

Medi-Cal Managed Care Developmental Screening Directed Payment Program Evaluation for Calendar Year (CY) 2022

Background

In accordance with Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 438.6(c)(2)(ii)(D), the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is required to submit an evaluation that measures the degree to which the directed payment arrangement advances at least one of the goals and objectives in the DHCS Quality Strategy. This evaluation will assess the performance and results of the Proposition 56 Developmental Screening Services Directed Payment Program implementation during the CY 2022.

The Proposition 56 Developmental Screening Directed Payment Program directs Medi-Cal managed care health plans (MCPs) to make uniform dollar add-on payments for specific developmental screening services. This directed payment program supports network providers to provide critical services to Medi-Cal managed care members.

Evaluation Results

Encounter Data Quality

1. Denied claims and turnaround time:
 - a. Denied Encounters Turnaround Time – This measure addresses how quickly denied encounter data files are corrected and resubmitted by MCPs. Turnaround time is the time, in days, between an encounter data file denial date and the resubmission date to DHCS. This measure reports on the deduplicated number of encounters that were initially denied and then accepted in the specified time frame.

Turnaround Time	CY 2019 (Baseline Period)			CY 2022		
	Corrected Encounters	Total Denied Encounters	Percentage of Corrected Encounters per Group	Corrected Encounters	Total Denied Encounters	Percentage of Corrected Encounters per Group
0 to 15 Days	51	199	26%	223	702	32%
16 to 30 Days	-	199	0%	254	702	36%
31 to 60 Days	-	199	0%	154	702	22%
Greater than 60 Days	148	199	74%	71	702	10%

- 10% of denied encounters were corrected and resubmitted in greater than 60 days of denial notice for CY 2022, compared to 74% for the Baseline Period.

b. Total Denied Encounters - This measure sums the total times an encounter is denied. For example, an encounter (ParentEncounterID) that is denied three times and then accepted over the period, will represent three denials for the one encounter.

CY 2019 (Baseline Period)			CY 2022		
Total Denied Encounters	Total Encounters	Percent of Denied Encounters per Month	Total Denied Encounters	Total Encounters	Percent of Denied Encounters per Month
1,303	58,642	2%	1,230	106,237	1%

- Total denied encounters per month reported for CY 2022 was 1%, compared to 2% for the Baseline Period.

- c. Timeliness (Lag Time) - This measure reports the time it takes for MCPs to submit encounter data files. Lag Time is the time, in days, between applicable Dates of Service and the Submission date to DHCS.

Lag Time	CY 2019 (Baseline Period)			CY 2022		
	Encounters per Lag Time Group	Total Encounters	Percent of Encounters per Lag Time Group	Encounters per Lag Time Group	Total Encounters	Percent of Encounters per Lag Time Group
0 to 90 Days	37,793	58,642	64%	77,926	106,436	73%
91 to 180 Days	13,930	58,642	24%	21,032	106,436	20%
181 to 365 Days	4,796	58,642	8%	5,474	106,436	5%
More than 365 Days	2,123	58,642	4%	2,004	106,436	2%

- For CY 2022, 93% of encounters were submitted within 180 days of the date of service compared to 88% for the Baseline Period.

Service Utilization

Utilization: From the MCP encounter data, DHCS evaluated developmental screening service rates in accordance with current CMS Core Set Technical Specifications (DEV-CH) to determine the percentage of children documented to have been screened for risk of developmental, behavioral, and social delays using a standardized screening tool in the 12 months preceding or on their first, second, or third birthday as well as the combined rate for all age groups.

Age Group	CY 2019 (Baseline Period)	CY 2022	Percent Change	Fisher's Exact Test p-value
Age of 1 Year	23.53%	28.26%	20.10%	<0.0001
Age of 2 Years	28.99%	37.02%	27.69%	<0.0001
Age of 3 Years	22.73%	29.46%	29.61%	<0.0001
Total	25.42%	32.33%	27.18%	<0.0001

$$\text{Percent Change} = \frac{(\text{Bridge Period Rate} - \text{Baseline Period Rate}) \times 100}{\text{Baseline Period Rate}}$$

- Developmental screening service rates increased across all age groups in CY 2022 compared to the Baseline Period.
- Overall, there was a 27.18% increase for all age group in utilization of developmental screening services in CY 2022 compared to the Baseline Period. There was a 20.10% increase for the 1-year age group in utilization of developmental screening services in CY 2022 compared to the Baseline Period. There was a 27.69% increase for the 2-year age group in utilization of developmental screening services in CY 2022 compared to the Baseline Period. There was a 29.61% increase for the 3-year age group in utilization of developmental screening services in CY 2022 compared to the Baseline Period.
- Fisher's exact test was used to determine if there were a significant association between time and screening rates (comparing CY 2022 to the Baseline Period). There was a statistically significant association over time (two-tailed p = < .0001).

Limitations of Evaluation

The results presented here suggest that the directed payment programs may have had positive impacts on encounter data quality. Both percent denied claims and timeliness of claim submission showed positive improvements.

However, we cannot separate changes attributable to the directed payment programs from other secular changes such as technology advancements occurring across the health system, provider supply, or other factors.

Conclusions

DHCS' examination of the Baseline Period and CY 2022 encounter data quality and HEDIS DEV-CH rates for managed care members indicates the following:

1. Data quality increased during CY 2022 when compared to the Baseline Period:
 - a. For approximately 10% of denied encounters, MCPs took longer than 60 days to review, correct, and resubmit encounter data files for CY 2022 compared to 74% for the Baseline Period.
 - b. The percentage of denied encounters per month is 1% for CY 2022 compared to 2% for the Baseline Period.
 - c. Approximately 93% of encounter data files were submitted within 180 days or less from applicable dates of service for CY 2022 compared to 88% for the Baseline Period.
2. Utilization increased during CY 2022 when compared to the Baseline Period.
 - a. Developmental Screening rates significantly increased for all age groups during CY 2022 compared to the Baseline Period.