

Pulse8 Blog

HEDIS® 2018 Updates and Changes

July 27th, 2017

Last week, the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) held its first live update about this year's HEDIS® 2018 technical specifications changes. The feedback NCQA received from the new, live update format was positive and we expect to see more of these in the future. The webinar discussed seven new measures, changes to five existing measures, and three cross-cutting topics that address issues across multiple measures. Additionally, there was discussion about what we can expect in the future, including a review of the updates to Health Plan Accreditation Standards and Guidelines just released this week.

7 NEW MEASURES	5 REVISED MEASURES	3 REVISED CROSS CUTTING MEASURES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition of Care (TCR) • Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for People with High Risk Multiple Chronic Conditions (FMC) • Use of Opioids at High Dosage (UOD) • Use of Opioids from Multiple Providers (UOP) • Depression Screening and Follow-Up for Adolescents and Adults (DSF) • Unhealthy Alcohol Use Screening and Follow-Up (ASF) • Pneumococcal Vaccination Coverage for Older Adults (PCV) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immunizations for Adolescents (IMA) • Breast Cancer Screening (BCS) • Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence Treatment (IET) • Identification of Alcohol and Other Drug Services (IAD) • Plan All-Cause Readmissions (PCR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telehealth Measures • I-SNP Exclusion • Updated ECDS Guidelines

HEDIS® 2018 Summary of Changes

7 New Measures

NCQA discussed its approach to adding new measures to address gaps in care in situations where currently there is no measure, when they see a national issue, or where they think there is a role for health plans to assist in delivering better care. This trend is evidenced by the seven new measures addressing either care coordination for vulnerable populations or the national opioid epidemic.

5 Revised Measures

NCQA made highly-anticipated changes to measures to keep up with updated guidelines and advancement in care for the following measures:

- **Immunizations for Adolescents (IMA):** Updated to align with the new ACIP guidance; moving from three to two doses for HPV immunizations
- **Breast Cancer Screening (BCS):** Added digital breast tomosynthesis
- **Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence Treatment (IET) and Identification of Alcohol and Other Drug Services (IAD):** Measures were updated to reflect the latest guidelines for medication-assisted therapy options for drug and alcohol use
- **Plan All-Cause Readmissions (PCR):** Adding Medicaid population to the measure

3 Revised Cross Cutting Measures

NCQA has made technical changes that will impact multiple measures:

- **Telehealth Measures:** updated the specifications to add telehealth codes to several behavioral health measures. This includes telehealth codes in the numerators, but, in some cases, also increases the denominator.
- **SNP Exclusion:** removed SNP populations from several measures to shift focus to only those patients who can benefit from the services.
- **Updated ECDS Guidelines:** NCQA is encouraging health plans to move towards electronic data capture and is updating the specifications to give more clarity when reporting ECDS measures

2018 Health Plan Accreditation

Standards and Guidelines

NCQA stated that the future of quality is integration and it is shifting from single disease states toward whole-person care. Due to this shift, NCQA has added a new category, Population Health Management (PHM), that includes four new standards and two that were previously a part of the QI section.

1 NEW CATEGORY	UPDATED STANDARDS	RETIRED STANDARDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PHM 1: PHM Strategy (NEW)• PHM 2: Population Identification (NEW)• PHM 3: Delivery System Supports (NEW)• PHM 4: Wellness and Prevention• PHM 5: Complex Case Management• PHM 6: Population Health Management Impact (NEW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NET 3: Expanded tracking out-of-network requests for services to all product lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UM 4H: Appropriate Classification of Denials• QI 6: Disease Management• QI 7: Practice Guidelines• MEM 7: Support for Healthy Living

Insights from NCQA

Retiring Measures: NCQA is working closely with CMS to retire measures whose guidelines have changed, that overlap with one another, or that do not provide useful information when comparing plans. NCQA indicated Pilot results will be out in December.

Move Toward Electronic Data: NCQA addressed the administrative burden that MRR measures have on both Plans and Providers. Of the new measures, TCR is the only hybrid measure being added. NCQA indicated it is focused on leveraging non-standard data for administrative rates in order to ease the burden on plans, drive care at the point of delivery, and push data back to the provider.

Pulse8 Insight: Value Based Care will be the Focus Going Forward. If the new HEDIS® measures and Health Plan Accreditation Standards and Guidelines give any insight to NCQA's focus, plans should prepare for the move towards whole person care, an increase in measures that address care coordination for vulnerable populations, wider use of electronic data, and the retirement of more single disease state measures when duplicative. Pulse8 products can help health plans deploy whole-member care and manage increasingly complex quality measures by providing strong data analytics, assisting with EMR integration, and ensuring the *right* member gets the *right* intervention at the *right* time.

The Webinar can be viewed at: <http://blog.ncqa.org/hedis-updates-hangout-video/>
Questions will be answered by NCQA and posted in the detail section of the blog.