Connecticut Quality Council
Annual Review of the Core Measure Set
Measure Specifications

Comprehensive Diabetes Care (CDC)

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO HEDIS MY 2020 & MY 2021

- Retired the "HbA1c control (<7.0%) for a selected population" indicator.
- Retired the "Medical Attention for Nephropathy" indicator for the commercial and Medicaid product lines.
- Clarified in the measure description that organizations must use the same data collection method for the HbA1c testing and control indicators (this information was previously included in the General Guidelines).
- Removed the restriction that only one of the two visits with a diabetes diagnosis be an outpatient telehealth, telephone visit, e-visit or virtual check-in when identifying the event/diagnosis.
- Added telephone visits, e-visits and virtual check-ins to the advanced illness exclusion.
- Added palliative care as a required exclusion.
- Deleted the HbA1c Level 7.0–9.0 Value Set.
- Updated the Administrative Specification logic and value sets for the Eye Exam indicator.
- Added telephone visits, e-visits and virtual check-ins to the Administrative Specification as appropriate settings for BP readings.
- Added Nebivolol-valsartan to the "Antihypertensive combinations" description in the ACE inhibitor and ARB Medications List.
- Added Donepezil-memantine to the "Dementia combinations" description in the Dementia Medications List.
- Added polycystic ovarian syndrome to the optional exclusions.
- Added a *Note* to the *Denominator-Sample Size Reduction* section in the Hybrid Specification.
- Clarified that documentation of "HB1c" meets criteria for the Hybrid Specification of the HbA1c testing indicator.
- Clarified that eye exam results read by a system that provides an artificial intelligence (AI) interpretation meet criteria.
- Removed the requirements for remote monitoring devices to allow BPs taken by any digital device.
- Removed the exclusion of BP readings reported or taken by the member.
- Revised the Data Elements for Reporting tables.
- In the *Rules for Allowable Adjustments* section, clarified that the required exclusions criteria may be adjusted with limits.

Description

The percentage of members 18–75 years of age with diabetes (type 1 and type 2) who had each of the following:

- Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) testing.*
- HbA1c poor control (>9.0%).*
- HbA1c control (<8.0%).*
- Eye exam (retinal) performed.
- Medical attention for nephropathy.**
- BP control (<140/90 mm Hg).

*Organizations must use the same data collection method (Administrative or Hybrid) to report these indicators.

**This indicator is only reported for the Medicare product line.

Eligible Population

Note: *Members in hospice are excluded from the eligible population. If an organization reports this measure using the Hybrid method, and a member is found to be in hospice or using hospice services during medical record review, the member is removed from the sample and replaced by a member from the oversample. Refer to General Guideline 17: Members in Hospice.*

Product lines Commercial, Medicaid, Medicare (report each product line separately).

Stratification For only Medicare, for only the Eye Exam (retinal) indicator, report the following SES stratifications and total:

- Non-LIS/DE, Nondisability.
- LIS/DE.
- Disability.
- LIS/DE and Disability.
- Other.
- Unknown.
- Total Medicare.

Note: *The stratifications are mutually exclusive and the sum of all six stratifications is the total population. The stratifications are reported in a separate table.*

Ages 18–75 years as of December 31 of the measurement year.

Continuous enrollment The measurement year.

Allowable gap No more than one gap in enrollment of up to 45 days during the measurement year. To determine continuous enrollment for a Medicaid beneficiary for whom enrollment is verified monthly, the member may not have more than a 1-month gap in coverage (e.g., a member whose coverage lapses for 2 months [60 days] is not considered continuously enrolled).

Anchor date December 31 of the measurement year.

Benefit Medical.

Event/diagnosis There are two ways to identify members with diabetes: by claim/encounter data and by pharmacy data. The organization must use both methods to identify the eligible population, but a member only needs to be identified by one method to be included in the measure. Members may be identified as having diabetes during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year.

Claim/encounter data. Members who met any of the following criteria during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year (count services that occur over both years):

- At least one acute inpatient encounter (Acute Inpatient Value Set) with a diagnosis of diabetes (Diabetes Value Set) ***without*** telehealth (Telehealth Modifier Value Set; Telehealth POS Value Set).
- At least one acute inpatient discharge with a diagnosis of diabetes (Diabetes Value Set) on the discharge claim. To identify an acute inpatient discharge:

1. Identify all acute and nonacute inpatient stays (Inpatient Stay Value Set).
2. Exclude nonacute inpatient stays (Nonacute Inpatient Stay Value Set).
3. Identify the discharge date for the stay.

- At least two outpatient visits (Outpatient Value Set), observation visits (Observation Value Set), telephone visits (Telephone Visits Value Set),e-visits or virtual check-ins (Online Assessments Value Set), ED visits (ED Value Set), nonacute inpatient encounters (Nonacute Inpatient Value Set) or nonacute inpatient discharges (instructions below; the diagnosis must be on the discharge claim), on different dates of service, with a diagnosis of diabetes (Diabetes Value Set). Visit type need not be the same for the two encounters. To identify a nonacute inpatient discharge:
  1. Identify all acute and nonacute inpatient stays (Inpatient Stay Value Set).
  2. Confirm the stay was for nonacute care based on the presence of a nonacute code (Nonacute Inpatient Stay Value Set) on the claim.
  3. Identify the discharge date for the stay.

  Only include nonacute inpatient encounters (Nonacute Inpatient Value Set) ***without*** telehealth (Telehealth Modifier Value Set; Telehealth POS Value Set).

Pharmacy data. Members who were dispensed insulin or hypoglycemics/ antihyperglycemics on an ambulatory basis during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year (Diabetes Medications List).

Diabetes Medications

Description	Prescription		
Alpha-glucosidase inhibitors	• Acarbose	• Miglitol	
Amylin analogs	• Pramlintide		
Antidiabetic combinations	• Alogliptin-metformin • Alogliptin-pioglitazone • Canagliflozin-metformin • Dapagliflozin-metformin • Empagliflozin-linagliptin	• Empagliflozin-metformin • Glimepiride-pioglitazone • Glipizide-metformin • Glyburide-metformin • Linagliptin-metformin	• Metformin-pioglitazone • Metformin-repaglinide • Metformin-rosiglitazone • Metformin-saxagliptin • Metformin-sitagliptin
Insulin	• Insulin aspart • Insulin aspart-insulin aspart protamine • Insulin degludec • Insulin detemir • Insulin glargine • Insulin glulisine	• Insulin isophane human • Insulin isophane-insulin regular • Insulin lispro • Insulin lispro-insulin lispro protamine • Insulin regular human • Insulin human inhaled	
Meglitinides	• Nateglinide	• Repaglinide	
Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP1) agonists	• Dulaglutide • Exenatide	• Albiglutide • Liraglutide (excluding *Saxenda*®)	

Description	Prescription		
Sodium glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitor	• Canagliflozin	• Dapagliflozin	• Empagliflozin
Sulfonylureas	• Chlorpropamide • Glimepiride	• Glipizide • Glyburide	• Tolazamide • Tolbutamide
Thiazolidinediones	• Pioglitazone	• Rosiglitazone	
Dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DDP-4) inhibitors	• Alogliptin • Linagliptin	• Saxagliptin • Sitagliptin	

Note: *Glucophage/metformin as a solo agent is not included because it is used to treat conditions other than diabetes; members with diabetes on these medications are identified through diagnosis codes only.*

Required exclusion

Exclude members receiving palliative care (Palliative Care Assessment Value Set; Palliative Care Encounter Value Set; Palliative Care Intervention Value Set) during the measurement year.

Exclusions

Exclude members who meet any of the following criteria:

Note: *Supplemental and medical record data may not be used for these exclusions.*

- Medicare members 66 years of age and older as of December 31 of the measurement year who meet either of the following:
  - Enrolled in an Institutional SNP (I-SNP) any time during the measurement year.
  - Living long-term in an institution any time during the measurement year as identified by the LTI flag in the Monthly Membership Detail Data File. Use the run date of the file to determine if a member had an LTI flag during the measurement year.
- Members 66 years of age and older as of December 31 of the measurement year (all product lines) with frailty ***and*** advanced illness. Members must meet **BOTH** of the following frailty and advanced illness criteria to be excluded:
  1. At least one claim/encounter for frailty (Frailty Device Value Set; Frailty Diagnosis Value Set; Frailty Encounter Value Set; Frailty Symptom Value Set) during the measurement year.
  2. Any of the following during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year (count services that occur over both years):
     - At least two outpatient visits (Outpatient Value Set), observation visits (Observation Value Set), ED visits (ED Value Set), telephone visits (Telephone Visits Value Set), e-visits or virtual check-ins (Online Assessments Value Set), nonacute inpatient encounters (Nonacute Inpatient Value Set) or nonacute inpatient discharges (instructions below; the diagnosis must be on the discharge claim) on different dates of service, with an advanced illness diagnosis (Advanced Illness Value Set). Visit type need not be the same for the two visits. To identify a nonacute inpatient discharge:
       1. Identify all acute and nonacute inpatient stays (Inpatient Stay Value Set).

2. Confirm the stay was for nonacute care based on the presence of a nonacute code (Nonacute Inpatient Stay Value Set) on the claim.
3. Identify the discharge date for the stay.

– At least one acute inpatient encounter (Acute Inpatient Value Set) with an advanced illness diagnosis (Advanced Illness Value Set).
– At least one acute inpatient discharge with an advanced illness diagnosis (Advanced Illness Value Set) on the discharge claim. To identify an acute inpatient discharge:
  1. Identify all acute and nonacute inpatient stays (Inpatient Stay Value Set).
  2. Exclude nonacute inpatient stays (Nonacute Inpatient Stay Value Set).
  3. Identify the discharge date for the stay.
– A dispensed dementia medication (Dementia Medications List).

Dementia Medications

Description	Prescription
Cholinesterase inhibitors	• Donepezil • Galantamine • Rivastigmine
Miscellaneous central nervous system agents	• Memantine
Dementia combinations	• Donepezil-memantine

Administrative Specification

Denominator The eligible population.

Numerators

HbA1c Testing An HbA1c test (HbA1c Lab Test Value Set; HbA1c Test Result or Finding Value Set) performed during the measurement year.

HbA1c Poor Control >9% Use codes (HbA1c Lab Test Value Set; HbA1c Test Result or Finding Value Set) to identify the *most recent* HbA1c test during the measurement year. The member is numerator compliant if the most recent HbA1c level is >9.0% or is missing a result, or if an HbA1c test was not done during the measurement year. The member is not numerator compliant if the result for the most recent HbA1c test during the measurement year is ≤9.0%.

Organizations that use CPT Category II codes to identify numerator compliance for this indicator must search for all codes in the following value sets and use the most recent code during the measurement year to evaluate whether the member is numerator compliant.

