



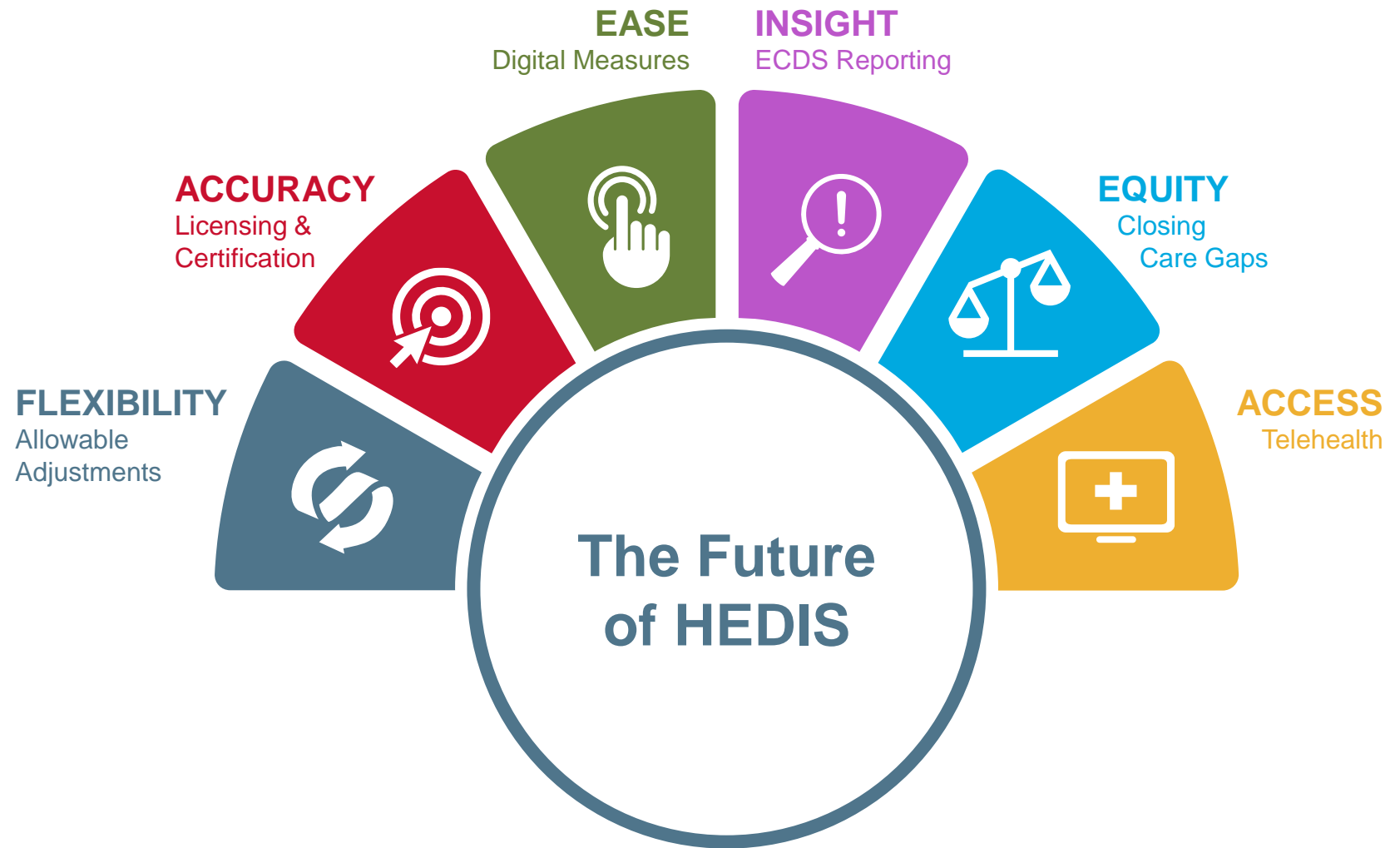
# The Future of HEDIS<sup>®</sup>: Health Equity

Andy Reynolds, Assistant Vice President, Communications  
Keirsha Thompson, MSW, Manager, Performance Measurement  
Sarah Paliani, MPH, Senior Research Associate, Performance Measurement  
October 6, 2022

# 6 themes

See our **Future of HEDIS** webinar series:

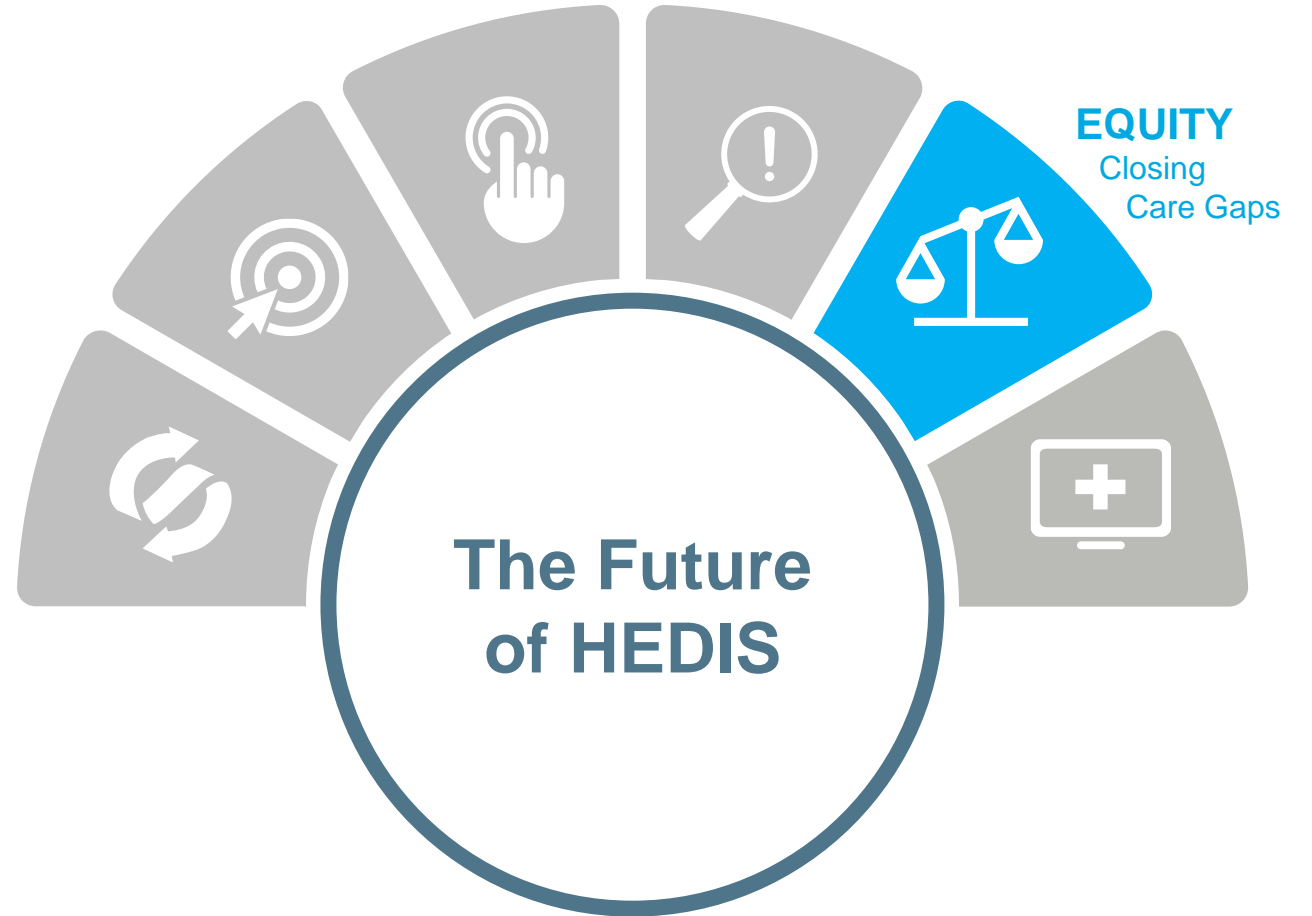
<https://www.ncqa.org/hedis/the-future-of-hedis/>



# 6 themes

## *Equity*

Closing care gaps to make care **equitable** makes care better.



# The BIG Idea

High quality care  
is equitable care

No quality  
without equity

Build equity into  
all NCQA  
measures and  
programs

# Addressing Health Equity with HEDIS

## Goals



- **Bring transparency** to inequities in health care quality.
- **Promote inclusive approaches** to measurement and accountability.
- **Address social needs** to improve health outcomes.
- **Incentivize equity** with benchmarks and performance scoring.

# Today we'll cover...

*Measurement Year 2023*

- “Tour of HEDIS”: Where components of equity work are reflected in the volumes, as it relates to:
  - Race Ethnicity Stratification
  - Social Needs Quality Measurement
  - Gender-inclusive Measurement
- Upcoming learning opportunities & resources



*Equity in HEDIS MY 2023*

# Race and Ethnicity Stratification

KEIRSHA THOMPSON, MANAGER

# Race Ethnicity Stratification Expansion

*Measure List as of HEDIS MY 2023*

Domain	Measure
Prevention & Screening	Immunizations for Adolescents
	Adult Immunization Status
	Breast Cancer Screening
	Colorectal Cancer Screening
Respiratory	Asthma Medication Ratio
Cardiovascular	Controlling High Blood Pressure
Diabetes	Hemoglobin A1c Control for Patients With Diabetes
Behavioral Health	Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visits for Substance Use
	Pharmacotherapy for Opioid Use Disorder
Access and Availability of Care	Initiation and Engagement of Substance Use Disorder Treatment
	Prenatal and Postpartum Care
Utilization	Well-Child Visits in the First 30 Months of Life
	Child and Adolescent Well Care Visits

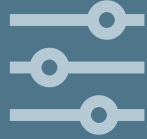
Measures stratified for MY 2022

Measures to be stratified for MY 2023

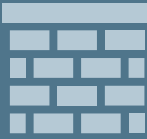


# Stay Tuned

## *Upcoming Project*



Stratification is a tool for transparency, quality improvement and accountability.



