

Notification of Changes for HEDIS^{®1}

NCQA announces the following changes for HEDIS. *NCQA does not seek public comment for these changes.*

Release of Volume 2: Technical Specifications

The *HEDIS Measurement Year 2021 (MY 2021) Volume 2 Technical Update* memo will be released on March 31.

NCQA will release the *HEDIS Measurement Year 2022 Volume 2: Technical Specifications for Health Plans* on August 1.

Measure Changes for HEDIS MY 2021

- **Childhood Immunization Status:** Remove combination rates 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9.
 - *Rationale:* Stakeholders indicated that most combination rates may no longer be useful and may increase reporting burden.
- **Enrollment by Product Line:** Remove binary gender stratifications.
 - *Rationale:* Removing binary gender stratifications will allow a more inclusive count of the organization's total membership.
- **Plan All-Cause Readmissions:** Remove the 18–64 Medicare Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) reporting strata.
 - *Rationale:* First-year analysis of the new Medicare SNF strata indicated low reporting feasibility due to insufficient sample sizes for the 18–64-year-old population and is therefore being removed. The 65 and older Medicare SNF reporting strata is being retained in the measure.
- The following measures will no longer be collected or used by NCQA:
 - *Enrollment by State.*
 - *Total Membership.*
 - *Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug Therapy for Rheumatoid Arthritis.*

Measure Changes for HEDIS MY 2022

- **Optional Exclusions:** NCQA began a multi-year process to create greater consistency in specifying exclusions across measures. As part of this effort, optional exclusions are moved to required exclusions or included in the numerator in *Childhood Immunization Status*, *Immunization for Adolescents*, *Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication* and *Comprehensive Diabetes Care*.
 - *Rationale:* The previous optional exclusions in the measures will either be respecified as required exclusions or included in the numerator to align with the measures' clinical intent. Changes also provide greater consistency with other measurement programs and specifications, including digital measures.

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

Additional Notifications

- **New Asthma Guidelines:** NCQA is aware of the 2020 Focused Updates to the Asthma Management [Guidelines](#), released in December 2020 from the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program Coordinating Committee Expert Panel Working Group. NCQA is reviewing potential implications for our *Asthma Medication Ratio* measure, which may include retirement and/or a new measure to address quality of care for asthma patients.
- **Future New Measure:** NCQA has developed a new measure assessing emergency department visits for hypoglycemia in older adults with diabetes. While this measure was originally planned for MY 2022, upon feedback from expert advisory panels, NCQA will pursue additional testing to develop a risk adjustment model for this measure. We plan to bring the measure for public comment in spring 2022, for potential implementation in HEDIS MY 2023.