Value Set	Numerator Compliance
HbA1c Level Less Than 7.0 Value Set	Not compliant
HbA1c Level Greater Than or Equal To 7.0 and Less Than 8.0 Value Set	Not compliant
HbA1c Level Greater Than or Equal To 8.0 and Less Than or Equal To 9.0 Value Set	Not compliant
HbA1c Level Greater Than 9.0 Value Set	Compliant

Note: *A lower rate indicates better performance for this indicator (i.e., low rates of poor control indicate better care).*

HbA1c Control <8%

Use codes (HbA1c Lab Test Value Set; HbA1c Test Result or Finding Value Set) to identify the most recent HbA1c test during the measurement year. The member is numerator compliant if the most recent HbA1c level is <8.0%. The member is not numerator compliant if the result for the most recent HbA1c test is ≥8.0% or is missing a result, or if an HbA1c test was not done during the measurement year.

Organizations that use CPT Category II codes to identify numerator compliance for this indicator must search for all codes in the following value sets and use the most recent code during the measurement year to evaluate whether the member is numerator compliant.

Value Set	Numerator Compliance
HbA1c Level Less Than 7.0 Value Set	Compliant
HbA1c Level Greater Than or Equal To 7.0 and Less Than 8.0 Value Set	Compliant
HbA1c Level Greater Than or Equal To 8.0 and Less Than or Equal To 9.0 Value Set	Not compliant
HbA1c Level Greater Than 9.0 Value Set	Not compliant

Eye Exam

Screening or monitoring for diabetic retinal disease as identified by administrative data. This includes diabetics who had one of the following:

- A retinal or dilated eye exam by an eye care professional (optometrist or ophthalmologist) in the measurement year.
- A *negative* retinal or dilated eye exam (negative for retinopathy) by an eye care professional in the year prior to the measurement year.
- Bilateral eye enucleation any time during the member's history through December 31 of the measurement year.

Any of the following meet criteria:

- Any code in the Diabetic Retinal Screening Value Set billed by an eye care professional (optometrist or ophthalmologist) during the measurement year.

- Any code in the Diabetic Retinal Screening Value Set billed by an eye care professional (optometrist or ophthalmologist) during the year prior to the measurement year, with a negative result (negative for retinopathy).
- Any code in the Diabetic Retinal Screening Value Set billed by an eye care professional (optometrist or ophthalmologist) during the year prior to the measurement year, with a diagnosis of diabetes without complications (Diabetes Mellitus Without Complications Value Set).
- Any code in the Eye Exam With Evidence of Retinopathy Value Set or Eye Exam Without Evidence of Retinopathy Value Set billed by any provider type during the measurement year.
- Any code in the Eye Exam Without Evidence of Retinopathy Value Set billed by any provider type during the year prior to the measurement year.
- Any code in the Diabetic Retinal Screening Negative In Prior Year Value Set billed by any provider type during the measurement year.
- Unilateral eye enucleation (Unilateral Eye Enucleation Value Set) ***with*** a bilateral modifier (Bilateral Modifier Value Set).
- Two unilateral eye enucleations (Unilateral Eye Enucleation Value Set) with service dates 14 days or more apart. For example, if the service date for the first unilateral eye enucleation was February 1 of the measurement year, the service date for the second unilateral eye enucleation must be on or after February 15.
- Left unilateral eye enucleation (Unilateral Eye Enucleation Left Value Set) ***and*** right unilateral eye enucleation (Unilateral Eye Enucleation Right Value Set) on the same or different dates of service.
- A unilateral eye enucleation (Unilateral Eye Enucleation Value Set) and a left unilateral eye enucleation (Unilateral Eye Enucleation Left Value Set) with service dates 14 days or more apart.
- A unilateral eye enucleation (Unilateral Eye Enucleation Value Set) and a right unilateral eye enucleation (Unilateral Eye Enucleation Right Value Set) with service dates 14 days or more apart.

Medical Attention for Nephropathy

A nephropathy screening or monitoring test ***or*** evidence of nephropathy, as documented through administrative data. This includes diabetics who had one of the following during the measurement year:

- A nephropathy screening or monitoring test (Urine Protein Tests Value Set).
- Evidence of treatment for nephropathy or ACE/ARB therapy (Nephropathy Treatment Value Set).
- Evidence of stage 4 chronic kidney disease (CKD Stage 4 Value Set).
- Evidence of ESRD (ESRD Diagnosis Value Set) or dialysis (Dialysis Procedure Value Set).
- Evidence of nephrectomy (Nephrectomy Value Set) or kidney transplant (Kidney Transplant Value Set).
- A visit with a nephrologist, as identified by the organization's specialty provider codes (no restriction on the diagnosis or procedure code submitted).

- At least one ACE inhibitor or ARB dispensing event (ACE Inhibitor and ARB Medications List).

ACE Inhibitor and ARB Medications

Description	Prescription				
Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors	• Benazepril • Captopril	• Enalapril • Fosinopril	• Lisinopril • Moexipril	• Perindopril • Quinapril	• Ramipril • Trandolapril
Angiotensin II inhibitors	• Azilsartan • Candesartan	• Eprosartan • Irbesartan	• Losartan • Olmesartan	• Telmisartan • Valsartan	
Antihypertensive combinations	• Amlodipine-benazepril • Amlodipine-hydrochlorothiazide-valsartan • Amlodipine-hydrochlorothiazide-olmesartan • Amlodipine-olmesartan • Amlodipine-perindopril • Amlodipine-telmisartan • Amlodipine-valsartan	• Azilsartan-chlorthalidone • Benazepril-hydrochlorothiazide • Candesartan-hydrochlorothiazide • Captopril-hydrochlorothiazide • Enalapril-hydrochlorothiazide • Fosinopril-hydrochlorothiazide • Hydrochlorothiazide-irbesartan • Hydrochlorothiazide-lisinopril • Hydrochlorothiazide-losartan	• Hydrochlorothiazide-moexipril • Hydrochlorothiazide-olmesartan • Hydrochlorothiazide-quinapril • Hydrochlorothiazide-telmisartan • Hydrochlorothiazide-valsartan • Nebivolol-valsartan • Sacubitril-valsartan • Trandolapril-verapamil		

BP Control <140/90 mm Hg

Identify the most recent BP reading (Systolic Blood Pressure Value Set; Diastolic Blood Pressure Value Set) taken during an outpatient visit (Outpatient Value Set) telephone visit (Telephone Visits Value Set), e-visit or virtual check-in (Online Assessments Value Set), or a nonacute inpatient encounter (Nonacute Inpatient Value Set), or remote monitoring event (Remote Blood Pressure Monitoring Value Set) during the measurement year.

The member is numerator compliant if the BP is <140/90 mm Hg. The member is not compliant if the BP is ≥140/90 mm Hg, if there is no BP reading during the measurement year or if the reading is incomplete (e.g., the systolic or diastolic level is missing). If there are multiple BPs on the same date of service, use the lowest systolic and lowest diastolic BP on that date as the representative BP.

Organizations that use CPT Category II codes to identify numerator compliance for this indicator must search for all codes in the following value sets and use the most recent codes during the measurement year to determine numerator compliance for both systolic and diastolic levels.

Value Set	Numerator Compliance
Systolic Less Than 140 Value Set	Systolic compliant
Systolic Greater Than or Equal To 140 Value Set	Systolic not compliant
Diastolic Less Than 80 Value Set	Diastolic compliant
Diastolic 80–89 Value Set	Diastolic compliant
Diastolic Greater Than or Equal To 90 Value Set	Diastolic not compliant

Exclusions *(optional)*

Members who do not have a diagnosis of diabetes (Diabetes Value Set), in any setting, during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year ***and*** who had a diagnosis of polycystic ovarian syndrome, gestational diabetes or steroid-induced diabetes (Diabetes Exclusions Value Set), in any setting, during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year.

Organizations that apply optional exclusions must exclude members from the denominator for all indicators. The denominator for all rates must be the same. If the member was included in the measure based on claim or encounter data, as described in the event/diagnosis criteria, the optional exclusions do not apply because the member had a diagnosis of diabetes.

Hybrid Specification

Denominator

Organizations should use a sample size of 411.

For Medicare reporting, the denominator for the Total Medicare SES stratification is the entire systematic sample. Do not pull samples for each stratification. The individual stratifications for the denominators and all numerators must sum to the total.

Denominator—sample size reduction

The organization may reduce the sample size using the current year's administrative rate or the prior year's audited, product line-specific rate for the lowest rate among all the reported CDC indicators. The lowest rate for all reported indicators must be used when reducing the sample size.

Note: *The rate for the HbA1c control (<7.0%) for a selected population indicator may not be used to reduce the MY 2020 or MY 2021 sample size because it was retired. The rate for the Medical attention for nephropathy indicator may not be used to reduce the MY 2020 or MY 2021 sample size for the commercial and Medicaid product lines because it was retired.*

Numerators

HbA1c Testing

An HbA1c test performed during the measurement year as identified by administrative data or medical record review.

Administrative

Refer to *Administrative Specification* to identify positive numerator hits from administrative data.

Medical record

At a minimum, documentation in the medical record must include a note indicating the date when the HbA1c test was performed and the result or finding. Count notation of the following in the medical record:

- A1c
- HbA1c
- HgbA1c
- HB1c
- Hemoglobin A1c
- Glycohemoglobin A1c
- Glycohemoglobin
- Glycated hemoglobin
- Glycosylated hemoglobin

HbA1c Poor Control >9%

The *most recent* HbA1c level (performed during the measurement year) is >9.0% or is missing, or was not done during the measurement year, as documented through laboratory data or medical record review.

Note: *A lower rate indicates better performance for this indicator (i.e., low rates of poor control indicate better care).*

Administrative Refer to *Administrative Specification* to identify positive numerator hits from administrative data.

Medical record At a minimum, documentation in the medical record must include a note indicating the date when the HbA1c test was performed and the result. The member is numerator compliant if the result for the most recent HbA1c level during the measurement year is >9.0% or is missing, or if an HbA1c test was not done during the measurement year. The member is not numerator compliant if the most recent HbA1c level during the measurement year is ≤9.0%.

Ranges and thresholds do not meet criteria for this indicator. A distinct numeric result is required for numerator compliance.

HbA1c Control <8% The *most recent* HbA1c level (performed during the measurement year) is <8.0% as identified by laboratory data or medical record review.

Administrative Refer to *Administrative Specification* to identify positive numerator hits from administrative data.

Medical record At a minimum, documentation in the medical record must include a note indicating the date when the HbA1c test was performed and the result. The member is numerator compliant if the most recent HbA1c level during the measurement year is <8.0%. The member is not numerator compliant if the result for the most recent HbA1c level during the measurement year is ≥8.0% or is missing, or if an HbA1c test was not performed during the measurement year.

Ranges and thresholds do not meet criteria for this indicator. A distinct numeric result is required for numerator compliance.

Eye Exam Screening or monitoring for diabetic retinal disease as identified by administrative data or medical record review. This includes diabetics who had one of the following:

- A retinal or dilated eye exam by an eye care professional (optometrist or ophthalmologist) in the measurement year.
- A *negative* retinal or dilated exam (negative for retinopathy) by an eye care professional (optometrist or ophthalmologist) in the year prior to the measurement year.
- Bilateral eye enucleation any time during the member's history through December 31 of the measurement year.