Ongoing struggle to integrate race and ethnicity into structured quality reporting.



Need for practical insights and solutions, including baseline understanding of performance patterns.



*Equity in HEDIS MY 2023*

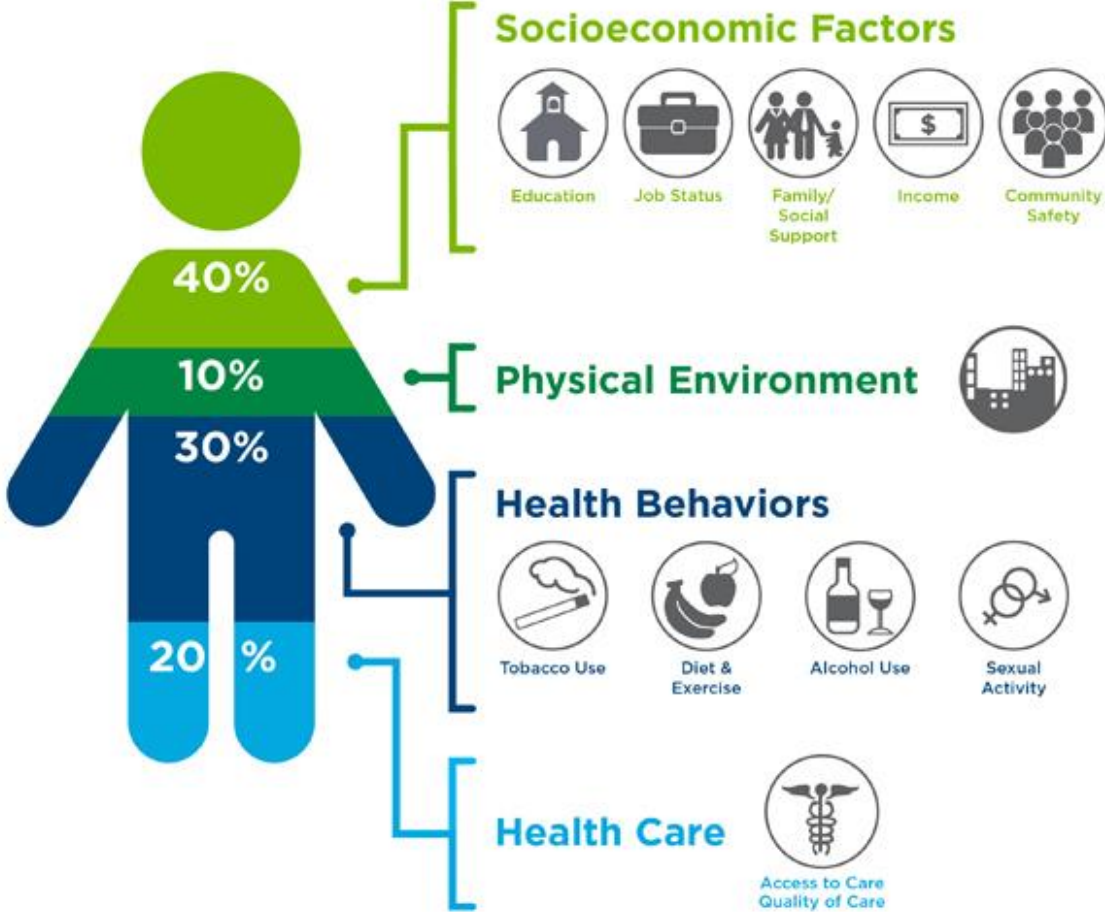
# Social Needs Quality Measurement

SARAH PALIANI, SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

# Why Address Social Needs?

*Social factors drive health outcomes*

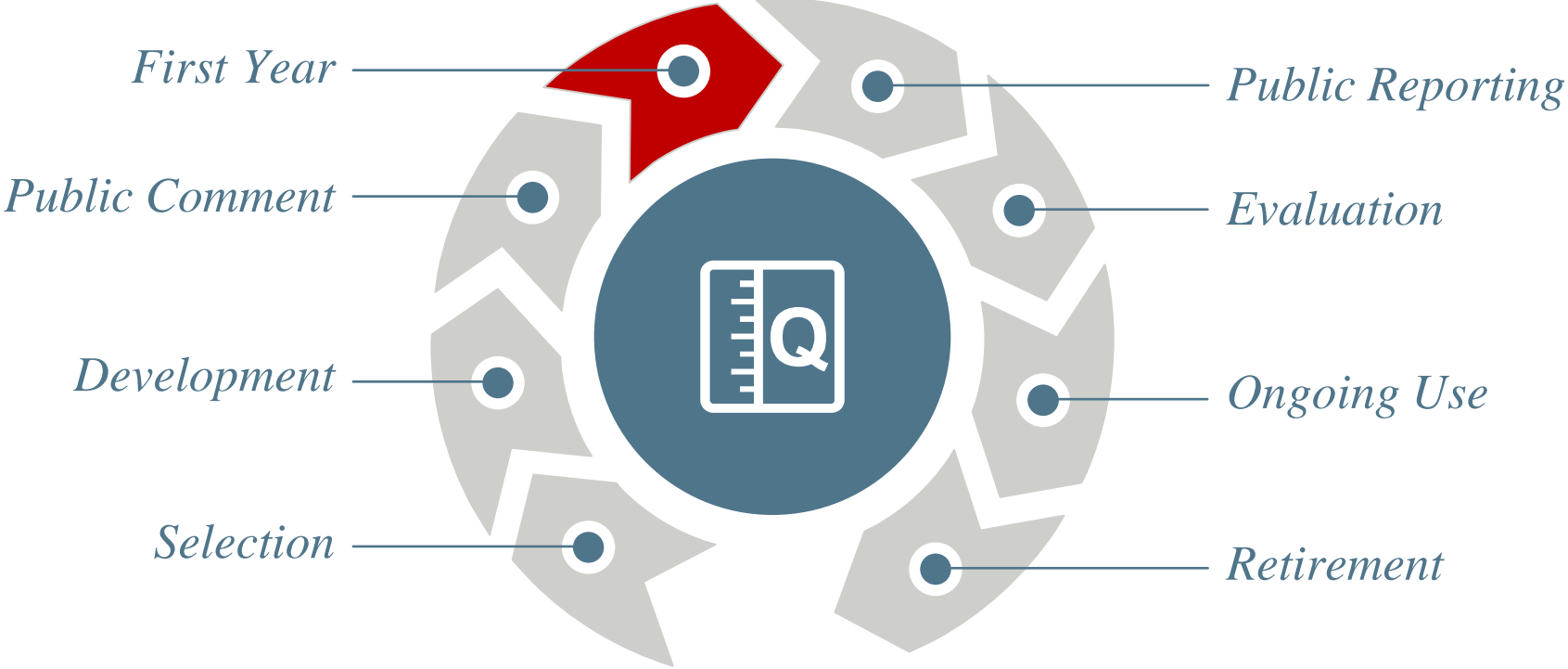
## What Goes Into Your Health?



Source: Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement, Going Beyond Clinical Walls: Solving Complex Problems (October 2014)

# HEDIS Measure Development Process

*New social need screening and intervention (SNS-E) measure status*



# Measure Specification

## *Social Need Screening and Intervention (SNS-E)*

### Measure Description

The percentage of members who, during the measurement period, were screened at least once for unmet food, housing and transportation needs using a pre-specified screening instrument and, if screened positive, received a corresponding intervention.

### Six Indicators:

1. Food Insecurity Screening
2. Food Insecurity Intervention
3. Housing Screening
4. Housing Intervention
5. Transportation Insecurity Screening
6. Transportation Insecurity Intervention

### Product Lines

Commercial, Medicaid, Medicare

### Reporting Method

Electronic Clinical Data Systems

### Exclusions

Hospice

I-SNP

LTI

### Age Stratification

- ≤17
- 18-64
- 65+

# Different Reporting Methods for HEDIS

## Method

## Data Source



**Administrative Method:** Transaction Data

*Enrollment, Claims, Encounter*



**Hybrid Method:** Administrative + Sample

*Manual Medical Record Review*



**Survey Method**

*CAHPS<sup>®</sup>, Medicare Health Outcomes Survey*



**Electronic Clinical Data Systems Method**

*Enrollment, Claims, Encounter, EHRs, Registries, Case Management*

# Social Needs Electronic Data Standards

*Gravity Project*



- A national public collaborative that develops consensus-based data standards involving social determinants of health (SDOH).
- NCQA's Social Need Screening and Intervention measure aligns with current Gravity Project data elements.

