



Understanding Clinical Quality Measures for 2021

For Program Year 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) is continuing previous guidance established by the 2020 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) Final Rule. The 2020 PFS Final Rule established that for Program Year 2021, eligible providers (EPs) participating in the Medi-Cal Promoting Interoperability Program must CQMs for any continuous 90-day or longer CQM reporting period. CMS has also continued the requirement that EPs must report on any six CQMs related to their scope of practice. EPs are required to report on at least one outcome measure. If no outcome measures are relevant to that EP's scope of practice, at least one high-priority measure must be selected. If there are no outcome or high-priority measures relevant to an EP's scope of practice, the EP must report on any six relevant measures. All three CQM types (outcome, high-priority, and other) have been listed in the tables below with a brief measure description for each CQM.

CMS has released additional guidance that identifies 39 telehealth-eligible CQMs that may be reported for the 2021 Program Year. These are designated as "telehealth eligible" in the tables below.

Outcome Measures

EPs must report on at least one outcome measure. If no outcome measure is relevant to the EP's scope of practice, then the EP must report on at least one high-priority measure. There are six outcome measures. All outcome measures have been also designated as high-priority by CMS. These will not appear in the SLR list of high-priority measures and must be selected from the outcome measure list.

CMS Measure ID	Outcome CQM Title	Outcome CQM Description	Telehealth Eligible
CMS 75	Children Who Have Dental Decay or Cavities	Percentage of children, 6 months - 20 years of age, who have had tooth decay or cavities during the measurement period.	No
CMS122	Diabetes: Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) Poor Control (> 9%)	Percentage of patients 18-75 years of age with diabetes who had hemoglobin A1c> 9.0% during the measurement period.	Yes
CMS133	Cataracts: 20/40 or Better Visual Acuity within 90 Days Following Cataract Surgery	Percentage of cataract surgeries for patients aged 18 and older with a diagnosis of uncomplicated cataract and no significant ocular conditions impacting the visual outcome of surgery and had best corrected visual acuity of 20/40 or better (distance or near) achieved in the operative eye within 90 days following the cataract surgery	No
CMS 159	Depression Remission at Twelve Months	The percentage of adolescent patients 12 to 17 years of age and adult patients 18 years of age or older with major depression or dysthymia who reached remission twelve months (+/-60 days) after an index event.	Yes
CMS 165	Controlling High Blood Pressure	Percentage of patients 18-85 years of age who had a diagnosis of hypertension overlapping the measurement period or the year prior to the measurement period, and whose most recent blood pressure was adequately controlled (<140/90mmHg) during the measurement period.	Yes

CMS Measure ID	Outcome CQM Title	Outcome CQM Description	Telehealth Eligible
CMS 771	Urinary Symptom Score Change 6-12 Months After Diagnosis of Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia	Percentage of patients with an office visit within the measurement period and with a new diagnosis of clinically significant Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia who have International Prostate Symptoms Score (IPSS) or American Urological Association (AUA) Symptom Index (SI) documented at time of diagnosis and again 6-12 months later with an improvement of 3 points.	No

High-Priority Measures

If there are not any outcome measures that are relevant to the EP's scope of practice, at least one high-priority measure must be selected. As DHCS has designated CMS 74 (Primary Caries Prevention) as a high-priority measure for California, there are a total of 24 high-priority measures (in addition to those CQMs dually designated as outcome measures) from which to select. If not selected from the high-priority list in the SLR, these measures will not appear on the other CQM list.

CMS Measure ID	High-Priority CQM	High-Priority CQM Description	Telehealth Eligible
CMS 2	Preventive Care and Screening: Screening for Depression and Follow-Up Plan	Percentage of patients aged 12 years and older screened for depression on the date of the encounter or 14 days prior to the date of the encounter using an age appropriate standardized depression screening tool AND if positive, a follow-up plan is documented on the date of the eligible encounter.	Yes
CMS 50	Closing the Referral Loop: Receipt of Specialist Report	Percentage of patients with referrals, regardless of age, for which the referring provider receives a report from the provider to whom the patient was referred.	Yes