Administrative Refer to *Administrative Specification* to identify positive numerator hits from administrative data.

Medical record At a minimum, documentation in the medical record must include one of the following:

- A note or letter prepared by an ophthalmologist, optometrist, PCP or other health care professional indicating that an ophthalmoscopic exam was completed by an eye care professional (optometrist or ophthalmologist), the date when the procedure was performed and the results.

- A chart or photograph indicating the date when the fundus photography was performed and one of the following:
  - Evidence that an eye care professional (optometrist or ophthalmologist) reviewed the results.
  - Evidence results were read by a qualified reading center that operates under the direction of a medical director who is a retinal specialist.
  - Evidence results were read by a system that provides an artificial intelligence (AI) interpretation.
- Evidence that the member had bilateral eye enucleation or acquired absence of both eyes. Look as far back as possible in the member's history through December 31 of the measurement year.
- Documentation of a negative retinal or dilated exam by an eye care professional (optometrist or ophthalmologist) in the year prior to the measurement year, where results indicate retinopathy was not present (e.g., documentation of normal findings).
  - Documentation does not have to state specifically "no diabetic retinopathy" to be considered negative for retinopathy; however, it must be clear that the patient had a dilated or retinal eye exam by an eye care professional (optometrist or ophthalmologist) and that retinopathy was not present. Notation limited to a statement that indicates "diabetes without complications" does not meet criteria.

Medical Attention for Nephropathy

A nephropathy screening or monitoring test during the measurement year ***or*** evidence of nephropathy during the measurement year, as documented through either administrative data or medical record review.

Note: *A process flow diagram is included at the end of this specification to help implement this measure.*

Administrative

Refer to *Administrative Specification* to identify positive numerator hits from administrative data.

Medical record

Any of the following during the measurement year meet criteria for a nephropathy screening or monitoring test or evidence of nephropathy.

- A urine test for albumin or protein. At a minimum, documentation must include a note indicating the date when a urine test was performed, and the result or finding. Any of the following meet the criteria:
  - 24-hour urine for albumin or protein.
  - Timed urine for albumin or protein.
  - Spot urine (e.g., urine dipstick or test strip) for albumin or protein.
  - Urine for albumin/creatinine ratio.
  - 24-hour urine for total protein.
  - Random urine for protein/creatinine ratio.
- Documentation of a visit to a nephrologist.
- Documentation of a renal transplant.
- Documentation of a nephrectomy.

- Documentation of medical attention for any of the following (no restriction on provider type):
  - Diabetic nephropathy.
  - ESRD.
  - Chronic renal failure (CRF).
  - Chronic kidney disease (CKD).
  - Renal insufficiency.
  - Proteinuria.
  - Albuminuria.
  - Renal dysfunction.
  - Acute renal failure (ARF).
  - Dialysis, hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis.
- Evidence of ACE inhibitor/ARB therapy. Documentation in the medical record must include evidence that the member received ACE inhibitor/ ARB therapy during the measurement year. Any of the following meet criteria:
  - Documentation that a prescription for an ACE inhibitor/ARB was written during the measurement year.
  - Documentation that a prescription for an ACE inhibitor/ARB was filled during the measurement year.
  - Documentation that the member took an ACE inhibitor/ARB during the measurement year.

BP Control <140/90 mm Hg

The *most recent* BP level (taken during the measurement year) is <140/90 mm Hg, as documented through administrative data or medical record review.

Administrative

Refer to *Administrative Specification* to identify positive numerator hits from administrative data.

Medical record

The organization should use the medical record from which it abstracts data for the other CDC indicators. If the organization does not abstract for other indicators, it should use the medical record of the provider that manages the member's diabetes. If that medical record does not contain a BP, the organization may use the medical record of another PCP or specialist from whom the member receives care.

Identify the most recent BP reading noted during the measurement year. Do not include BP readings that meet the following criteria:

- Taken during an acute inpatient stay or an ED visit.
- Taken on the same day as a diagnostic test or diagnostic or therapeutic procedure that requires a change in diet or change in medication on or one day before the day of the test or procedure, with the exception of fasting blood tests.
- Taken by the member using a non-digital device such as with a manual blood pressure cuff and a stethoscope.

Identify the lowest systolic and lowest diastolic BP reading from the most recent BP notation in the medical record. If multiple readings were recorded for a single date, use the lowest systolic and lowest diastolic BP on that date as the representative BP. The systolic and diastolic results do not need to be from the same reading.

The member is not numerator compliant if the BP does not meet the specified threshold or is missing, or if there is no BP reading during the measurement year or if the reading is incomplete (i.e., the systolic or diastolic level is missing).

Exclusions *(optional)*

Refer to *Administrative Specification* for exclusion criteria. Identify members who did not have a diagnosis of diabetes, in any setting, during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year, ***and*** who had a diagnosis of gestational diabetes or steroid-induced diabetes, in any setting, during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year.

Note

- *Organizations may select a data collection method (Administrative vs. Hybrid) at the indicator level, but the method used for HbA1c testing and control rates must be consistent.*
- *Blindness is not an exclusion for a diabetic eye exam because it is difficult to distinguish between individuals who are legally blind but require a retinal exam and those who are completely blind and therefore do not require an exam.*
- *To facilitate HEDIS reporting the denominator for all rates must be the same. While an eye exam is not possible, services measured in the other indicators are important for members with bilateral eye enucleation. For these reasons bilateral eye enucleation is considered a numerator hit (rather than an optional exclusion).*
- *Hypertensive retinopathy is not handled differently from diabetic retinopathy when reporting the Eye Exam indicator; for example, an eye exam documented as positive for hypertensive retinopathy is counted as positive for diabetic retinopathy and an eye exam documented as negative for hypertensive retinopathy is counted as negative for diabetic retinopathy. The intent of the Eye Exam indicator is to ensure that members with evidence of any type of retinopathy have an eye exam annually, while members who remain free of retinopathy (i.e., the retinal exam was negative for retinopathy) are screened every other year.*
- *If a combination of administrative, supplemental or hybrid data are used, the most recent result must be used, regardless of data source, for the indicators that require use of the most recent result.*
- *If an organization chooses to apply the optional exclusions, members must be numerator negative for at least one indicator, with the exception of HbA1c Poor Control (>9%). Remove members from the eligible population who are numerator negative for any indicator (other than for HbA1c Poor Control [>9%]) and substitute members from the oversample. Do not exclude members who are numerator compliant for all indicators except HbA1c Poor Control (>9%), because a lower rate indicates better performance for this indicator.*
- *When excluding BP readings from the BP Control <140/90 mm Hg indicator, the intent is to identify diagnostic or therapeutic procedures that require a medication regimen, a change in diet or a change in medication. For example (this list is just for reference, and is not exhaustive):*
  - *A colonoscopy requires a change in diet (NPO on the day of procedure) and a medication change (a medication is taken to prep the colon).*
  - *Dialysis, infusions and chemotherapy (including oral chemotherapy) are all therapeutic procedures that require a medication regimen.*

  - *A nebulizer treatment with albuterol is considered a therapeutic procedure that requires a medication regimen (the albuterol).*
  - *A patient forgetting to take regular medications on the day of the procedure is not considered a required change in medication, and therefore the BP reading is eligible.*
- *BP readings taken on the same day that the patient receives a common low-intensity or preventive procedure are eligible for use. For example, the following procedures are considered common low-intensity or preventive procedures (this list is just for reference, and is not exhaustive):*
  - *Vaccinations.*
  - *Injections (e.g., allergy, vitamin B-12, insulin, steroid, toradol, Depo-Provera, testosterone, lidocaine).*
  - *TB test.*
  - *IUD insertion.*
  - *Eye exam with dilating agents.*
  - *Wart or mole removal.*

Data Elements for Reporting

Organizations that submit HEDIS data to NCQA must provide the following data elements.

Table CDC-1/2: Data Elements for Comprehensive Diabetes Care

	Administrative	Hybrid
Measurement year	✓	✓
Data collection methodology (Administrative or Hybrid)	*Each of the 5 rates*	*Each of the 5 rates*
Eligible population	*Each of the 5 rates*	*Each of the 5 rates*
Number of required exclusions	*Each of the 5 rates*	*Each of the 5 rates*
Number of numerator events by administrative data in eligible population (before exclusions)		*Each of the 5 rates*
Current year's administrative rate (before exclusions)		*Each of the 5 rates*
Minimum required sample size (MRSS)		*Each of the 5 rates*
Oversampling rate		*Each of the 5 rates*
Number of oversample records		*Each of the 5 rates*
Number of medical records excluded because of valid data errors		*Each of the 5 rates*
Number of administrative data records excluded		*Each of the 5 rates*
Number of medical records excluded		*Each of the 5 rates*
Number of employee/dependent medical records excluded		*Each of the 5 rates*
Records added from the oversample list		*Each of the 5 rates*
Denominator		*Each of the 5 rates*
Numerator events by administrative data	*Each of the 5 rates*	*Each of the 5 rates*
Numerator events by supplemental data	*Each of the 5 rates*	*Each of the 5 rates*
Numerator events by medical records		*Each of the 5 rates*
Reported rate	*Each of the 5 rates*	*Each of the 5 rates*

Table CDC-A-3: Data Elements for Comprehensive Diabetes Care

	Administrative	Hybrid
Measurement year	✓	✓
Data collection methodology (Administrative or Hybrid)	*Each of the 6 rates*	*Each of the 6 rates*
Eligible population	*Each of the 6 rates*	*Each of the 6 rates*
Number of required exclusions	*Each of the 6 rates*	*Each of the 6 rates*
Number of numerator events by administrative data in eligible population (before exclusions)		*Each of the 6 rates*
Current year's administrative rate (before exclusions)		*Each of the 6 rates*
Minimum required sample size (MRSS)		*Each of the 6 rates*
Oversampling rate		*Each of the 6 rates*
Number of oversample records		*Each of the 6 rates*
Number of medical records excluded because of valid data errors		*Each of the 6 rates*

	Administrative	Hybrid
Number of administrative data records excluded		*Each of the 6 rates*
Number of medical records excluded		*Each of the 6 rates*
Number of employee/dependent medical records excluded		*Each of the 6 rates*
Records added from the oversample list		*Each of the 6 rates*
Denominator		*Each of the 6 rates*
Numerator events by administrative data	*Each of the 6 rates*	*Each of the 6 rates*
Numerator events by supplemental data	*Each of the 6 rates*	*Each of the 6 rates*
Numerator events by medical records		*Each of the 6 rates*
Reported rate	*Each of the 6 rates*	*Each of the 6 rates*

Table CDC-B-3: Data Elements for Comprehensive Diabetes Care: Eye Exam (Medicare SES Stratifications only. Report the Total Medicare population in Table CDC-A-3)

	Administrative	Hybrid
Eligible population	*Each of the 6 stratifications*	*Each of the 6 stratifications*
Number of required exclusions	*Each of the 6 stratifications*	*Each of the 6 stratifications*
Denominator		*Each of the 6 stratifications*
Numerator events by administrative data	*Each of the 6 stratifications*	*Each of the 6 stratifications*
Numerator events by medical records		*Each of the 6 stratifications*
Numerator events by supplemental data	*Each of the 6 stratifications*	*Each of the 6 stratifications*
Reported rate	*Each of the 6 stratifications*	*Each of the 6 stratifications*

Rules for Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS

This section *may not* be used for reporting health plan HEDIS.