FOOD  
INSECURITY

HOUSING  
INSTABILITY

INADEQUATE  
HOUSING

HOMELESSNESS

TRANSPORTATION  
INSECURITY

# Screening Indicators

## *Allowed Instruments*

**Numerator:** Members with 1+ documented result on food/housing/transportation screening

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**Denominator:** Members 0+ continuously enrolled during MY

### Screening Instruments (Documented via LOINC):

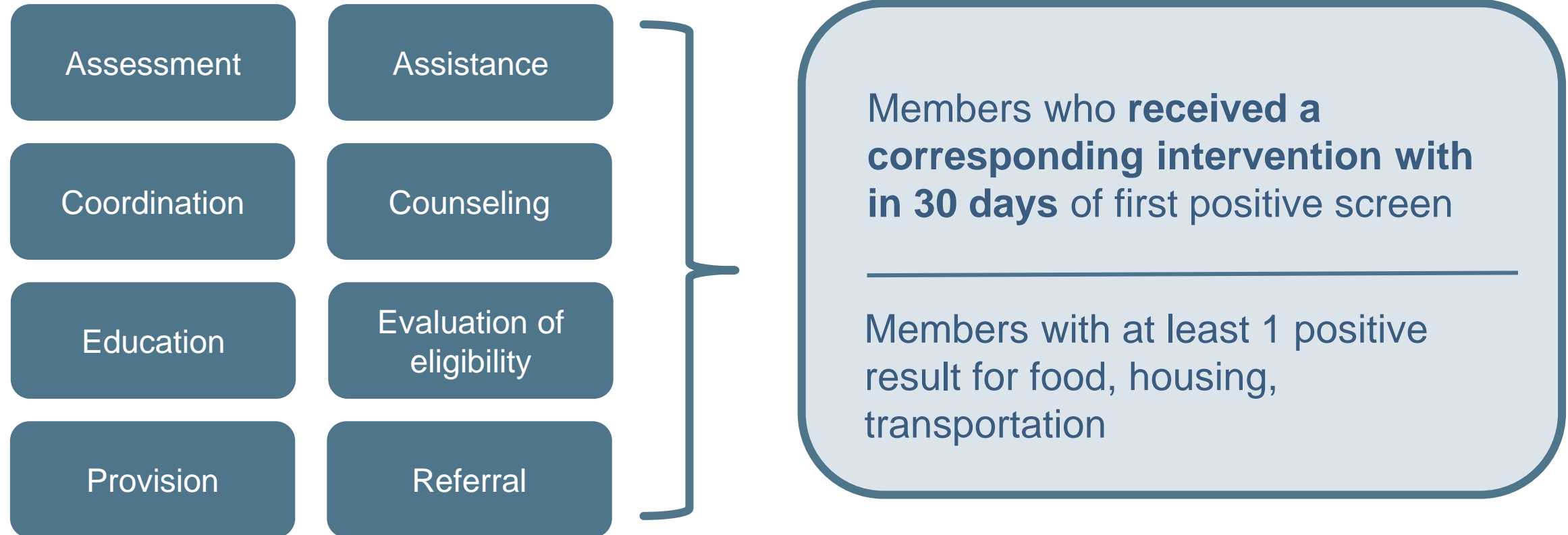
- Accountable Health Communities
- AAFP Social Needs Screening Tool
- Health Leads Screening Panel<sup>®1</sup>
- Hunger Vital Sign<sup>™</sup>
- PRAPARE
- Safe Environment for Every Kid (SEEK)
- We Care Survey
- WellRx Questionnaire
- Housing Stability Vital Signs<sup>™</sup>
- Comprehensive Universal Behavior Screen (CUBS)
- PROMIS
- USDA Food Security Survey



# Intervention Indicators

## *3 Intervention Indicators (Food, Housing, Transportation)*

**Interventions defined by Gravity Project value sets, and fall into 8 categories of intervention type.**



# Tour of HEDIS Impact

## Volume 2: Technical Specifications for Health Plans

### Volume 2 Narrative Specification

Outlines specific reporting requirements for each measure rate.

<b>Social Need Screening and Intervention (SNS-E)</b>	
<b>SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO HEDIS MY 2023</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This is a first-year measure.</li></ul>	
<b>Description</b>	<p>The percentage of members who were screened, using prespecified instruments, at least once during the measurement period for unmet food, housing and transportation needs, and received a corresponding intervention if they screened positive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Food Screening.</i> The percentage of members who were screened for food insecurity.</li><li>• <i>Food Intervention.</i> The percentage of members who received a corresponding intervention within 1 month of screening positive for food insecurity.</li><li>• <i>Housing Screening.</i> The percentage of members who were screened for housing instability, homelessness or housing inadequacy.</li><li>• <i>Housing Intervention.</i> The percentage of members who received a corresponding intervention within 1 month of screening positive for housing instability, homelessness or housing inadequacy.</li><li>• <i>Transportation Screening.</i> The percentage of members who were screened for transportation insecurity.</li><li>• <i>Transportation Intervention.</i> The percentage of members who received a corresponding intervention within 1 month of screening positive for transportation insecurity.</li></ul>

# Tour of HEDIS Impact

## *Volume 2: Technical Specifications for Health Plans*

### Volume 2 Narrative Specification

References value sets to support identification of interventions.

