Dear HEDIS Contact:

As you prepare to submit data for HEDIS 2020, we want to remind you of the rules for NCQA's reporting programs and products, such as Quality Compass. We have adjusted our traditional public reporting rules to accommodate the COVID-19 changes for HEDIS and Accreditation reporting in 2020. This letter contains important information about Interactive Data Submission System (IDSS) conditions for public reporting, **so please read it carefully!**

To be included in NCQA's reporting programs and products, each HEDIS data submission must:

- Be audited by an NCQA-Certified HEDIS Compliance Auditor.
- Be marked "Final" in IDSS.
- Have a corresponding electronic Attestation.
- Be submitted by the deadlines stated below.

Medicare and Exchange Reporting

For HEDIS 2020, CMS eliminated requirements for the collection of HEDIS and CAHPS data for Medicare Advantage plans. CMS also suspended activities for the collection of Quality Rating System HEDIS and Quality Health Plan survey results. To align with these decisions, Medicare and Exchange data will not be used for any NCQA programs in 2020.

Plans may continue to use IDSS for internal quality improvement purposes. Plans that use IDSS to submit data for these purposes should follow all IDSS submission guidelines.

If your plan has decided not to report Medicare/Exchange results for internal use this year, contact your NCQA account manager to have your submissions removed from IDSS.

2020 Policy and Data Submission Deadlines

HEDIS submissions and corresponding Attestations must be in the IDSS and marked "Final" by **11:59 p.m. (ET) on June 15, 2020.**

HEDIS submissions must be "plan-locked" by no later than **11:59 p.m. (ET) on June 1, 2020,** to help ensure that NCQA-Certified HEDIS Compliance Auditors have sufficient time to review, approve and "audit-lock" all product-line submissions (with the exception of unaudited Medicaid LTSS HEDIS data) by the June 15 deadline.

After June 15, **all** late submissions and resubmissions will be charged a processing fee of **$5,000** per submission/resubmission. NCQA-Accredited health plans are also subject to the late submission penalties described in their Accreditation contract. *NCQA, at its sole discretion, may choose to not accept late submissions or resubmission requests after the last business day of June.*

NCQA reserves the right to exclude a late submission or resubmission from any NCQA reporting program or product if its inclusion jeopardizes the data testing, publication date or quality of the program or product. NCQA may, at its sole discretion, assess a fee for requests to add late or resubmitted data to such programs or products.

NCQA reserves the right to require data resubmission if concerns arise about the accuracy of results, and the resubmission may be subject to a fee at NCQA's sole discretion.

Public Reporting

Plans must submit a separate Attestation for each submission for which they report HEDIS/CAHPS data to NCQA.

- Medicare and Exchange plans will attest only to the accuracy of data submitted in the IDSS.
- Commercial and Medicaid plans will continue to attest to the accuracy of the data and state in the Attestation if they agree to publicly report data.

Quality Compass and other NCQA products include plans that choose to publicly report. Organizations seeking NCQA Accreditation that choose to not publicly report will be required to have specific HEDIS measures publicly reported in accordance to their Accreditation contract. These plans will be listed in Quality Compass. Non-accredited plans that do not choose to publicly report will be included only in aggregate for producing Quality Compass benchmarks. Medicare and Exchange submissions will not be included in Quality Compass or in benchmarks in 2020. There will be no Health Plan Ratings in 2020.

Although HEDIS/CAHPS reporting remains a required component of commercial and Medicaid Accreditation, NCQA will not conduct Health Plan Ratings or use that information for Accreditation scoring in 2020. NCQA-Accredited health plans will continue to be listed in the September 2020 Health plan Report Card based on their existing status or standards performance for surveys.

Refer to the tables below for additional information about use of eligible submissions in NCQA reporting programs and products.[1]

Table 1: "Yes" on Attestation—Displayed for each product

Quality Compass	Analysis Projects
Health plan-level data may be displayed.	Health plan-level data may be displayed.

Table 2: "No" on Attestation—Displayed for each product

Quality Compass	Analysis Projects
Data may be used in aggregate to produce benchmarks.	No health plan level data are displayed. Data may be used in aggregate.

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[1]NCQA may also choose not to publicly report certain data.

Exclusions from NCQA Programs and Products

In some circumstances, NCQA excludes data from reporting programs, products and analysis. A submission that meets any criteria listed below will not be included in NCQA's reporting programs and products and should be indicated on the Attestation as "No" for public reporting:[2]

1. All Medicare submissions are excluded from NCQA reporting products. Public reporting options have been removed for 2020.

2. For any of the following special projects or areas:

    - FFS
    - HARP
    - HIVSNP
    - HSAG-State
    - LTSS

    - MMP Demonstration
    - CMS
    - QRS
    - SNBC
    - SNBC-SNP

    - SNBC Non-SNP
    - SNP Chronic or Disabling Condition
    - SNP Dual Eligible
    - SNP Institutional

How to Submit a Question to the My NCQA Portal

If you have any questions, contact your account manager by submitting a request to My.NCQA.org. Log in and click **My Questions**, then click **Ask a Question**, then click **Support**. In the drop-down menu, click **IDSS**. Enter the subject and your question and click **Submit Your Question**.

Sincerely,

Garcene Duckett, MSIS
Assistant Director, Data Collection

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[2]Attestations marked "Yes" for public reporting for submissions that fall under excluded criteria will reflect "No" in IDSS.