NCQA's Rules for Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS describe how NCQA's HEDIS measure specifications can be adjusted for non-health plan reporting. Refer to the *Guidelines for the Rules of Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS* for additional information.

Rules for Allowable Adjustments for Comprehensive Diabetes Care

NONCLINICAL COMPONENTS		
Eligible Population	**Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)**	**Notes**
Product Lines	Yes	Organizations are not required to use product line criteria; product lines may be combined and all (or no) product line criteria may be used.
Ages	Yes, with limits	Age determination dates may be changed (e.g., select, "age as of June 30"). Changing denominator age range is allowed within specified age range (ages 18–75 years). The denominator age may not be expanded.
Continuous enrollment, Allowable gap, Anchor Date	Yes	Organizations are not required to use enrollment criteria; adjustments are allowed.
Benefits	Yes	Organizations are not required to use a benefit; adjustments are allowed.
Other	Yes	Organizations may use additional eligible population criteria to focus on a population of interest such as gender, sociodemographic characteristic or geographic region.
CLINICAL COMPONENTS		
Eligible Population	**Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)**	**Notes**
Event/Diagnosis	No	Only events or diagnoses that contain (or map to) codes in the medication lists and value sets may be used to identify visits. Medication lists, value sets and logic may not be changed
Denominator Exclusions	**Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)**	**Notes**
Optional Exclusions	No, if applied	Optional exclusions are not required, but if they are used, only specified exclusions may be applied; value sets and logic may not be changed.
Required Exclusions	Yes	The palliative care exclusion is not required. Refer to *Exclusions* in the *Guidelines for the Rules for Allowable Adjustments*
Exclusions: I-SNP, LTI, Frailty or Advanced Illness	Yes	These exclusions are not required. Refer to *Exclusions* in the *Guidelines for the Rules for Allowable Adjustments*.

Numerator Criteria	Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)	Notes
• Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) testing • HbA1c poor control (>9.0%) • HbA1c control (<8.0%) • Eye exam (retinal) performed • Medical attention for nephropathy • BP control (<140/90 mm HG)	No	Medication lists, value sets and logic may not be changed.

*Kidney Health Evaluation for Patients With Diabetes (KED)**

***This measure was developed by NCQA with input from the National Kidney Foundation.**

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO HEDIS MY 2020 & MY 2021

- First-year measure (MY 2020).

Description

The percentage of members 18–85 years of age with diabetes (type 1 and type 2) who received a kidney health evaluation, defined by an estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) ***and*** a urine albumin-creatinine ratio (uACR), during the measurement year.

Eligible Population

Note: *Members in hospice are excluded from the eligible population. Refer to General Guideline 17: Members in Hospice.*

Product lines Commercial, Medicaid, Medicare (report each product line separately).

Ages 18–85 years as of December 31 of the measurement year. Report three age stratifications and a total rate:

- 18–64.
- 65–74.
- 75–85.
- Total.

The total is the sum of the age stratifications.

Continuous enrollment The measurement year.

Allowable gap No more than one gap in enrollment of up to 45 days during the measurement year. To determine continuous enrollment for a Medicaid beneficiary for whom enrollment is verified monthly, the member may not have more than a 1-month gap in coverage (e.g., a member whose coverage lapses for 2 months [60 days] is not considered continuously enrolled).

Anchor date December 31 of the measurement year.

Benefit Medical.

Event/diagnosis Follow the steps below to identify the eligible population.

Step 1 There are two ways to identify members with diabetes: by claim/encounter data and by pharmacy data. The organization must use both methods to identify the eligible population, but a member only needs to be identified by one method to be included in the measure. Members may be identified as having diabetes during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year.

Claim/encounter data. Members who met any of the following criteria during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year (count services that occur over both years):

- At least one acute inpatient encounter (Acute Inpatient Value Set) with a diagnosis of diabetes (Diabetes Value Set) ***without*** telehealth (Telehealth Modifier Value Set; Telehealth POS Value Set).

- At least one acute inpatient discharge with a diagnosis of diabetes (Diabetes Value Set) on the discharge claim. To identify an acute inpatient discharge:
  1. Identify all acute and nonacute inpatient stays (Inpatient Stay Value Set).
  2. Exclude nonacute inpatient stays (Nonacute Inpatient Stay Value Set).
  3. Identify the discharge date for the stay.
- At least two outpatient visits (Outpatient Value Set), observation visits (Observation Value Set), telephone visits (Telephone Visits Value Set), e-visits or virtual check-ins (Online Assessments Value Set), ED visits (ED Value Set), nonacute inpatient encounters (Nonacute Inpatient Value Set) or nonacute inpatient discharges (instructions below; the diagnosis must be on the discharge claim), on different dates of service, with a diagnosis of diabetes (Diabetes Value Set). Visit type need not be the same for the two encounters. To identify a nonacute inpatient discharge:
  1. Identify all acute and nonacute inpatient stays (Inpatient Stay Value Set).
  2. Confirm the stay was for nonacute care based on the presence of a nonacute code (Nonacute Inpatient Stay Value Set) on the claim.
  3. Identify the discharge date for the stay.

  Only include nonacute inpatient encounters (Nonacute Inpatient Value Set) ***without*** telehealth (Telehealth Modifier Value Set; Telehealth POS Value Set).

Pharmacy data. Members who were dispensed insulin or hypoglycemics/ antihyperglycemics on an ambulatory basis during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year (Diabetes Medications List).

Diabetes Medications

Description	Prescription		
Alpha-glucosidase inhibitors	• Acarbose	• Miglitol	
Amylin analogs	• Pramlintide		
Antidiabetic combinations	• Alogliptin-metformin • Alogliptin-pioglitazone • Canagliflozin-metformin • Dapagliflozin-metformin • Empagliflozin-linagliptin	• Empagliflozin-metformin • Glimepiride-pioglitazone • Glipizide-metformin • Glyburide-metformin • Linagliptin-metformin	• Metformin-pioglitazone • Metformin-repaglinide • Metformin-rosiglitazone • Metformin-saxagliptin • Metformin-sitagliptin
Insulin	• Insulin aspart • Insulin aspart-insulin aspart protamine • Insulin degludec • Insulin detemir • Insulin glargine • Insulin glulisine	• Insulin isophane human • Insulin isophane-insulin regular • Insulin lispro • Insulin lispro-insulin lispro protamine • Insulin regular human • Insulin human inhaled	
Meglitinides	• Nateglinide	• Repaglinide	

Description	Prescription		
Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP1) agonists	• Dulaglutide • Exenatide	• Albiglutide • Liraglutide (excluding *Saxenda®)*	
Sodium glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitor	• Canagliflozin	• Dapagliflozin	• Empagliflozin
Sulfonylureas	• Chlorpropamide • Glimepiride	• Glipizide • Glyburide	• Tolazamide • Tolbutamide
Thiazolidinediones	• Pioglitazone	• Rosiglitazone	
Dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DDP-4) inhibitors	• Alogliptin • Linagliptin	• Saxagliptin • Sitagliptin	

Note: *Glucophage/metformin as a solo agent is not included because it is used to treat conditions other than diabetes; members with diabetes on these medications are identified through diagnosis codes only.*

Step 2: Required exclusions Exclude members who meet any of the following criteria:

- Members with evidence of ESRD (ESRD Diagnosis Value Set) or dialysis (Dialysis Procedure Value Set) any time during the member's history on or prior to December 31 of the measurement year.
- Members receiving palliative care (Palliative Care Assessment Value Set; Palliative Care Encounter Value Set; Palliative Care Intervention Value Set) during the measurement year.

Step 3: Exclude members who meet any of the following criteria:

Note: *Supplemental and medical record data may not be used for these exclusions.*

- Medicare members 66 years of age and older as of December 31 of the measurement year who meet either of the following:
  - Enrolled in an Institutional SNP (I-SNP) any time during the measurement year.
  - Living long-term in an institution any time during the measurement year as identified by the LTI flag in the Monthly Membership Detail Data File. Use the run date of the file to determine if a member had an LTI flag during the measurement year.
- Members 66 years of age and older as of December 31 of the measurement year (all product lines) with frailty ***and*** advanced illness. Members must meet **BOTH** of the following frailty and advanced illness criteria to be excluded:
  1. At least one claim/encounter for frailty (Frailty Device Value Set; Frailty Diagnosis Value Set; Frailty Encounter Value Set; Frailty Symptom Value Set) during the measurement year.
  2. Any of the following during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year (count services that occur over both years):
     - At least two outpatient visits (Outpatient Value Set), observation visits (Observation Value Set), ED visits (ED Value Set), telephone visits (Telephone Visits Value Set), e-visits or virtual check-ins (Online Assessments Value Set), nonacute inpatient encounters (Nonacute Inpatient Value Set) or nonacute inpatient discharges (instructions below; the diagnosis must be on the discharge claim) on different dates of service, with an advanced illness diagnosis

(Advanced Illness Value Set). Visit type need not be the same for the two visits. To identify a nonacute inpatient discharge:

1. Identify all acute and nonacute inpatient stays (Inpatient Stay Value Set).
2. Confirm the stay was for nonacute care based on the presence of a nonacute code (Nonacute Inpatient Stay Value Set) on the claim.
3. Identify the discharge date for the stay.

– At least one acute inpatient encounter (Acute Inpatient Value Set) with an advanced illness diagnosis (Advanced Illness Value Set).

– At least one acute inpatient discharge with an advanced illness diagnosis (Advanced Illness Value Set) on the discharge claim. To identify an acute inpatient discharge:

1. Identify all acute and nonacute inpatient stays (Inpatient Stay Value Set).
2. Exclude nonacute inpatient stays (Nonacute Inpatient Stay Value Set).
3. Identify the discharge date for the stay.

– A dispensed dementia medication (Dementia Medications List).

- Members 81 years of age and older as of December 31 of the measurement year (all product lines) with frailty (Frailty Device Value Set; Frailty Diagnosis Value Set; Frailty Encounter Value Set; Frailty Symptom Value Set) during the measurement year.

Dementia Medications

Description	Prescription
Cholinesterase inhibitors	• Donepezil • Galantamine • Rivastigmine
Miscellaneous central nervous system agents	• Memantine
Dementia combinations	• Donepezil-memantine

Administrative Specification

Denominator The eligible population.

Numerator

Kidney Health Evaluation Members who received ***both*** of the following during the measurement year on the same or different dates of service:

- At least one eGFR (Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate Lab Test Value Set).
- At least one uACR identified by ***both*** a quantitative urine albumin test (Quantitative Urine Albumin Lab Test Value Set) ***and*** a urine creatinine test (Urine Creatinine Lab Test Value Set) ***with*** service dates four or less days apart. For example, if the service date for the quantitative urine albumin test was December 1 of the measurement year, then the urine creatinine test must have a service date on or between November 27 and December 5 of the measurement year.

