

memo

DATE: December 28, 2020

SUBJECT: Statewide Quality Reporting and Measurement System Technical Update – 2021 Reporting Year

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has updated the Minnesota Statewide Quality Reporting and Measurement System (Quality Reporting System). We continuously work with providers and other stakeholders to create an evolving set of standard health care quality measures that are rooted in evidence. We publish changes to the measurement set annually.

Because we are only modifying several measures for physician clinics, and to ease administrative burdens during the statewide response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are not promulgating a rule for the 2021 reporting year; instead, we are issuing technical guidance about the changes.¹

Physician Clinic Quality Measures

Modifications

- **Expanded encounter criteria to include telehealth visits for the following measures: Optimal Diabetes Care, Optimal Asthma Control, Asthma Education and Self-Management, Colorectal Cancer Screening, and Adolescent Mental Health and/or Depression Screening.** The measure steward, MN Community Measurement (MNCM), made this change with input from its advisory bodies based on the significant increase of telehealth visits due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Included digital blood pressure readings reported or taken by the patient during a telehealth visit for the Optimal Diabetes Care measure numerator.** The measure steward, MNCM, made this change with input from its advisory bodies based on the significant increase of telehealth visits due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the desire to align with National Committee for Quality Assurance’s Controlling High Blood Pressure specifications.

¹Quality Rule Appendices A, B, and E indicate that quality measures are required for reporting in 2018 and every year thereafter.

Supplemental information

Please visit [Quality Measures: 2021 Report Year \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/hcquality/measures\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/hcquality/measures) for a list of Quality Reporting System measures, measure specifications, and other information.

During 2018 and 2019, we developed a new measurement framework in collaboration with a broad group of stakeholders. We have delayed framework implementation due to the statewide response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We expect framework implementation to inform future Quality Reporting System updates. Please visit [Measurement Framework \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/hcquality/measfrmwk.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/hcquality/measfrmwk.html) for more information.

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