

Proposed Measure Retirements for HEDIS^{®1} MY 2024

NCQA is proposing to retire a subset of HEDIS measures to reduce reporting burden and allow health plans to focus their resources on new electronic clinical data measures and transitioning to digital quality operations. Measures may be considered for retirement when there is low opportunity for improvement, low or changing evidence, redundancy with existing measures or when we see an opportunity to develop a better measure to address the concept.

NCQA seeks comments on the proposed retirement of the following measures for HEDIS measurement year (MY) 2024:

Measure Name and Description	Rationale for Proposed Retirement
<p>Ambulatory Care: Summarizes utilization of ambulatory care in the following categories: Outpatient Visits and Emergency Department Visits.</p> <p>Inpatient Utilization—General Hospital/Acute Care: Summarizes utilization of acute inpatient care and services in the following categories: Maternity, Surgery, Medicine, Total Inpatient.</p>	Measures do not account for risk factors that impact utilization; risk-adjusted measures would provide a better signal of quality. NCQA is currently exploring expanding the HEDIS risk-adjusted utilization measures to include the Medicaid population.
<p>Non-Recommended Cervical Cancer Screening in Adolescent Females: Assesses adolescent females 16–20 years of age who were screened unnecessarily for cervical cancer.</p>	Recent HEDIS performance data indicate very little room for improvement at the health plan level.
<p>Antidepressant Medication Management: Assesses adults 18 years of age and older with a diagnosis of major depression who were newly treated with antidepressant medication and remained on their medications.</p>	The measure only addresses adherence to antidepressants as a treatment for depression, and does not address other guideline-recommended treatments such as psychotherapy. ² Other HEDIS measures address critical gaps in depression care, including screening, follow-up, routine monitoring and improvement in outcomes. ³ NCQA is committed to expanding the use of these measures in reporting programs.
<p>Medical Assistance with Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation: Survey measure that assesses whether smokers were advised to quit and had cessation medication and strategies discussed.</p>	The measure only addresses current adult tobacco users and does not address screening or the adolescent population. NCQA is exploring a new measure concept to better address tobacco use and cessation in adolescents and adults using standardized clinical data captured in EHRs.
<p>Use of Spirometry Testing in the Assessment and Diagnosis of COPD: Assesses whether adults 40 years and older had confirmatory spirometry testing for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.</p>	The measure is not widely used, and addresses only one aspect of COPD care (confirming a new diagnosis). NCQA is exploring developing measures that assess outcomes using clinical data.

The supporting document includes health plan performance rates for the measures considered for retirement.

NCQA acknowledges the contributions of the Technical Measurement Advisory Panel.

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

² American Psychological Association. 2019. *Clinical Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Depression Across Three Age Cohorts*. Retrieved from <https://www.apa.org/depression-guideline>.

³ <https://www.ncqa.org/hedis/the-future-of-hedis/hedis-depression-measures-specified-for-electronic-clinical-data/>.

HEDIS Health Plan Performance Rates for Measures Proposed for Retirement

The following tables summarize HEDIS performance data for measurement year (MY) 2019 through MY 2021 for the measures proposed for retirement. Tables include the number and percentage of plans reporting by product line, the average mean performance and the distribution in performance across plans. The percentage of plans reporting each measure was calculated from the number of plans that submitted HEDIS for the year (MY 2021: Commercial = 419, Medicaid = 270, Medicare = 714; MY 2020: Commercial = 416, Medicaid = 272, Medicare = 649; MY 2019: Commercial = 417, Medicaid = 265).

Note: In response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency in 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services eliminated requirements for the collection of HEDIS MY 2019 data for Medicare Advantage (MA) plans. These plans were able to use NCQA's HEDIS data submission tool for internal quality improvement purposes; therefore, submissions in MY 2019 are for commercial and Medicaid product lines only. MY 2019 results could be impacted by both COVID-19 disruptions in data collection and the voluntary nature of reporting.