**Value Sets:**

- **NCQA\_Hospice-2.0.0**
  - Hospice Encounter (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1761>)
  - Hospice Intervention (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1762>)
- **SNSE\_HEDIS\_MY2023-1.0.0**
  - Food Insecurity Procedures (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.2262>)
  - Homelessness Procedures (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.2410>)
  - Housing Instability Procedures (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.2412>)
  - Inadequate Housing Procedures (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.2411>)
  - Transportation Insecurity Procedures (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.2264>)

# Tour of HEDIS Impact

## Volume 2 Digital Specification

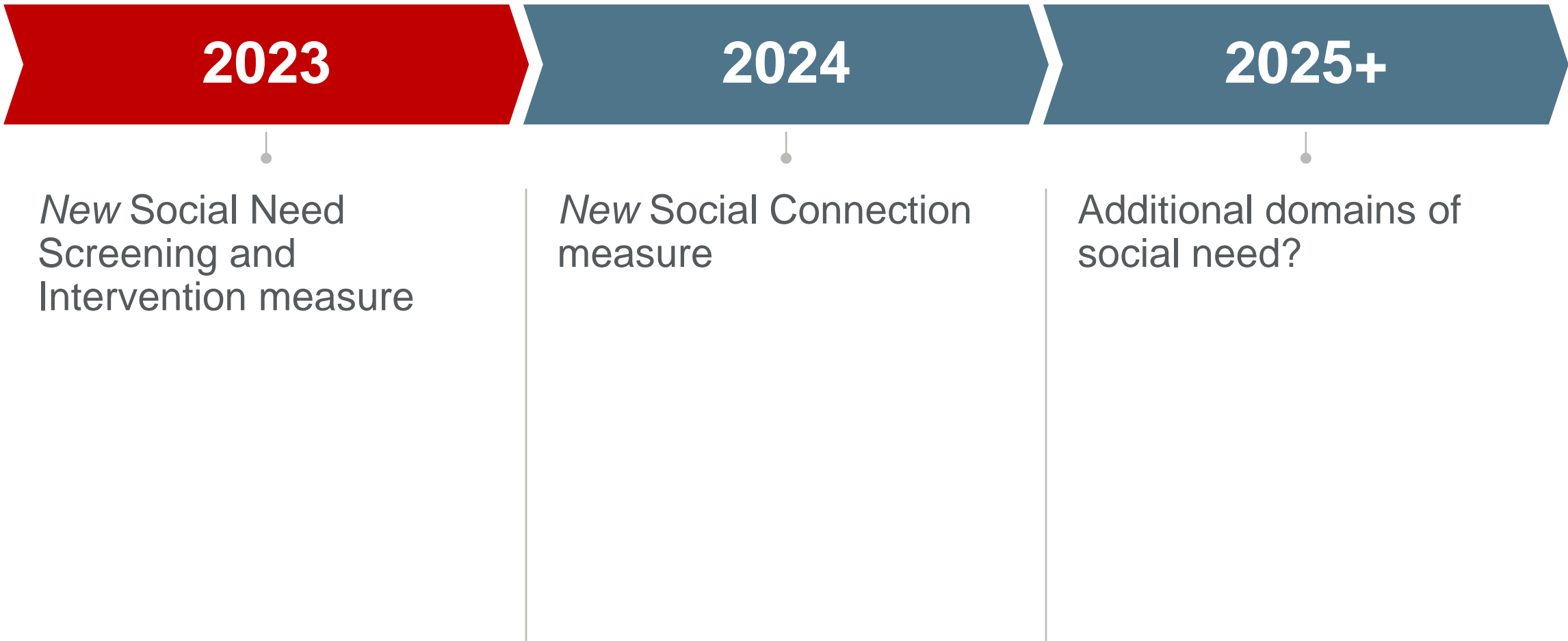
### Digital Measure Specification

Includes human-readable and machine-readable digital version of the measure specification.

Measure title	Social Need Screening and Intervention	Measure ID	SNS-E
Description	<p>The percentage of members who were screened, using prespecified instruments, at least once during the measurement period for unmet food, housing and transportation needs, and received a corresponding intervention if they screened positive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Food Screening.</i> The percentage of members who were screened for food insecurity.</li><li>• <i>Food Intervention.</i> The percentage of members who received a corresponding intervention within 1 month of screening positive for food insecurity.</li><li>• <i>Housing Screening.</i> The percentage of members who were screened for housing instability, homelessness or housing inadequacy.</li><li>• <i>Housing Intervention.</i> The percentage of members who received a corresponding intervention within 1 month of screening positive for housing instability, homelessness or housing inadequacy.</li><li>• <i>Transportation Screening.</i> The percentage of members who were screened for transportation insecurity.</li><li>• <i>Transportation Intervention.</i> The percentage of members who received a corresponding intervention within 1 month of screening positive for transportation insecurity.</li></ul>		

# Social Need Measurement Moving Forward

*Expanding social need focus to additional domains*





*Equity in HEDIS MY 2023*

# Gender-Inclusive Measurement

SARAH PALIANI, SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

# Advancing Equity and Inclusion in HEDIS

## *Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*

***High quality care must be equitable care.***

***How do we take action towards health equity for LGBTQ+ and gender diverse persons?***

### Current State of HEDIS

- Treats gender as a binary (Male, Female); no acknowledgement of other gender identities.
- Exclusionary in language and practice
  - *Example:* “Deliveries in which women...”
  - *Example:* “percentage of women screened for cervical cancer”
  - *Example:* Measures reported by HEDIS vendors use gender values; members without a value of M or F may be left out of reporting altogether.
- Silent on needs of LGBTQ+ population

### Goals for Future State of HEDIS

- Less exclusive measures
- More intentionally inclusive measures
- Measure concepts that are meaningful to communities and help move the needle on barriers to care and disparities for sexual and gender minority populations.