Exclusions *(optional)*

Members who do not have a diagnosis of diabetes (Diabetes Value Set), in any setting, during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year ***and*** who had a diagnosis of polycystic ovarian syndrome, gestational diabetes or steroid-induced diabetes (Diabetes Exclusions Value Set), in any setting, during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year.

If the member was included in the measure based on claim or encounter data, as described in the event/ diagnosis criteria, the optional exclusions do not apply because the member had a diagnosis of diabetes.

Data Elements for Reporting

Organizations that submit HEDIS data to NCQA must provide the following data elements.

Table KED-1/2/3: Data Elements for Kidney Health Evaluation for Patients With Diabetes

	Administrative
Measurement year	✓
Eligible population	*For each age stratification and total*
Number of required exclusions	*For each age stratification and total*
Number of optional exclusions	*For each age stratification and total*
Number of numerator events by administrative data	*For each age stratification and total*
Number of numerator events by supplemental data	*For each age stratification and total*
Reported rate	*For each age stratification and total*

Rules for Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS

This section *may not* be used for reporting health plan HEDIS.

NCQA's Rules for Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS describe how NCQA's HEDIS measure specifications can be adjusted for non-health plan reporting. Refer to the *Guidelines for the Rules of Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS* for additional information.

***Note**: These allowable adjustments are for use for the MY 2021.*

Rules for Allowable Adjustments for Kidney Health Evaluation for Patients With Diabetes

NONCLINICAL COMPONENTS		
Eligible Population	**Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)**	**Notes**
Product Lines	Yes	Organizations are not required to use product line criteria; product lines may be combined and all (or no) product line criteria may be used.
Ages	Yes, with limits	Age determination dates may be changed (e.g., select, "age as of June 30"). The denominator age may be changed if the range is within the specified age range (18–85 years).
Continuous enrollment, Allowable gap, Anchor Date	Yes	Organizations are not required to use enrollment criteria; adjustments are allowed.
Benefit	Yes	Organizations are not required to use a benefit; adjustments are allowed.
Other	Yes	Organizations may use additional eligible population criteria to focus on a population of interest such as gender, sociodemographic characteristic or geographic region.
CLINICAL COMPONENTS		
Eligible Population	**Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)**	**Notes**
Event/Diagnosis	No	Only events or diagnoses that contain (or map to) codes in the medication lists and value sets may be used to identify visits. Medication lists, value sets and logic may not be changed
Denominator Exclusions	**Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)**	**Notes**
Required Exclusions	Yes, with limits	Apply required exclusions according to specified value sets. The palliative care exclusion is not required. Refer to *Exclusions* in the *Guidelines for the Rules for Allowable Adjustments.*
Exclusions: I-SNP, LTI, Frailty or Advanced Illness	Yes	These exclusions are not required. Refer to *Exclusions* in the *Guidelines for the Rules for Allowable Adjustments*.
Optional Exclusions	No, if applied	Optional exclusions are not required, but if they are used, only specified exclusions may be applied. Value sets may not be changed.
Numerator Criteria	**Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)**	**Notes**
Kidney Health Evaluation	No	Value sets and logic may not be changed.

Controlling High Blood Pressure (CBP)

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO HEDIS MY 2020 & MY 2021

- Revised the time frame in the event/diagnosis criteria to look for two outpatient visits with a diagnosis of hypertension in the first six months of the measurement year and the year prior to the measurement year.
- Removed the restriction that only one of the two visits with a hypertension diagnosis be an outpatient telehealth, telephone visit, e-visit or virtual check-in when identifying the event/diagnosis.
- Added palliative care as a required exclusion.
- Added telephone visits, e-visits and virtual check-ins to the advanced illness exclusion.
- Added Donepezil-memantine to the "Dementia combinations" description in the Dementia Medications List.
- In the Administrative Specification, added telephone visits, e-visits and virtual check-ins as appropriate settings for BP readings.
- Updated the Hybrid Specification to indicate that sample size reduction is not allowed for MY 2020; sample size reduction is allowed for MY 2021.
- Removed the requirements for remote monitoring devices to allow BPs taken by any digital device.
- Removed the exclusion of BP readings reported or taken by the member.
- Added the "Number of required exclusions" data element to the Data Elements for Reporting table.
- Added guidance for adjusting required exclusions in the *Rules for Allowable Adjustments* section.

Description

The percentage of members 18–85 years of age who had a diagnosis of hypertension (HTN) and whose BP was adequately controlled (<140/90 mm Hg) during the measurement year.

Definitions

Adequate control	Both a representative systolic BP <140 mm Hg and a representative diastolic BP of <90 mm Hg.
Representative BP	The most recent BP reading during the measurement year on or after the second diagnosis of hypertension. If multiple BP measurements occur on the same date, or are noted in the chart on the same date, use the lowest systolic and lowest diastolic BP reading. If no BP is recorded during the measurement year, assume that the member is "not controlled."

Eligible Population

Note: *Members in hospice are excluded from the eligible population. If a member is found to be in hospice or using hospice services during medical record review, the member is removed from the sample and replaced by a member from the oversample. Refer to General Guideline 17: Members in Hospice.*

Product lines	Commercial, Medicaid, Medicare (report each product line separately).
Ages	18–85 years as of December 31 of the measurement year.
Continuous enrollment	The measurement year.
Allowable gap	No more than one gap in continuous enrollment of up to 45 days during the measurement year. To determine continuous enrollment for a Medicaid beneficiary for whom enrollment is verified monthly, the member may not have more than a 1-month gap in coverage (e.g., a member whose coverage lapses for 2 months [60 days] is not considered continuously enrolled).
Anchor date	December 31 of the measurement year.
Benefit	Medical.
Event/diagnosis	Members who had at least two visits on different dates of service with a diagnosis of hypertension on or between January 1 of the year prior to the measurement year and June 30 of the measurement year. Visit type need not be the same for the two visits. Any of the following code combinations meet criteria: • Outpatient visit (Outpatient Without UBREV Value Set) with any diagnosis of hypertension (Essential Hypertension Value Set). • A telephone visit (Telephone Visits Value Set) with any diagnosis of hypertension (Essential Hypertension Value Set). • An e-visit or virtual check-in (Online Assessments Value Set) with any diagnosis of hypertension (Essential Hypertension Value Set).
Required exclusion	Members receiving palliative care (Palliative Care Assessment Value Set; Palliative Care Encounter Value Set; Palliative Care Intervention Value Set) during the measurement year.
Exclusions	Exclude members who meet any of the following criteria: ***Note:*** *Supplemental and medical record data may not be used for these exclusions.* • Medicare members 66 years of age and older as of December 31 of the measurement year who meet either of the following: – Enrolled in an Institutional SNP (I-SNP) any time during the measurement year. – Living long-term in an institution any time during the measurement year as identified by the LTI flag in the Monthly Membership Detail Data File. Use the run date of the file to determine if a member had an LTI flag during the measurement year. • Members 66–80 years of age as of December 31 of the measurement year (all product lines) with frailty ***and*** advanced illness. Members must meet *both* of the following frailty and advanced illness criteria to be excluded:

1. At least one claim/encounter for frailty (Frailty Device Value Set; Frailty Diagnosis Value Set; Frailty Encounter Value Set; Frailty Symptom Value Set) during the measurement year.
2. Any of the following during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year (count services that occur over both years):
   - At least two outpatient visits (Outpatient Value Set), observation visits (Observation Value Set), ED visits (ED Value Set), telephone visits (Telephone Visits Value Set), e-visits or virtual check-ins (Online Assessments Value Set), nonacute inpatient encounters (Nonacute Inpatient Value Set) or nonacute inpatient discharges (instructions below; the diagnosis must be on the discharge claim) on different dates of service, with an advanced illness diagnosis (Advanced Illness Value Set). Visit type need not be the same for the two visits. To identify a nonacute inpatient discharge:
     1. Identify all acute and nonacute inpatient stays (Inpatient Stay Value Set).
     2. Confirm the stay was for nonacute care based on the presence of a nonacute code (Nonacute Inpatient Stay Value Set) on the claim.
     3. Identify the discharge date for the stay.
   - At least one acute inpatient encounter (Acute Inpatient Value Set) with an advanced illness diagnosis (Advanced Illness Value Set).
   - At least one acute inpatient discharge with an advanced illness diagnosis (Advanced Illness Value Set) on the discharge claim. To identify an acute inpatient discharge:
     1. Identify all acute and nonacute inpatient stays (Inpatient Stay Value Set).
     2. Exclude nonacute inpatient stays (Nonacute Inpatient Stay Value Set).
     3. Identify the discharge date for the stay.
   - A dispensed dementia medication (Dementia Medications List).

- Members 81 years of age and older as of December 31 of the measurement year (all product lines) with frailty (Frailty Device Value Set; Frailty Diagnosis Value Set; Frailty Encounter Value Set; Frailty Symptom Value Set) during the measurement year.

Dementia Medications

Description	Prescription		
Cholinesterase inhibitors	• Donepezil	• Galantamine	• Rivastigmine
Miscellaneous central nervous system agents	• Memantine		
Dementia combinations	• Donepezil-memantine		

Administrative Specification

Denominator The eligible population.

Numerator Identify the most recent BP reading (Systolic Blood Pressure Value Set; Diastolic Blood Pressure Value Set) taken during an outpatient visit (Outpatient Without UBREV Value Set), telephone visit (Telephone Visits Value Set), e-visit or virtual check-in (Online Assessments Value Set), a nonacute inpatient encounter (Nonacute Inpatient Value Set), or remote monitoring event (Remote Blood Pressure Monitoring Value Set) during the measurement year.

The BP reading must occur *on or after* the date of the second diagnosis of hypertension (identified using the event/diagnosis criteria).

The member is numerator compliant if the BP is <140/90 mm Hg. The member is not compliant if the BP is ≥140/90 mm Hg, if there is no BP reading during the measurement year or if the reading is incomplete (e.g., the systolic or diastolic level is missing). If there are multiple BPs on the same date of service, use the lowest systolic and lowest diastolic BP on that date as the representative BP.

Organizations that use CPT Category II codes to identify numerator compliance for this indicator must search for all codes in the following value sets and use the most recent codes during the measurement year to determine numerator compliance for both systolic and diastolic levels.

