

Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®)

The Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set ([HEDIS®¹](#)) is a data collection tool developed by the National Committee for Quality Assurance ([NCQA](#)) to measure performance on various dimensions of health care in the United States. HEDIS measures are used by 90% of U.S. health insurance plans, including Medicaid and Medicare. Reporting on HEDIS measures is one component of the NCQA [accreditation process](#), which is required for many health plans.

The 2018 HEDIS set includes 94 measures and instruments, including four HOS/[CAHPS®²](#) instruments; surveys that ask patients about their healthcare experiences. 26 measures and instruments directly apply to children and adolescents. About three quarters of the HEDIS measures are currently endorsed by the National Quality Forum ([NQF](#))³. HEDIS measures are revised annually, and health plans that participate in NCQA Accreditation are required to report on selected HEDIS measures each year.

NCQA also sells supplemental measure sets for specific accreditation and certification purposes, including the Medicare Health Outcomes Survey and the Wellness and Health Promotion set.

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)

Established in 1990, NCQA is an independent, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that works to improve health care quality through the administration of evidence-based standards, measures, programs, and accreditation. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services selected NCQA as an accrediting entity for Qualified Health Plan issuers participating in the Health Insurance Exchange Marketplace, a provision of the 2010 Affordable Care Act.

Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®)

Developer(s)	National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)
Funder(s)	NCQA
Purpose(s)	To measure and track health care performance and quality within health plans as required by NCQA to maintain accreditation.
Target Populations	All individuals with public and/or private health insurance in the U.S.
Data Sources	Data sources include administrative data (usually insurance claims/transactions), hybrid data (administrative data combined with medical record data) and survey data. Survey data must be collected by an NCQA-approved, third-party survey vendor .
Technical Measure Descriptions	Technical descriptions and data collection specifications are available for purchase through NCQA.
Number of Measures	94 core measures and instruments. 26 are specific to child and adolescent populations.
Topics of Measurement	Health care service provision, quality, outcomes, and patient experiences.
Reporting Requirements	Health insurance plans must report on a selection of HEDIS measures each year to maintain NCQA accreditation . Accreditation in 2015 required commercial and Medicaid plans to report on 35 measures and required Medicare plans to report on 23 measures.
Recommended or Required Stratification	Most measures require stratification by age, although no other stratifications are required. The CAHPS surveys include basic demographic questions; therefore, some additional stratification within CAHPS is possible.
Link to Additional Info	NCQA Reports and Rankings Quality Compass

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

²CAHPS® is a registered trademark of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

³NQF endorsement: The National Quality Forum endorses measures through a rigorous process that involves scientific testing and approval from the NQF Consensus Standards Approval Committee, among other activities.

[Browse and Search the Measures](#)

Maternal and Child Health – Measurement Research Network | Last Updated: June 5th, 2018

The MCH-MRN is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Grant No. UA6MC30375.