

# HEDIS MY 2020 Technical Specifications

*October 2020 Update*

[SuperiorHealthPlan.com](https://www.SuperiorHealthPlan.com)

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# HEDIS® Tech Specs Schedules

## Overview



From the NCQA Blog:

- “We know many people inside and outside NCQA will be happy to have measures in their hands sooner each year.”
- “The July 1, 2020 release of two years’ of HEDIS specs is a big step toward that better schedule.”



### Old Schedule

NCQA published the Reporting Year (RY) Tech Specs on July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year for the current calendar year. NCQA published an update to the Tech Specs on October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year that added to and froze the Tech Specs.



### New Schedule and Name Change

Beginning with the July 2020 Tech Specs, the name changed from RY to Measurement Year (MY). NCQA published the HEDIS MY 2020 Tech Specs on July 1<sup>st</sup> and the update on October 1<sup>st</sup> which froze the MY 2020 tech specs.



### HEDIS MY 2021 Tech Specs

The HEDIS MY 2020 Tech Specs will be used again for HEDIS MY 2021. NCQA will publish the updates in March 2021 which will freeze the Tech Specs.

# MY 2020 Tech Spec Updates

## Overview



### 11 Hybrid Measures

Previously there were 16 hybrid measures.

### New Measures

Three new administrative measures were added.



### Retired Measures

Six measures were retired for MY 2020 and one more will be retired for MY 2021.

### Combined Measures

Three hybrid measures were combined into two administrative measures.



### New Exclusion

A palliative care exclusion was added.

*Administrative (admin) data: claims and encounter data plus supplemental data*  
*Medical record data: data abstracted from review of the medical record*  
*Hybrid data: combines both admin and medical record data*

# New Measures

## Admin Only



### Cardiac Rehabilitation (CRE)

Percent of members  $\geq 18$  who attended cardiac rehab following an MI, percutaneous coronary intervention, CABG, heart/lung transplant or heart valve repair/replacement

- Medicaid (STAR, STAR Health, STAR Kids, STAR+PLUS) and Medicare (Allwell from Superior HealthPlan [HMO and HMO SNP])
- Rates for initiation ( $\geq 2$  in 30 days), engagement ( $\geq 12$  in 90 days &  $\geq 24$  in 180 days) & achievement ( $\geq 36$  in 180 days)



### Kidney Health Evaluation for Patients with Diabetes (KED)

Percent of members 18-85 with DM (type 1 or 2) who had estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) and a urine albumin-creatinine ratio (uACR) during MY

- Medicaid and Medicare
- Single rate
- Urine creatinine test and urine albumin test must  $\leq 4$  days apart



### Osteoporosis Screening in Older Women (OSW)

Percent of women 65-75 who had  $\geq 1$  osteoporosis screening test between 65<sup>th</sup> birthday and December 31 of MY

- Medicare only
- Single rate

# Retired Measures



## Retired Measures / Indicators

**ABA** – Adult BMI Assessment

**MMA** – Medication Management for People with Asthma

**MRP** – Medication Reconciliation Post Discharge (it's included in Transitions of Care [TRC])

**OTO** – Osteoporosis Testing in Older Women

**CAP** – Children and Adolescents' Access to Primary Care Practitioners

**BCR** – Board Certification

**CDC** – HbA1c <7

**CDC** – Nephropathy; retired for Medicaid only

**ART** – Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug Therapy for Rheumatoid Arthritis – will be retired for MY 2021

# Exclusions



Type	Description
Deceased Members	Members who die during MY may be excluded (optional) (A) (MR)
Hospice	Members receiving hospice services during MY must be excluded (required) (A) (MR)
Palliative Care	Members receiving palliative care during MY must be excluded from multiple measures (required) (A) (MR)
Frailty and Advanced Illness	Some measures include exclusions for those living long-term in a nursing home or those with advanced illness and frailty (required) (A)

*Note: Exclusions may come from Administrative data (A) or Medical Record data (MR)*

# From the NCQA Blog

## Exclusions



### Palliative Care Exclusion

Beginning with MY 2020, a palliative care exclusion has been added to 15 measures. NCQA noted that HEDIS measures focus on preventive care or disease management which often don't align with the goals of patients in palliative care; therefore, palliative care exclusions were added to these measure categories: inappropriate medication use, screening and prevention, and disease-specific medical treatment.