Value Set	Numerator Compliance
Systolic Less Than 140 Value Set	Systolic compliant
Systolic Greater Than or Equal To 140 Value Set	Systolic not compliant
Diastolic Less Than 80 Value Set	Diastolic compliant
Diastolic 80–89 Value Set	Diastolic compliant
Diastolic Greater Than or Equal To 90 Value Set	Diastolic not compliant

Exclusions *(optional)*

- Exclude from the eligible population all members with evidence of end-stage renal disease (ESRD) (ESRD Diagnosis Value Set), dialysis (Dialysis Procedure Value Set), nephrectomy (Nephrectomy Value Set) or kidney transplant (Kidney Transplant Value Set; History of Kidney Transplant Value Set) on or prior to December 31 of the measurement year.
- Exclude from the eligible population female members with a diagnosis of pregnancy (Pregnancy Value Set) during the measurement year.
- Exclude from the eligible population all members who had a nonacute inpatient admission during the measurement year. To identify nonacute inpatient admissions:
  1. Identify all acute and nonacute inpatient stays (Inpatient Stay Value Set).
  2. Confirm the stay was for nonacute care based on the presence of a nonacute code (Nonacute Inpatient Stay Value Set) on the claim.
  3. Identify the admission date for the stay.

Hybrid Specification

Denominator

A systematic sample drawn from the eligible population.

For MY 2020 reporting, because Controlling High Blood Pressure has been significantly revised, sample size reduction is not allowed.

For MY 2021 reporting, the organization may reduce the sample size using the current year's administrative rate or the prior year's audited, product line specific rate.

Refer to the Guidelines for Calculations and Sampling for information on reducing the sample size.

Identifying the medical record

All eligible BP measurements recorded in the record must be considered. If an organization cannot find the medical record, the member remains in the measure denominator and is considered noncompliant for the numerator.

Use the following guidance to find the appropriate medical record to review.

- Identify the member's PCP.
- If the member had more than one PCP for the time-period, identify the PCP who most recently provided care to the member.
- If the member did not visit a PCP for the time-period or does not have a PCP, identify the practitioner who most recently provided care to the member.
- If a practitioner other than the member's PCP manages the hypertension, the organization may use the medical record of that practitioner.

Numerator

The number of members in the denominator whose most recent BP (both systolic and diastolic) is adequately controlled during the measurement year. For a member's BP to be controlled the systolic and diastolic BP must be <140/90 mm Hg (adequate control). To determine if a member's BP is adequately controlled, the representative BP must be identified.

Administrative

Refer to *Administrative Specification* to identify positive numerator hits from administrative data.

Medical record

Identify the most recent BP reading noted during the measurement year.

The BP reading must occur on or after the date when the second diagnosis of hypertension (identified using the event/diagnosis criteria) occurred.

Do not include BP readings:

- Taken during an acute inpatient stay or an ED visit.
- Taken on the same day as a diagnostic test or diagnostic or therapeutic procedure that requires a change in diet or change in medication on or one day before the day of the test or procedure, with the exception of fasting blood tests.
- Taken by the member using a non-digital device such as with a manual blood pressure cuff and a stethoscope.

Identify the lowest systolic and lowest diastolic BP reading from the most recent BP notation in the medical record. If multiple readings were recorded for a single date, use the lowest systolic and lowest diastolic BP on that date as the representative BP. The systolic and diastolic results do not need to be from the same reading.

The member is not compliant if the BP reading is ≥140/90 mm Hg or is missing, or if there is no BP reading during the measurement year or if the reading is incomplete (e.g., the systolic or diastolic level is missing).

Exclusions *(optional)*

Refer to the *Administrative Specification* for exclusion criteria. Exclusionary evidence in the medical record must include a note indicating diagnosis of pregnancy or evidence of a nonacute inpatient admission during the measurement year, ***or*** evidence of ESRD, dialysis, nephrectomy or kidney transplant any time during the member's history through December 31 of the measurement year.

Note

- *When identifying the most recent BP reading, all eligible BP readings in the appropriate medical record should be considered, regardless of practitioner type and setting (excluding acute inpatient and ED visit settings).*
- *An EMR can be used to identify the most recent BP reading if it meets the criteria for appropriate medical record.*
- *When excluding BP readings from the numerator, the intent is to identify diagnostic or therapeutic procedures that require a medication regimen, a change in diet or a change in medication. For example (this list is just for reference, and is not exhaustive):*
  - *A colonoscopy requires a change in diet (NPO on the day of procedure) and a medication change (a medication is taken to prep the colon).*
  - *Dialysis, infusions and chemotherapy (including oral chemotherapy) are all therapeutic procedures that require a medication regimen.*
  - *A nebulizer treatment with albuterol is considered a therapeutic procedure that requires a medication regimen (the albuterol).*
  - *A patient forgetting to take regular medications on the day of the procedure is not considered a required change in medication, and therefore the BP reading is eligible.*
- *BP readings taken on the same day that the member receives a common low-intensity or preventive procedure are eligible for use. For example, the following procedures are considered common low-intensity or preventive (this list is just for reference, and is not exhaustive):*
  - *Vaccinations.*
  - *Injections (e.g., allergy, vitamin B-12, insulin, steroid, toradol, Depo-Provera, testosterone, lidocaine).*
  - *TB test.*
  - *IUD insertion.*
  - *Eye exam with dilating agents.*
  - *Wart or mole removal.*

Data Elements for Reporting

Organizations that submit HEDIS data to NCQA must provide the following data elements.

Table CBP-1/2/3: Data Elements for Controlling High Blood Pressure

	Admin	Hybrid
Measurement year	✓	✓
Data collection methodology (Administrative or Hybrid)	✓	✓
Eligible population	✓	✓
Number of required exclusions	✓	✓
Number of numerator events by administrative data in eligible population (before exclusions)		✓
Current year's administrative rate (before exclusions)		✓
Minimum required sample size (MRSS)		✓
Oversampling rate		✓
Number of oversample records		✓
Number of medical records excluded because of valid data errors		✓
Number of administrative data records excluded		✓
Number of medical records excluded		✓
Number of employee/dependent medical records excluded		✓
Records added from the oversample list		✓
Denominator		✓
Numerator events by administrative data	✓	✓
Numerator events by medical records		✓
Numerator events by supplemental data	✓	✓
Reported rate	✓	✓

Rules for Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS

This section *may not* be used for reporting health plan HEDIS.

NCQA's Rules for Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS describe how NCQA's HEDIS measure specifications can be adjusted for non-health plan reporting. Refer to the *Guidelines for the Rules of Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS* for additional information.

Rules for Allowable Adjustments for Controlling High Blood Pressure

NONCLINICAL COMPONENTS		
Eligible Population	**Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)**	**Notes**
Product Lines	Yes	Using product line criteria is not required. Including any product line, combining product lines, or not including product line criteria is allowed.
Ages	Yes, with limits	Age determination dates may be changed (e.g., select, "age as of June 30"). The denominator age may be changed if the range is within the specified age range (ages 18–85 years). The denominator age may not be expanded.
Continuous enrollment, Allowable gap, Anchor Date	Yes	Organizations are not required to use enrollment criteria; adjustments are allowed.
Benefit	Yes	Organizations are not required to use enrollment criteria; adjustments are allowed.
Other	Yes	Organizations may use additional eligible population criteria to focus on a population of interest such as gender, sociodemographic characteristic or geographic region.
CLINICAL COMPONENTS		
Eligible Population	**Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)**	**Notes**
Event/Diagnosis	No	Only events that contain (or map to) codes in the value sets may be used to identify visits. Value sets and logic may not be changed.
Denominator Exclusions	**Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)**	**Notes**
Required Exclusions	Yes	The palliative care exclusion is not required. Refer to *Exclusions* in the *Guidelines for the Rules for Allowable Adjustments.*
Optional Exclusions	No, if applied	Optional exclusions are not required, but if they are used, only specified exclusions may be applied. Value sets may not be changed.
Exclusions: I-SNP, LTI, Frailty or Advanced Illness	Yes	These exclusions are not required. Refer to Exclusions in the Guidelines for the Rules for Allowable Adjustments.
Numerator Criteria	**Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)**	**Notes**
Adequate control of blood pressure	No	Value sets and logic may not be changed.

Use of Imaging Studies for Low Back Pain (LBP)

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO HEDIS MY 2020 & MY 2021

- In the *Rules for Allowable Adjustments* section, clarified that the numerator criteria may be adjusted with limits.

Description

The percentage of members with a primary diagnosis of low back pain who did not have an imaging study (plain X-ray, MRI, CT scan) within 28 days of the diagnosis.

Calculation

The measure is reported as an inverted rate [1–(numerator/eligible population)]. A higher score indicates appropriate treatment of low back pain (i.e., the proportion for whom imaging studies did not occur).

Definitions

Intake Period	January 1–December 3 of the measurement year. The Intake Period is used to identify the first eligible encounter with a primary diagnosis of low back pain.
IESD	Index Episode Start Date. The earliest date of service for an eligible encounter during the Intake Period with a principal diagnosis of low back pain.
Negative Diagnosis History	A period of 180 days (6 months) prior to the IESD when the member had no claims/encounters with any diagnosis of low back pain.

Eligible Population

Note: *Members in hospice are excluded from the eligible population. Refer to General Guideline 17: Members in Hospice.*

Product line	Commercial, Medicaid (report each product line separately).
Ages	18 years as of January 1 of the measurement year to 50 years as of December 31 of the measurement year.
Continuous enrollment	180 days (6 months) prior to the IESD through 28 days after the IESD.
Allowable gap	No gaps in enrollment during the continuous enrollment period.
Anchor date	IESD.
Benefit	Medical.

Event/diagnosis Follow the steps below to identify the eligible population.

Step 1 Identify all members in the specified age range who had any of the following during the Intake Period:

- An outpatient visit (Outpatient Value Set), observation visit (Observation Value Set) or an ED visit (ED Value Set) with a principal diagnosis of uncomplicated low back pain (Uncomplicated Low Back Pain Value Set).
  - Do not include visits that result in an inpatient stay (Inpatient Stay Value Set).
- Osteopathic or chiropractic manipulative treatment (Osteopathic and Chiropractic Manipulative Treatment Value Set) with a principal diagnosis of uncomplicated low back pain (Uncomplicated Low Back Pain Value Set).
- Physical therapy visit (Physical Therapy Value Set) with a principal diagnosis of uncomplicated low back pain (Uncomplicated Low Back Pain Value Set).
- Telephone visit (Telephone Visits Value Set) with a principal diagnosis of uncomplicated low back pain (Uncomplicated Low Back Pain Value Set).
- E-visit or virtual check-in (Online Assessments Value Set) with a principal diagnosis of uncomplicated low back pain (Uncomplicated Low Back Pain Value Set).

Step 2 Determine the IESD. For each member identified in step 1, determine the earliest episode of low back pain. If the member had more than one encounter, include only the first encounter.

Step 3 Test for Negative Diagnosis History. Exclude members with a diagnosis of uncomplicated low back pain (Uncomplicated Low Back Pain Value Set) during the 180 days (6 months) prior to the IESD.

Step 4: Required exclusions Exclude any member who had a diagnosis for which imaging is clinically appropriate. Any of the following meet criteria:

- *Cancer.* Cancer any time during the member's history through 28 days after the IESD. Any of the following meet criteria:
  - Malignant Neoplasms Value Set.
  - Other Neoplasms Value Set.
  - History of Malignant Neoplasm Value Set.
  - Other Malignant Neoplasm of Skin Value Set.
- *Recent trauma.* Trauma (Trauma Value Set) any time during the 3 months (90 days) prior to the IESD through 28 days after the IESD.
- *Intravenous drug abuse.* IV drug abuse (IV Drug Abuse Value Set) any time during the 12 months (1 year) prior to the IESD through 28 days after the IESD.
- *Neurologic impairment*. Neurologic impairment (Neurologic Impairment Value Set) any time during the 12 months (1 year) prior to the IESD through 28 days after the IESD.
- *HIV.* HIV (HIV Value Set) any time during the member's history through 28 days after the IESD.