Table 1. Antidepressant Medication Management (AMM) Performance

Measurement Year	Indicator	Product Line	Number of Plans Reporting (N)	Percentage of Plans Reporting (%)	Performance Rates						
					Mean	Standard Deviation	10th Percentile	25th Percentile	50th Percentile	75th Percentile	90th Percentile
2021	Effective Acute Phase Treatment	Commercial	404	96.4	75.6	5.9	68.6	72.6	76.3	79.5	82.1
		Medicaid	233	86.3	60.8	8.2	51.3	56.2	60.4	64.9	71.3
		Medicare	522	73.1	80.4	6.1	72.5	76.4	80.8	84.3	87.3
	Effective Continuation Phase Treatment	Commercial	405	96.7	59.6	6.9	51.8	56.0	60.0	64.0	67.4
		Medicaid	237	87.8	44.1	9.2	32.8	39.3	43.0	47.8	56.2
		Medicare	522	73.1	65.7	8.1	55.4	60.4	65.8	70.6	74.7
2020	Effective Acute Phase Treatment	Commercial	398	95.7	73.4	5.9	65.9	70.1	73.8	77.5	80.3
		Medicaid	233	85.7	57.2	8.0	48.2	52.1	56.1	61.8	67.7
		Medicare	479	73.8	78.9	6.4	70.7	75.0	79.3	82.9	86.4
	Effective Continuation Phase Treatment	Commercial	401	96.4	57.6	6.4	50.1	54.2	58.2	61.5	65.4
		Medicaid	236	86.8	41.5	8.6	31.8	36.7	40.3	45.6	52.5

		Medicare	479	73.8	64.0	8.3	54.2	58.8	63.9	68.8	74.5
2019	Effective Acute Phase Treatment	Commercial	397	95.2	70.6	7.0	62.8	66.9	71.7	74.8	78.2
		Medicaid	226	85.3	55.0	7.7	46.1	50.4	53.7	59.0	64.3
	Effective Continuation Phase Treatment	Commercial	401	96.2	54.5	7.7	46.6	51.0	55.0	58.9	62.7
		Medicaid	230	86.8	39.3	8.0	30.5	34.4	38.4	43.2	49.2

Table 2. Non-Recommended Cervical Cancer Screening in Adolescent Females (NCS) Performance

Measurement Year	Product Line	Number of Plans Reporting (N)	Percentage of Plans Reporting (%)	Performance Rates						
				Mean	Standard Deviation	10th Percentile	25th Percentile	50th Percentile	75th Percentile	90th Percentile
2021	Commercial	394	94.0	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.8	1.2
	Medicaid	193	71.5	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.8	1.1
2020	Commercial	384	92.3	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.9	1.4
	Medicaid	192	70.6	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.9	1.3
2019	Commercial	383	91.9	0.9	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.7	1.2	1.8
	Medicaid	197	74.3	0.8	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.7	1.2	1.6

*For this measure, a lower rate indicates better performance

Table 3. Medical Assistance With Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation (MSC) Performance

Measurement Year	Indicator	Product Line	Number of Plans Reporting (N)	Percentage of Plans Reporting (%)	Performance Rates						
					Mean	Standard Deviation	10th Percentile	25th Percentile	50th Percentile	75th Percentile	90th Percentile
2021	% Current Smoker	Commercial	410	97.9	9.2	3.7	4.8	6.4	8.8	11.2	13.7
		Medicaid	178	65.9	26.4	8.9	14.5	20.8	26.8	32.2	38.6
	Advising Smokers to Quit	Commercial	6	1.4	79.8	6.8	73.8	76.7	77.9	79.5	93.0
		Medicaid	103	38.1	72.5	6.2	64.0	69.3	73.0	76.7	78.7
		Commercial	5	1.2	60.0	7.3	54.3	55.2	56.6	62.1	71.9

Measurement Year	Indicator	Product Line	Number of Plans Reporting (N)	Percentage of Plans Reporting (%)	Performance Rates						
					Mean	Standard Deviation	10th Percentile	25th Percentile	50th Percentile	75th Percentile	90th Percentile
	Discussing Medications	Medicaid	101	37.4	50.8	7.8	42.0	46.0	51.6	54.9	60.1
	Discussing Strategies	Commercial	5	1.2	55.6	5.0	48.1	54.4	55.7	58.4	61.4
		Medicaid	101	37.4	45.3	6.5	37.5	40.7	44.7	49.4	52.7
2020	% Current Smoker	Commercial	408	97.1	9.6	3.8	5.3	6.8	9.4	11.8	14.8
		Medicaid	168	61.7	26.7	9.9	13.2	18.8	26.8	33.9	38.2
	Advising Smokers to Quit	Commercial	9	2.2	79.5	7.7	68.1	77.2	78.5	84.5	92.9
		Medicaid	109	64.9	74.8	6.2	66.4	71.2	75.1	79.3	82.1
	Discussing Medications	Commercial	9	2.2	56.7	5.8	47.3	54.8	56.3	57.9	69.0
		Medicaid	106	39.0	53.1	7.5	43.7	48.2	52.9	57.1	61.6
	Discussing Strategies	Commercial	9	2.2	53.6	6.0	43.9	49.0	54.7	56.8	63.3
		Medicaid	107	39.3	48.0	7.1	39.6	42.9	47.4	52.0	58.0
2019	% Current Smokers	Commercial	402	99.8	10.0	3.9	5.7	7.2	9.6	12.1	15.4
		Medicaid	164	98.8	28.5	8.8	15.9	22.4	28.7	34.7	40.4
	Advising Smokers to Quit	Commercial	17	4.1	73.1	8.2	62.4	65.8	70.9	79.0	85.2
		Medicaid	122	46.0	77.2	5.7	69.8	74.3	77.7	80.9	84.2
	Discussing Medications	Commercial	17	4.2	49.2	7.2	39.6	42.5	50.4	53.0	58.5
		Medicaid	122	73.5	54.5	7.5	45.0	49.3	54.2	59.4	64.3
	Discussing Strategies	Commercial	14	3.5	46.2	7.0	35.3	39.9	48.8	51.4	53.5
		Medicaid	121	72.9	48.7	7.1	40.9	43.8	47.9	53.9	56.7