Risk of Continued Opioid Use	Cardiac Rehabilitation
Use of Opioids at High Dosage	Comprehensive Diabetes Care
Potentially Harmful Drug Interactions in Older Adults	Controlling High Blood Pressure
Use of High-Risk Medications in Older Adults	Kidney Health Evaluation for Patients With Diabetes
Breast Cancer Screening	Osteoporosis Management in Women Who Had a Fracture
Cervical Cancer Screening	Statin Therapy for Patients With Cardiovascular Disease
Colorectal Cancer Screening	Statin Therapy for Patients With Diabetes
Osteoporosis Screening in Older Women	

# From Last Year

## Exclusions Continued



### Other Exclusions

Medicare members living long-term in a nursing home or members with advanced illness and frailty are excluded from some measures. The NCQA Blog notes that removing these patients from the measures applicable to preventive care or disease management will allow providers the opportunity to focus more on care transitions, preventing hospitalizations and addressing the patients goals. *Remember: This is an administrative only exclusion, meaning this exclusion comes from claims and encounter data only; therefore, appropriate coding is very important.*

Breast Cancer Screening	Colorectal Cancer Screening
Controlling High Blood Pressure	Statin Therapy for Patients with Diabetes
Comprehensive Diabetes Care	Statin Therapy for Patients with Cardiovascular Disease
Persistence of Beta-Blocker Treatment After a Heart Attack	Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug Therapy for Rheumatoid Arthritis
Osteoporosis Management in Women Who Had a Fracture	

Source: <https://blog.ncqa.org/>



# Combined & Revised Measures



## Well-Child Visits – Now Administrative Measures

Old	New
W15	W30 – Well-Child Visits in the First 30 Months of Life <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6 visits in first 15 months</li><li>• 2 visits between 15 &amp; 30 months of age</li><li>• Medicaid and Marketplace (Ambetter from Superior HealthPlan)</li></ul>
W34 & AWC	WCV – Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Members 3-21 years of age</li><li>• 1 visit with PCP or OB/GYN in MY</li><li>• Medicaid and Marketplace</li></ul>

# Telehealth Updates



## NCQA Updated Telehealth Guidance on 40 HEDIS Measures

### Purpose of changes

- Support increased telehealth use caused by pandemic
- Align with CMS and other stakeholder guidance on telehealth
- The following table includes the more familiar measures with telehealth allowed

ADD	AMM	AMR	APP	ART	BCS	CBP	CDC	COA	COL
CRE	FUH	FUM	KED	OMW	OSW	PBH	PCR	PPC	SAA
SMC	SMD	SPC	SPD	SPR	SSD	TRC	W30	WCC	WCV

Note: NCQA held a COVID, Telehealth & Quality webinar in May which included these links:

- [CMS Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Partner Toolkit](#)
- [The Common Wealth Fund: Telehealth Growth During the Pandemic \(our source: The Commonwealth Fund\)](#)

# General Updates



- Weight Assessment & Counseling for Nutrition & Physical Activity for Children/ Adolescents (WCC)
  - Now Accepted: member reported height, weight & BMI percentile collected by PCP & documented in the legal health record
- Cervical Cancer Screening (CCS)
  - Now Accepted: “vaginal hysterectomy”
- Controlling High Blood Pressure & Comprehensive Diabetes Care (CBP & CDC)
  - Now Accepted: member taken / reported blood pressure
  - Not Accepted: documentation that member took BP with a stethoscope & manual BP cuff
- Care for Older Adults (COA)
  - Not Accepted: combining ambulation and cognition and sensory or “other” functional assessment (i.e. able to work or exercise) into a functional status assessment
- Prenatal & Postpartum Care (PPC)
  - Now Counts: prenatal visits prior to enrollment
  - Now Counts: PCP prenatal visit with pregnancy diagnosis, EDD, gestational age or positive pregnancy test
- Transitions of Care (TRC)
  - Revised: Notification of Inpatient Admission & Receipt of Discharge information timeframes
  - New Timeframes: includes day of admission/discharge through 2 days after admission/discharge

# Thank you



For questions, please contact:

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