CMS Measure ID	High-Priority CQM	High-Priority CQM Description	Telehealth Eligible
CMS 56	Functional Status Assessment for Total Hip Replacement	Percentage of patients 18 years of age and older who received an elective primary total hip arthroplasty (THA) and completed a functional status assessment within 90 days prior to the surgery and in the 270-365 days after the surgery.	Yes
CMS 66	Functional Status Assessment for Total Knee Replacement	Percentage of patients 18 years of age and older who received an elective primary total knee arthroplasty (TKA) and completed a functional status assessment within 90 days prior to the surgery and in the 270-365 days after the surgery.	Yes
CMS 68	Documentation of Current Medications in the Medical Record	Percentage of visits for patients aged 18 years and older for which the eligible professional or eligible clinician attests to documenting a list of current medications using all immediate resources available on the date of the encounter.	Yes
CMS 74	Primary Caries Prevention Intervention as Offered by Primary Care Providers, including Dentists	Percentage of children, 6 months - 20 years of age, who received a fluoride varnish application during the measurement period.	Yes
CMS 90	Functional Status Assessments for Congestive Heart Failure	Percentage of patients 18 years of age and older with congestive heart failure who completed initial and follow-up patient-reported functional status assessments.	Yes
CMS 117	Childhood Immunization Status	Percentage of children 2 years of age who had four diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis (DTaP); three polio (IPV), one measles, mumps and rubella (MMR); three or four H influenza type B (Hib); three hepatitis B (Hep B); one chicken pox (VZV); four pneumococcal conjugate (PCV); one hepatitis A (Hep A); two or three rotavirus (RV); and two influenza (flu) vaccines by their second birthday	Yes

CMS Measure ID	High-Priority CQM	High-Priority CQM Description	Telehealth Eligible
CMS 124	Cervical Cancer Screening	<p>Percentage of women 21-64 years of age who were screened for cervical cancer using either of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women age 21-64 who had cervical cytology performed within the last 3 years. • Women age 30-64 who had cervical human papillomavirus (HPV) testing performed within the last 5 years. 	Yes
CMS 125	Breast Cancer Screening	Percentage of women 50-74 years of age who had a mammogram to screen for breast cancer in the 27 months prior to the end of the Measurement Period.	Yes
CMS 128	Anti-depressant Medication Management	<p>Percentage of patients 18 years of age and older who were treated with antidepressant medication, had a diagnosis of major depression, and who remained on an antidepressant medication treatment. Two rates are reported.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Percentage of patients who remained on an antidepressant medication for at least 84 days (12 weeks); b. Percentage of patients who remained on an antidepressant medication for at least 180 days (6 months). 	Yes
CMS 129	Prostate Cancer: Avoidance of Overuse of Bone Scan for Staging Low Risk Prostate Cancer Patients	Percentage of patients, regardless of age, with a diagnosis of prostate cancer at low (or very low) risk of recurrence receiving interstitial prostate brachytherapy, OR external beam radiotherapy to the prostate, OR radical prostatectomy who did not have a bone scan performed at any time since diagnosis of prostate cancer	No

CMS Measure ID	High-Priority CQM	High-Priority CQM Description	Telehealth Eligible
CMS 136	Follow-up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication (ADD)	<p>Percentage of children 6-12 years of age and newly dispensed a medication for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) who had appropriate follow-up care. Two rates are reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Percentage of children who had one follow-up visit with a practitioner with prescribing authority during the 30-Day Initiation Phase; b. Percentage of children who remained on ADHD medication for at least 210 days and who, in addition to the visit in the Initiation Phase, had at least two additional follow-up visits with a practitioner within 270 days (9 months) after the Initiation Phase ended. 	Yes
CMS 137	Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Dependence Treatment	<p>Percentage of patients 13 years of age and older with a new episode of alcohol and other drug (AOD) dependence who received the following. Two rates are reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Percentage of patients who initiated treatment including either an intervention or medication for the treatment of AOD abuse or dependence within 14 days of the diagnosis; b. Percentage of patients who engaged in ongoing treatment including two additional interventions or a medication for the treatment of AOD abuse or dependence within 34 days of the initiation visit. For patients who initiated treatment with a medication, at least one of the two engagement events must be a treatment intervention. 	Yes