- *Spinal infection.* Spinal infection (Spinal Infection Value Set) any time during the 12 months (1 year) prior to the IESD through 28 days after the IESD.
- *Major organ transplant.* Major organ transplant (Organ Transplant Other Than Kidney Value Set; Kidney Transplant Value Set; History of Kidney Transplant Value Set) any time in the member's history through 28 days after the IESD.
- *Prolonged use of corticosteroids.* 90 consecutive days of corticosteroid treatment any time during the 366-day period that begins 365 days prior to the IESD and ends on the IESD.

  To identify consecutive treatment days, identify calendar days covered by at least one dispensed corticosteroid (Corticosteroid Medications List). For overlapping prescriptions and multiple prescriptions on the same day assume the member started taking the second prescription after exhausting the first prescription. For example, if a member had a 30-day prescription dispensed on June 1 and a 30-day prescription dispensed on June 26, there are 60 covered calendar days (June 1–July 30).

  Count only medications dispensed during the 12 months (1 year) prior to and including the IESD. When identifying consecutive treatment days, do not count days supply that extend beyond the IESD. For example, if a member had a 90-day prescription dispensed on the IESD, there is one covered calendar day (the IESD).

  No gaps are allowed.

Corticosteroid Medications

Description	Prescription	
Corticosteroid	• Hydrocortisone	• Methylprednisolone
	• Cortisone	• Triamcinolone
	• Prednisone	• Dexamethasone
	• Prednisolone	• Betamethasone

Step 5 Calculate continuous enrollment. Members must be continuously enrolled for 180 days (6 months) prior to the IESD through 28 days after the IESD.

Administrative Specification

Denominator The eligible population.

Numerator An imaging study (Imaging Study Value Set) with a diagnosis of uncomplicated low back pain (Uncomplicated Low Back Pain Value Set) on the IESD or in the 28 days following the IESD.

Note

- *Although denied claims are not included when assessing the numerator, all claims (paid, suspended, pending and denied) must be included when identifying the eligible population.*
- *Do not include supplemental data when identifying the eligible population or assessing the numerator. Supplemental data can be used for only required exclusions for this measure.*

Data Elements for Reporting

Organizations that submit HEDIS data to NCQA must provide the following data elements.

Table LBP-1/2: Data Elements for Use of Imaging Studies for Low Back Pain

	Administrative
Measurement year	✓
Eligible population	✓
Number of required exclusions	✓
Numerator events by administrative data	✓
Reported rate	✓

Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment for Acute Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis (AAB)

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO HEDIS 2020

- Revised the measure name.
- Expanded the age range to members 3 months of age and older.
- Changed the measure from a member-based denominator to an episode-based denominator.
- Revised the Intake Period.
- Removed the IESD definition.
- Revised the Negative Competing Diagnosis time frame.
- Added the Medicare product line.
- Added age ranges, age stratifications and a total rate to the eligible population.
- Updated the continuous enrollment and allowable gap requirements.
- Removed "with or without a telehealth modifier" language; refer to *General Guideline 43*.
- Added instructions for excluding outpatient visits that result in an inpatient stay.
- Deleted the Cystic Fibrosis Value Set from step 3 in the event/diagnosis criteria (codes for cystic fibrosis were moved to the Comorbid Conditions Value Set).
- Added instructions for deduplicating eligible episodes to the event/diagnosis criteria.
- Revised the Data Elements for Reporting table.
- Added the *Rules for Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS* section.

Description

The percentage of episodes for members ages 3 months and older with a diagnosis of acute bronchitis/ bronchiolitis that did not result in an antibiotic dispensing event.

Calculation

The measure is reported as an inverted rate [1–(numerator/eligible population)]. A higher rate indicates appropriate acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis treatment (i.e., the proportion for episodes that did *not* result in an antibiotic dispensing event).

Definitions

Intake Period A 12-month window that begins on July 1 of the year prior to the measurement year and ends on June 30 of the measurement year. The Intake Period captures eligible episodes of treatment.

Episode Date The date of service for any outpatient, telephone, online assessment, observation or ED visit during the Intake Period with a diagnosis of acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis.

Negative Medication History

To qualify for Negative Medication History, the following criteria must be met:

- A period of 30 days prior to the Episode Date, when the member had no pharmacy claims for either new or refill prescriptions for a listed antibiotic drug.
- No prescriptions that were filled more than 30 days prior to the Episode Date and are active on the Episode Date.

A prescription is considered active if the "days supply" indicated on the date when the member filled the prescription is the number of days or more between that date and the relevant service date. The 30-day look-back period for pharmacy data includes the 30 days prior to the Intake Period.

Negative Comorbid Condition History

A period of 12 months prior to and including the Episode Date, when the member had no claims/encounters with any diagnosis for a comorbid condition.

Negative Competing Diagnosis

The Episode Date and 3 days following the Episode Date when the member had no claims/encounters with any competing diagnosis.

Eligible Population

Note: *Members in hospice are excluded from the eligible population. Refer to General Guideline 17: Members in Hospice.*

Product lines

Commercial, Medicaid, Medicare (report each product line separately).

Ages

Members who were 3 months or older as of the Episode Date.

Report three age stratifications and a total rate:

- 3 months–17 years.
- 18–64 years.
- 65 years and older.
- Total.

The total is the sum of the age stratifications.

Continuous enrollment

30 days prior to the Episode Date through three days after the Episode Date (34 total days).

Allowable gap

No gaps in enrollment during the continuous enrollment period.

Anchor date

None.

Benefits

Medical and pharmacy.

Event/diagnosis

Follow the steps below to identify the eligible population:

Step 1 Identify all members who had an outpatient visit (Outpatient Value Set), a telephone visit (Telephone Visits Value Set), an online assessment (Online Assessments Value Set), an observation visit (Observation Value Set) or an ED visit (ED Value Set) during the Intake Period, with a diagnosis of acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis (Acute Bronchitis Value Set).

Do not include outpatient, ED or observation visits that result in an inpatient stay (Inpatient Stay Value Set).

Step 2 Determine all acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis Episode Dates. For each member identified in step 1, determine all outpatient, telephone, online assessment, observation or ED visits with a diagnosis of acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis.

Step 3 Test for Negative Comorbid Condition History. Exclude Episode Dates when the member had a claim/encounter with any diagnosis for a comorbid condition during the 12 months prior to or on the Episode Date. A code from any of the following meets criteria for a comorbid condition:

- HIV Value Set.
- HIV Type 2 Value Set.
- Malignant Neoplasms Value Set.
- Other Malignant Neoplasm of Skin Value Set.
- Emphysema Value Set.
- COPD Value Set.
- Comorbid Conditions Value Set.
- Disorders of the Immune System Value Set.

Step 4 Test for Negative Medication History. Exclude Episode Dates where a new or refill prescription for an antibiotic medication (AAB Antibiotic Medications List) was filled 30 days prior to the Episode Date or was active on the Episode Date.

Step 5 Test for Negative Competing Diagnosis. Exclude Episode Dates where the member had a claim/encounter with a competing diagnosis on or 3 days after the Episode Date. A code from either of the following meets criteria for a competing diagnosis:

- Pharyngitis Value Set.
- Competing Diagnosis Value Set.

Step 6 Calculate continuous enrollment. The member must be continuously enrolled without a gap in coverage from 30 days prior to the Episode Date through 3 days after the Episode Date (34 total days).

Step 7 Deduplicate eligible episodes. If a member has more than one eligible episode in a 31-day period, include only the first eligible episode. For example, if a member has an eligible episode on January 1, include the January 1 visit and do not include eligible episodes that occur on or between January 2 and January 31; then, if applicable, include the next eligible episode that occurs on or after February 1. Identify visits chronologically, including only one per 31-day period.

Note: *The denominator for this measure is based on episodes, not on members. All eligible episodes that were not excluded or deduplicated remain in the denominator.*

Administrative Specification

Denominator The eligible population.

Numerator Dispensed prescription for an antibiotic medication (AAB Antibiotic Medications List) on or three days after the Episode Date.

AAB Antibiotic Medications

Description	Prescription		
Aminoglycosides	• Amikacin • Gentamicin	• Streptomycin • Tobramycin	
Aminopenicillins	• Amoxicillin	• Ampicillin	
Beta-lactamase inhibitors	• Amoxicillin-clavulanate • Ampicillin-sulbactam	• Piperacillin-tazobactam	
First-generation cephalosporins	• Cefadroxil	• Cefazolin	• Cephalexin
Fourth-generation cephalosporins	• Cefepime		
Ketolides	• Telithromycin		
Lincomycin derivatives	• Clindamycin	• Lincomycin	
Macrolides	• Azithromycin • Clarithromycin	• Erythromycin • Erythromycin ethylsuccinate	• Erythromycin lactobionate • Erythromycin stearate
Miscellaneous antibiotics	• Aztreonam • Chloramphenicol • Dalfopristin-quinupristin	• Daptomycin • Linezolid • Metronidazole	• Vancomycin
Natural penicillins	• Penicillin G benzathine-procaine • Penicillin G potassium	• Penicillin G procaine • Penicillin G sodium	• Penicillin V potassium • Penicillin G benzathine
Penicillinase resistant penicillins	• Dicloxacillin	• Nafcillin	• Oxacillin
Quinolones	• Ciprofloxacin • Gemifloxacin	• Levofloxacin • Moxifloxacin	• Ofloxacin
Rifamycin derivatives	• Rifampin		
Second-generation cephalosporin	• Cefaclor • Cefotetan	• Cefoxitin • Cefprozil	• Cefuroxime
Sulfonamides	• Sulfadiazine	• Sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim	
Tetracyclines	• Doxycycline	• Minocycline	• Tetracycline
Third-generation cephalosporins	• Cefdinir • Cefditoren • Cefixime	• Cefotaxime • Cefpodoxime • Ceftazidime	• Ceftibuten • Ceftriaxone
Urinary anti-infectives	• Fosfomycin • Nitrofurantoin • Nitrofurantoin macrocrystals	• Nitrofurantoin macrocrystals-monohydrate • Trimethoprim	

Note

- *Although denied claims are not included when assessing the numerator, all claims (paid, suspended, pending and denied) must be included when identifying the eligible population.*
- *Supplemental data may not be used for this measure.*

Data Elements for Reporting

Organizations that submit HEDIS data to NCQA must provide the following data elements.

Table AAB-1/2/3: Data Elements for Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment for Acute Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis

	Administrative
Measurement year	✓
Data collection methodology (Administrative)	✓
Eligible population	*For each age stratification and total*.
Numerator events by administrative data	*For each age stratification and total*.
Reported rate	*For each age stratification and total*.