# Gender-inclusive Measurement

*Opportunities to Improve – a Phased Approach*

**MY2023**

published  
Aug 2022

## Phase 1: Gender and Pregnancy

- HEDIS refers to female pregnancy/deliveries; excludes trans & non-binary individuals

**MY2024**

published  
Aug 2023

## Phase 2: Gender-based Eligible Populations & Stratifications

- Go back to intent – gender vs. physiology
- Alignment with practice guidelines for transgender and gender-diverse members

**MY2025**

published  
Aug 2024+

## Phase 3. Gender in Risk Adjustment

- How do we account for broader set of variables?

## Phase 4. Sexual Orientation

- How can we address quality of care and disparities for SGM populations?



# Measures Updated

*MY 2023 Updates*

Category	Measure
<b>Delivery-based Measures</b>	Prenatal and Postpartum Care
	Prenatal Immunization Status
<b>Pregnancy Exclusion</b>	Controlling High Blood Pressure
	Hospitalization Following Discharge From a Skilled Nursing Facility
	Plan All-Cause Readmissions
	Statin Therapy for Patients with Cardiovascular Disease
	Statin Therapy for Patients with Diabetes
	Weight Assessment and Counseling for Nutrition and Physical Activity for Children/Adolescents

# Tour of HEDIS Impact

## *Volume 2: Technical Specifications for Health Plans*

### Volume 2 Specifications: Delivery-based Measures

Delivery-based measures revised to be inclusive of all members who give birth (vs. limited to women).

#### ***Prenatal and Postpartum Care (PPC)***

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##### **SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO HEDIS MY 2023**

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- Replaced all references of “women” to “member” throughout the measure specification.
- Added a required exclusion for members who died during the measurement year.
- Clarified continuous enrollment requirements for step 2 of the Timeliness of Prenatal Care numerator.
- Revised the “Other” criteria in the Nonclinical Components table under *Rules for Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS*.
- Revised the “Required exclusions” criteria in the Clinical Components table under *Rules for Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS*.

# Tour of HEDIS Impact

## Volume 2: Technical Specifications for Health Plans

### Volume 2 Specifications: Pregnancy Exclusions

Delivery-based measures revised to be inclusive of all members who give birth (vs. limited to women).

#### *Statin Therapy for Patients With Cardiovascular Disease (SPC)*

---

##### SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO HEDIS MY 2023

---

- Clarified in the “Event/diagnosis” criteria that required exclusions are not a step.
- Replaced the reference to “female members” with “members” in the pregnancy required exclusion.

#### **Required exclusions**

Exclude members who meet any of the following criteria:

- Members with a diagnosis of pregnancy (Pregnancy Value Set) during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year.

# Future Directions for Gender-inclusive Measurement

## *Opportunities to Improve – a Phased Approach*

MY2023

published  
Aug 2022

### Phase 1: Gender and Pregnancy

- HEDIS refers to female pregnancy/deliveries; excludes trans & non-binary individuals

MY2024

published  
Aug 2023

### Phase 2: Gender-based Eligible Populations & Stratifications

- Go back to intent – gender vs. physiology
- Alignment with practice guidelines for transgender and gender-diverse members

MY2025

published  
Aug 2024+

### Phase 3. Gender in Risk Adjustment

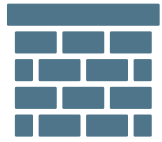
- How do we account for broader set of variables?

### Phase 4. Sexual Orientation

- How can we address quality of care and disparities for SGM populations?

# Gender-based Eligible Populations

## *Consequences of Specification*



- Does not capture individuals who do not have documented M/F gender



- Contributes to disparities in care by omitting gender-diverse members in need of services from quality targets and improvement efforts



- Updates to guidelines and new electronic and clinical data sources may provide opportunity to address past barriers

# Gender-based Eligible Populations

## *Current HEDIS Measures which Require Revision*

Measure	Data Source	Measure Language
Statin Therapy for Patients with Cardiovascular Disease	Administrative	Males 21–75 years of age and females 40–75 years
Osteoporosis Management in Women Who Had a Fracture	Administrative	The percentage of women 67–85 years of age who
Osteoporosis Screening in Older Women	Administrative	The percentage of women 65–75 years
Breast Cancer Screening	Administrative ECDS	The percentage of women 50–74 years
Cervical Cancer Screening	Administrative Hybrid	The percentage of women 21–64 years of age who were screened for cervical cancer
Chlamydia Screening in Women	Administrative	The percentage of women 16–24
Non-Recommended Cervical Cancer Screening in Adolescent Females	Administrative	The percentage of adolescent females 16–20
Non-Recommended PSA-Based Screening in Older Men	Administrative	The percentage of men 70 years and older



Where to learn more...