Table 4. Use of Spirometry Testing in the Assessment and Diagnosis of COPD (SPR) Performance

Measurement Year	Product Line	Total Number of Plans (N)	Percentage of Plans Reporting (%)	Performance Rates						
				Mean	Standard Deviation	10th Percentile	25th Percentile	50th Percentile	75th Percentile	90th Percentile
2021	Commercial	329	78.5	36.1	6.4	28.6	32.1	35.2	38.9	44.9
	Medicaid	169	62.6	24.8	6.9	16.9	20.5	24.1	28.2	34.0
	Medicare	437	61.2	27.6	7.3	18.1	23.1	27.9	32.3	36.6
2020	Commercial	344	82.7	37.3	6.9	29.7	33.8	37.2	40.5	45.2
	Medicaid	165	60.7	26.8	7.5	18.6	22.3	26.1	30.0	35.3
	Medicare	405	62.4	30.3	8.2	19.9	24.9	30.6	35.4	39.6
2019	Commercial	341	81.8	40.5	7.6	32.6	36.0	39.9	43.5	49.9
	Medicaid	165	62.3	30.4	8.4	22.5	25.7	28.9	34.1	40.3

Table 5. Ambulatory Care—Visits Per 1,000 Member Months (AMB) Performance—Medicaid

Note: This sample report for the Ambulatory Care measure includes selected indicators for the total age stratification for review.

Measurement Year	Indicator	Total Number of Plans (N)	Percentage of Plans Reporting (%)	Performance (Visits / 1,000 Member Months)						
				Mean	Standard Deviation	10th Percentile	25th Percentile	50th Percentile	75th Percentile	90th Percentile
2021	Outpatient Visits	228	84.4	347.1	137.1	233.2	273.2	324.9	381.3	457.9
2020		224	82.4	316.9	145.8	210.8	251.4	300.2	352.7	411.5
2019		218	80.7	380.5	138.7	272.2	308.9	365.2	414.5	502.4
2021	Emergency Dept Visits	239	88.5	45.1	14.6	28.7	36.7	45.6	51.6	59.1
2020		232	85.3	41.8	14.9	26.6	33.7	40.9	47.8	56.0
2019		235	88.7	58.6	18.2	39.2	47.3	58.1	66.5	79.7

Table 6. Inpatient Utilization—General Hospital/Acute Care—Discharges Per 1,000 Member Months (IPU) Performance—Medicaid**Note:** This sample report for the Inpatient Utilization—General Hospital/Acute Care measure includes selected indicators for the total age stratification for review.

Measurement Year	Indicator	Total Number of Plans (N)	Percentage of Plans Reporting (%)	Performance (Discharges / 1,000 Member Months)						
				Mean	Standard Deviation	10th Percentile	25th Percentile	50th Percentile	75th Percentile	90th Percentile
2021	Maternity	204	75.6	2.5	1.5	1.1	1.8	2.2	2.7	4.4
2020		199	73.2	3.0	2.1	1.1	1.9	2.5	3.3	5.4
2021	Medicine	205	73.7	3.0	3.1	1.4	1.9	2.5	3.2	4.2
2020		200	73.5	3.0	2.9	1.1	1.9	2.6	3.4	4.6
2021	Surgery	205	73.7	1.3	1.1	0.5	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.9
2020		200	73.5	1.3	1.1	0.1	0.8	1.9	1.5	2.0
2021	Total Inpatient	205	73.7	5.9	4.1	3.9	4.6	5.5	6.5	7.6
2020		200	73.5	6.2	3.9	4.0	4.9	5.7	6.9	8.3