Rules for Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS

This section *may not* be used for reporting health plan HEDIS. HEDIS measures may not be adjusted for any NCQA program.

NCQA's Rules for Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS describe how NCQA's HEDIS measure specifications can be adjusted for non-health plan reporting. Refer to the *Guidelines for the Rules of Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS* for additional information.

Rules for Allowable Adjustments for Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment for Acute Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis

NONCLINICAL COMPONENTS		
Eligible Population	**Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)**	**Notes**
Product Lines	Yes	Organizations are not required to use product line criteria; product lines may be combined and all (or no) product line criteria may be used.
Ages	Yes, with limits	The age determination dates may be changed (e.g., select, "age as of June 30"). Changing the denominator age range is allowed if the limits are within the specified age range. The denominator age may not be expanded.
Continuous enrollment, Allowable gap, Anchor Date	Yes	Organizations are not required to use enrollment criteria; adjustments are allowed. ***Note:*** *Changes to these criteria can affect how the event/diagnosis will be calculated using the Intake Period, Episode Date, IESD, Negative Medication History, Negative Competing Diagnosis, Negative Comorbid Condition History.*
Benefits	Yes	Organizations are not required to use a benefit; adjustments are allowed.
Other	Yes	Organizations may use additional eligible population criteria to focus on a population of interest such as gender, sociodemographic characteristic or geographic region.
CLINICAL COMPONENTS		
Eligible Population	**Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)**	**Notes**
Event/Diagnosis	No	Only events that contain (or map to) codes in the medication lists and value sets may be used to identify visits, diagnoses and medication history. Medication lists, value sets and logic may not be changed.
Denominator Exclusions	**Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)**	**Notes**
Exclusions	NA	There are no exclusions for this measure.
Numerator Criteria	**Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)**	**Notes**
Dispensed Prescription for Antibiotic Medication	No	Medication lists, value sets and logic may not be changed. Organizations may include denied claims to calculate the numerator.

Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO HEDIS 2020

- Revised the measure name.
- Expanded the age range to members 3 months of age and older.
- Changed the measure from a member-based denominator to an episode-based denominator.
- Revised the Episode Date definition, removed the IESD definition and added the Negative Comorbid Condition History definition.
- Added the Medicare product line.
- Added age ranges, age stratifications and a total rate to the eligible population.
- Removed the anchor date requirements.
- Added instructions for excluding outpatient visits that result in an inpatient stay.
- Removed the requirement to exclude episode dates where there was any diagnosis other than upper respiratory infection on the same date.
- Added telehealth visits to the event/diagnosis criteria.
- Added *Penicillin G Benzathine* to the "Natural penicillins" description in the CWP Antibiotic Medications List.
- Added a comorbid condition exclusion to the event/diagnosis criteria.
- Added instructions for deduplicating eligible episodes to the event/diagnosis criteria.
- Revised the Data Elements for Reporting table.
- Added the *Rules for Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS* section.

Description

The percentage of episodes for members 3 months of age and older with a diagnosis of upper respiratory infection (URI) that did not result in an antibiotic dispensing event.

Calculation

The measure is reported as an inverted rate [1–(numerator/eligible population)]. A higher rate indicates appropriate URI treatment (i.e., the proportion of episodes that did not result in an antibiotic dispensing event.

Definitions

Intake Period A 12-month window that begins on July 1 of the year prior to the measurement year and ends on June 30 of the measurement year. The Intake Period captures eligible episodes of treatment.

Episode Date The date of service for any outpatient, telephone, online assessments, observation or ED visit during the Intake Period with a diagnosis of URI.

Negative Medication History

To qualify for Negative Medication History, the following criteria must be met:

- A period of 30 days prior to the Episode Date when the member had no pharmacy claims for either new or refill prescriptions for a listed antibiotic drug.
- No prescriptions filled more than 30 days prior to the Episode Date that are active on the Episode Date.

A prescription is considered active if the "days supply" indicated on the date when the member filled the prescription is the number of days or more between that date and the relevant service date. The 30-day look-back period for pharmacy data includes the 30 days prior to the Intake Period.

Negative Comorbid Condition History

A period of 12 months prior to and including the Episode Date, when the member had no claims/encounters with any diagnosis for a comorbid condition.

Negative Competing Diagnosis

The Episode Date and three days following the Episode Date when the member had no claims/encounters with a competing diagnosis.

Eligible Population

Note: *Members in hospice are excluded from the eligible population. Refer to General Guideline 17: Members in Hospice.*

Product lines

Commercial, Medicaid, Medicare (report each product line separately).

Ages

Members who were 3 months of age or older as of the Episode Date.

Report three age stratifications and total rate:

- 3 months–17 years.
- 18–64 years.
- 65 years and older.
- Total.

The total is the sum of the age stratifications.

Continuous enrollment

30 days prior to the Episode Date through 3 days after the Episode Date (34 total days).

Allowable gap

No gaps in enrollment during the continuous enrollment period.

Anchor date

None.

Benefits

Medical and pharmacy.

Event/diagnosis

Follow the steps below to identify the eligible population:

Step 1 Identify all members who had an outpatient visit (Outpatient Value Set), a telephone visit (Telephone Visits Value Set), an online assessment (Online Assessments Value Set) an observation visit (Observation Value Set) or an ED visit (ED Value Set) during the Intake Period, with a diagnosis of URI (URI Value Set).

Exclude outpatient, ED or observation visits that result in an inpatient stay (Inpatient Stay Value Set).

Step 2 Determine all URI Episode Dates. For each member identified in step 1, determine all outpatient, telephone, online assessments, observation or ED visits with a URI diagnosis.

Step 3 Test for Negative Comorbid Condition History. Exclude Episode Dates when the member had a claim/encounter with any diagnosis for a comorbid condition during the 12 months prior to or on the Episode Date. A code from any of the following meets criteria for a comorbid condition:

- HIV Value Set.
- HIV Type 2 Value Set.
- Malignant Neoplasms Value Set.
- Other Malignant Neoplasm of Skin Value Set.
- Emphysema Value Set.
- COPD Value Set.
- Comorbid Conditions Value Set.
- Disorders of the Immune System Value Set.

Step 4 Test for Negative Medication History. Exclude Episode Dates where a new or refill prescription for an antibiotic medication (CWP Antibiotic Medications List) was filled 30 days prior to the Episode Date or was active on the Episode Date.

Step 5 Test for Negative Competing Diagnosis. Exclude Episode Dates where the member had a claim/encounter with a competing diagnosis on or three days after the Episode Date. A code from either of the following meets criteria for a competing diagnosis:

- Pharyngitis Value Set.
- Competing Diagnosis Value Set.

Step 6 Calculate continuous enrollment. The member must be continuously enrolled without a gap in coverage from 30 days prior to the Episode Date through 3 days after the Episode Date (34 total days).

Step 7 Deduplicate eligible episodes. If a member has more than one eligible episode in a 31-day period, include only the first eligible episode. For example, if a member has an eligible episode on January 1, include the January 1 visit and do not include eligible episodes that occur on or between January 2 and January 31; then, if applicable, include the next eligible episode that occurs on or after February 1. Identify visits chronologically, including only one per 31-day period.

Note: *The denominator for this measure is based on episodes, not on members. All eligible episodes that were not excluded or deduplicated remain in the denominator.*

Administrative Specification

Denominator The eligible population.

Numerator Dispensed prescription for an antibiotic medication from the CWP Antibiotic Medications List on or 3 days after the Episode Date.

CWP Antibiotic Medications

Description	Prescription	
Aminopenicillins	• Amoxicillin	• Ampicillin
Beta-lactamase inhibitors	• Amoxicillin-clavulanate	
First generation cephalosporins	• Cefadroxil • Cefazolin	• Cephalexin
Folate antagonist	• Trimethoprim	
Lincomycin derivatives	• Clindamycin	
Macrolides	• Azithromycin • Clarithromycin • Erythromycin	• Erythromycin ethylsuccinate • Erythromycin lactobionate • Erythromycin stearate
Natural penicillins	• Penicillin G potassium • Penicillin G sodium	• Penicillin V potassium • Penicillin G benzathine
Penicillinase-resistant penicillins	• Dicloxacillin	
Quinolones	• Ciprofloxacin • Levofloxacin	• Moxifloxacin • Ofloxacin
Second generation cephalosporins	• Cefaclor • Cefprozil	• Cefuroxime
Sulfonamides	• Sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim	
Tetracyclines	• Doxycycline • Minocycline	• Tetracycline
Third-generation cephalosporins	• Cefdinir • Cefixime • Cefpodoxime	• Ceftibuten • Cefditoren • Ceftriaxone

Note

- *Although denied claims are not included when assessing the numerator, all claims (paid, suspended, pending and denied) must be included when identifying the eligible population.*
- *Supplemental data may not be used for this measure.*

Data Elements for Reporting

Organizations that submit HEDIS data to NCQA must provide the following data elements.

Table URI-1/23: Data Elements for Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection

	Administrative
Measurement year	✓
Data collection methodology (Administrative)	✓
Eligible population	*For each age stratification and total.*
Numerator events by administrative data	*For each age stratification and total.*
Reported rate	*For each age stratification and total.*

Rules for Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS

This section *may not* be used for reporting health plan HEDIS. HEDIS measures may not be adjusted for any NCQA program.

NCQA's Rules for Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS describe how NCQA's HEDIS measure specifications can be adjusted for non-health plan reporting. Refer to the *Guidelines for the Rules of Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS* for additional information.

Rules for Allowable Adjustments for Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection

NONCLINICAL COMPONENTS		
Eligible Population	**Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)**	**Notes**
Product Lines	Yes	Organizations are not required to use product line criteria; product lines may be combined and all (or no) product line criteria may be used.
Ages	Yes, with limits	The age determination dates may be changed (e.g., select, "age as of June 30"). Changing the denominator age range is allowed if the limits are within the specified age range. The denominator age may not be expanded.
Continuous enrollment, Allowable gap, Anchor Date	Yes	Organizations are not required to use enrollment criteria; adjustments are allowed. ***Note:*** *Changes to* the*se criteria can affect how* the *event/diagnosis will be calculated using* the *Intake Period, Episode Date, IESD, Negative Medication History, Negative Competing Diagnosis.*
Benefits	Yes	Organizations are not required to use a benefit; adjustments are allowed.
Other	Yes	Organizations may use additional eligible population criteria to focus on a population of interest such as gender, sociodemographic characteristic or geographic region.
CLINICAL COMPONENTS		
Eligible Population	**Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)**	**Notes**
Event/Diagnosis	No	Only events that contain (or map to) codes in the medication lists and value sets may be used to identify visits, diagnoses and medication history. Medication lists, value sets and logic may not be changed.
Denominator Exclusions	**Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)**	**Notes**
Exclusions	NA	There are no exclusions for this measure.
Numerator Criteria	**Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)**	**Notes**
Dispensed Prescription for Antibiotic Medication	No	Medication lists, value sets and logic may not be changed. Organizations may include denied claims to calculate the numerator.