# Want more details on HEDIS and equity?

A promotional graphic for the NCQA Health Innovation Summit. The background is a grayscale photograph of a diverse group of people in a meeting, with a teal diagonal overlay on the right side. The text is arranged as follows: 'NCQA' in blue, 'HEALTH' in blue with a red line, 'INNOVATION' in large red letters, and 'SUMMIT' in blue. The dates 'October 31 - November 3' and location 'Marriott Marquis, Washington, DC' are in the top right. The slogan 'This is Quality.' is in the bottom left, and a teal 'JOIN US' button is below it.

NCQA  
HEALTH  
**INNOVATION**  
SUMMIT

October 31 - November 3  
Marriott Marquis, Washington, DC

This is Quality.

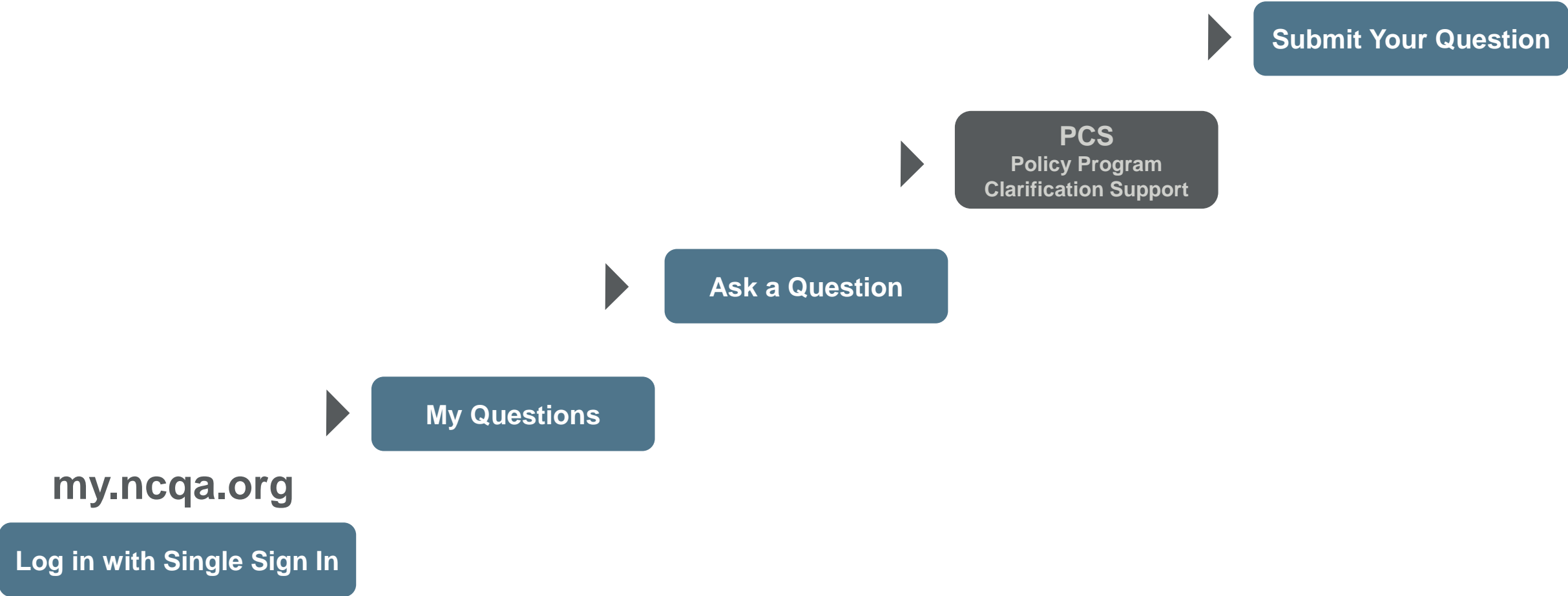
JOIN US

Registration:  
[ncqasummit.com](https://ncqasummit.com)

***Social Need Quality Measurement in HEDIS***  
Wednesday November 2, 3:30-4:20PM ET



# How to ask questions after today's Q&A





Join our growing staff!



[ncqa.org/jobs](https://ncqa.org/jobs)

**Applied Research  
Scientist,  
Health Equity**

**Applied Research  
Scientist,  
Behavioral Health**

**Director,  
Digital Measurement  
Community**



NCCQA

*Thank you*