparency and accountability to improve health care. NCQA creates standards, measures performance and highlights organizations that do well. All this helps drive improvement, save lives, keep people healthy and save money.

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