CMS Measure ID	High-Priority CQM	High-Priority CQM Description	Telehealth Eligible
CMS 139	Screening for Future Fall Risk	Percentage of patients 65 years of age and older who were screened for future fall risk during the measurement period.	Yes
CMS 142	Communication with the Physician Managing Ongoing Diabetes Care	Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of diabetic retinopathy who had a dilated macular or fundus exam performed with documented communication to the physician who manages the ongoing care of the patient with diabetes mellitus regarding the findings of the macular or fundus exam at least once within 12 months.	No
CMS 146	Appropriate Testing for Pharyngitis	The percentage of episodes for patients 3 years of age and older with a diagnosis of pharyngitis that resulted in an antibiotic dispensing event and a group A streptococcus (strep) test.	Yes
CMS 153	Chlamydia Screening for Women	Percentage of women 16-24 years of age who were identified as sexually active and who had at least one test for chlamydia during the measurement period.	Yes
CMS 154	Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)	Percentage of episodes for patients 3 months of age and older with a diagnosis of upper respiratory infection (URI) that did not result in an antibiotic dispensing event.	Yes

CMS Measure ID	High-Priority CQM	High-Priority CQM Description	Telehealth Eligible
CMS 155	Weight Assessment and Counseling for Nutrition and Physical Activity for Children and Adolescents	Percentage of patients 3-17 years of age who had an outpatient visit with a Primary Care Physician (PCP) or Obstetrician/Gynecologist (OB/GYN) and who had evidence of the following during the measurement period. Three rates are reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Percentage of patients with height, weight, and body mass index (BMI) percentile documentation; b. Percentage of patients with counseling for nutrition; c. Percentage of patients with counseling for physical activity. 	Yes
CMS 156	Use of High-Risk Medications in Older Adults	Percentage of patients 65 years of age and older who were ordered at least two of the same high-risk medications.	Yes
CMS 157	Oncology: Medical and Radiation - Pain Intensity Quantified	Percentage of patient visits, regardless of patient age, with a diagnosis of cancer currently receiving chemotherapy or radiation therapy in which pain intensity is quantified.	Yes
CMS 177	Child and Adolescent Major Depressive Disorder (MDD): Suicide Risk Assessment	Percentage of patient visits for those patients aged 6 through 17 years with a diagnosis of major depressive disorder with an assessment for suicide risk.	Yes

CMS Measure ID	High-Priority CQM	High-Priority CQM Description	Telehealth Eligible
CMS 249	Appropriate Use of DXA Scans in Women Under 65 Years Who Do Not Meet the Risk Factor Profile for Osteoporotic Fracture	Percentage of female patients 50 to 64 years of age without select risk factors for osteoporotic fracture who received an order for a dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) scan during the measurement period.	Yes

Other CQMs

There are 17 other CQMs that can be selected by the provider. If fewer than six CQMs in total are relevant to the provider's scope of practice, the EP still must select six CQMs and enter zeros in the data fields for reporting purposes. In the SLR, EPs can click "previous" to go back and select the outcome and high-priority CQMs.

CMS Measure ID	Other CQM Title	Other CQM Description	Telehealth Eligible
CMS 22	Preventive Care and Screening: Screening for High Blood Pressure and Follow-Up Documented	Percentage of patient visits for patients aged 18 years and older seen during the measurement period who were screened for high blood pressure AND a recommended follow-up plan is documented, as indicated, if blood pressure is pre-hypertensive or hypertensive.	No
CMS 69	Preventive Care and Screening: Body Mass Index (BMI) Screening and Follow-Up Plan	Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older with a BMI documented during the current encounter or within the previous twelve months AND who had a follow-up plan documented if most recent BMI was outside of normal parameters.	No
CMS 127	Pneumococcal Vaccination Status for Older Adults	Percentage of patients 65 years of age and older who have ever received a pneumococcal vaccine.	Yes

