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## ***CMCS Informational Bulletin***

**DATE:** December 30, 2014

**FROM:** Cindy Mann  
Director  
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

**SUBJECT:** **2015 Updates to the Child and Adult Core Health Care Quality Measurement Sets**

This informational bulletin describes the 2015 updates to the core set of children’s health care quality measures for Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (Child Core Set) and to the core set of health care quality measures for adults enrolled in Medicaid (Adult Core Set).

### Background

The Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS) has worked with stakeholders to identify two core sets of health care quality measures that can be used to assess the quality of health care provided to children and adults enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. The core sets are tools states can use to monitor and improve the quality of health care provided to Medicaid and CHIP enrollees. The goals of this effort are to:

- 1) encourage national reporting by states on a uniform set of measures; and
- 2) support states in using these measures to drive quality improvement.

Part of implementing an effective “quality measures reporting program” is to periodically re-assess the measures that comprise it since many factors, such as changes in clinical guidelines and challenges with reporting, may warrant modifying the measure set. In addition, CMCS continues to prioritize working with federal partners to promote quality measurement alignment across programs recognizing that this reduces burden on states reporting data to multiple programs and helps to drive quality improvement across payers and programs.

For the 2015 updates to the Child and Adult Core Sets, CMCS worked with the National Quality Forum’s (NQF)<sup>1</sup> Measure Applications Partnership (MAP), a public-private partnership that reviews measures for potential use in federal public reporting,<sup>2</sup> to review and identify ways to improve the core sets. Collaborating with NQF’s MAP process for core set updates promotes measure review alignment across CMS since NQF also updates measures for other CMS reporting programs.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.qualityforum.org/story/About\\_Us.aspx](http://www.qualityforum.org/story/About_Us.aspx)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.qualityforum.org/map/>

CMCS is encouraged by state reporting on the core measures. For the Child Core Set, all states voluntarily reported two or more of the measures for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2013, with a median of 16 measures reported by states. For the Adult Core Set, 30 states reported a median of 17 measures and 25 states reported on at least 8 core set measures in FFY 2013. Additional information on state reporting for each core set can be found in the respective *2014 Annual Report on the Quality of Care for Children in Medicaid and CHIP* and the *2014 Annual Report on the Quality of Care for Adults Enrolled in Medicaid*.<sup>3,4</sup> CMCS looks forward to working with states on the core measures reporting now underway for FFY 2014.

### 2015 Child Core Set

Since the release of the initial Child Core Set in 2011, CMCS has collaborated with state Medicaid and CHIP agencies to voluntarily collect, report, and use the measures to drive quality improvements. Section 1139A of the Social Security Act provides that, beginning annually in January 2013, the Secretary shall publish recommended changes to the core measures.<sup>5</sup>

For the 2015 Child Core Set update, CMCS will:

- retire one measure, Percentage of Eligibles that Received Dental Treatment Services;<sup>6</sup>
- add two measures:
  - Dental Sealants for 6-9 Year Old Children at Elevated Caries Risk;<sup>7</sup>and
  - Child and Adolescent Major Depressive Disorder: Suicide Risk Assessment.<sup>8</sup>

In addition, CMS will pilot a reporting process for FFY 2015 for the child version of the hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems survey (Child HCAHPS) in order to determine whether or not to include HCAHPS in the Core Set.<sup>9</sup> Since the Child HCAHPS is a survey conducted by hospitals, CMS will work with CMS hospital reporting programs and states to obtain the survey data. CMS views the Child HCAHPS as an important tool for monitoring a family's experiences and satisfaction with hospital-based pediatric care. This measure was recommended to help address gaps noted in the measure set in three areas: inpatient care; patient experience, and care coordination. Additional information about the Child Core Set MAP review process and their recommendations to CMS can be found at:

<http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Quality-of-Care/CHIPRA-Initial-Core-Set-of-Childrens-Health-Care-Quality-Measures.html>

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/by-topics/quality-of-care/downloads/2014-child-sec-rept.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/by-topics/quality-of-care/downloads/2014-adult-sec-rept.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> The first update was issued via a State Health Official Letter "2013 Children's Core Set of Health Care Quality Measures," SHO #13-002. <http://www.medicaid.gov/Federal-Policy-Guidance/downloads/SHO-13-002.pdf> The second update was issued via a CMCS Informational Bulletin "2014 Updates to the Child and Adult Core Health Care Quality Measurement Sets." <http://www.medicaid.gov/Federal-Policy-Guidance/Downloads/CIB-12-19-13.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Measure steward: CMS, Not NQF Endorsed

<sup>7</sup> Measure steward: American Dental Association on behalf of the Dental Quality Alliance, NQF#2508

<sup>8</sup> Measure steward: American Medical Association - Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement (AMA-PCPI), NQF#1365

<sup>9</sup> Measure steward: Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety-Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Undergoing NQF Endorsement Review NQF#2548

### 2015 Adult Core Set

In January 2012, CMCS released its initial core set of health care quality measures for adults enrolled in Medicaid (Adult Core Set). Section 1139B of the Social Security Act, as amended by Section 2701 of the Affordable Care Act, notes that the Secretary shall issue updates to the Adult Core Set beginning in January 2014 and annually thereafter.<sup>10</sup>

For the 2015 Adult Core Set update, CMCS will:

- retire the Comprehensive Diabetes Care: LDL-C Screening measure;<sup>11</sup> and
- add the Comprehensive Diabetes Care: Hemoglobin A1c Poor Control (>9.0%) measure.<sup>12</sup>

The replacement of the diabetes screening measure allows CMCS and states to expand the measurement of health care outcomes in Medicaid. Additional information about the Adult Core Set MAP review process and their recommendations to CMS can be found at:

<http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Quality-of-Care/Adult-Health-Care-Quality-Measures.html>

### Next Steps

The updates to the Core Sets will take effect in the FFY 2015 reporting cycle, which will begin no later than December 2015. To support states in making these changes, CMCS will release updated technical specifications for both Core Sets in spring 2015 and make them available at:

<http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Quality-of-Care/Quality-of-Care.html>. States with questions or that need further assistance with reporting and quality improvement regarding the Child and Adult Core Sets can submit questions or requests to: [MACQualityTA@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:MACQualityTA@cms.hhs.gov).

If you have questions about this bulletin, please contact Marsha Lillie-Blanton, Children and Adults Health Programs Group, at [marsha.lillie-blanton@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:marsha.lillie-blanton@cms.hhs.gov)

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<sup>10</sup> The first update was issued via a CMCS Informational Bulletin “2014 Updates to the Child and Adult Core Health Care Quality Measurement Sets.” <http://medicaid.gov/Federal-Policy-Guidance/Downloads/CIB-12-19-13.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Measure steward: National Committee for Quality Assurance, NQF#0063

<sup>12</sup> Measure steward: National Committee for Quality Assurance, NQF#0059