CMS Measure ID	Other CQM Title	Other CQM Description	Telehealth Eligible
CMS 130	Colorectal Cancer Screening	Percentage of adults 50-75 years of age who had appropriate screening for colorectal cancer.	Yes
CMS 131	Diabetes: Eye Exam	Percentage of patients 18-75 years of age with diabetes and an active diagnosis of retinopathy overlapping the measurement period who had a retinal or dilated eye exam by an eye care professional during the measurement period or diabetics with no diagnosis of retinopathy overlapping the measurement period who had a retinal or dilated eye exam by an eye care professional during the measurement period or in the 12 months prior to the measurement period	Yes
CMS 134	Diabetes: Medical Attention for Nephropathy	The percentage of patients 18- 75 years of age with diabetes who had a nephropathy screening test or evidence of nephropathy during the measurement period.	Yes
CMS 135	Heart Failure (HF): Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme (ACE) Inhibitor or Angiotensin Receptor Blocker (ARB) Therapy for Left Ventricular Systolic Dysfunction (LVSD)	Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of heart failure (HF) with a current or prior left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) < 40% who were prescribed ACE inhibitor or ARB or ARNI therapy either within a 12-month period when seen in the outpatient setting OR at each hospital discharge.	Yes

CMS Measure ID	Other CQM Title	Other CQM Description	Telehealth Eligible
CMS 138	Preventive Care and Screening: Tobacco Use: Screening and Cessation Intervention	<p>Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older who were screened for tobacco use one or more times within 12 months AND who received tobacco cessation intervention if identified as a tobacco user. Three rates are reported:</p> <p>a. Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older who were screened for tobacco use one or more times within 12 months;</p> <p>b. Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older who were identified as a tobacco user who received tobacco cessation intervention;</p> <p>c. Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older who were screened for tobacco use one or more times within 12 months AND who received tobacco cessation intervention if identified as a tobacco user.</p>	Yes
CMS 143	Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma (POAG): Optic Nerve Evaluation	Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of primary open- angle glaucoma (POAG) who have an optic nerve head evaluation during one or more office visits within 12 months.	No
CMS 144	Heart Failure (HF): Beta-Blocker Therapy for Left Ventricular Systolic Dysfunction (LVSD)	Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of heart failure (HF) with a current or prior left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) < 40% who were prescribed beta-blocker therapy either within a 12- month period when seen in the outpatient setting OR at each hospital discharge.	Yes

CMS Measure ID	Other CQM Title	Other CQM Description	Telehealth Eligible
CMS 145	Coronary Artery Disease (CAD): Beta-Blocker Therapy-Prior Myocardial Infarction (MI) or Left Ventricular Systolic Dysfunction (LVEF <40%)	Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of coronary artery disease seen within a 12- month period who also have a prior MI or a current or prior LVEF <40% who were prescribed beta-blocker therapy.	Yes
CMS 147	Preventive Care and Screening: Influenza Immunization	Percentage of patients aged 6 months and older seen for a visit between October 1 and March 31 who received an influenza immunization OR who reported previous receipt of an influenza immunization.	Yes
CMS 149	Dementia: Cognitive Assessment	Percentage of patients, regardless of age, with a diagnosis of dementia for whom an assessment of cognition is performed and the results reviewed at least once within a 12-month period.	Yes
CMS 161	Adult Major Depressive Disorder (MDD): Suicide Risk Assessment	All patient visits during which a new diagnosis of MDD or a new diagnosis of recurrent MDD was identified for patients aged 18 years and older with a suicide risk assessment completed during the visit.	Yes

CMS Measure ID	Other CQM Title	Other CQM Description	Telehealth Eligible
CMS 347	Statin Therapy for the Prevention and Treatment of Cardiovascular Disease	<p>Percentage of the following patients - all considered at high risk of cardiovascular events - who were prescribed or were on statin therapy during the measurement period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults aged ≥ 21 years who were previously diagnosed with or currently have an active diagnosis of clinical atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD); OR • Adults aged ≥ 21 years who have ever had a fasting or direct low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) level ≥ 190 mg/dL or were previously diagnosed with or currently have an active diagnosis of familial or pure hypercholesterolemia; OR • Adults aged 40-75 years with a diagnosis of diabetes with a fasting or direct LDL-C level of 70-189 mg/dL. 	Yes
CMS 349	HIV Screening	Percentage of patients aged 15-65 at the start of the measurement period who were between 15-65 years old when tested for HIV.	Yes
CMS 645	Bone density evaluation for patients with prostate cancer and receiving androgen deprivation therapy.	Patients determined as having prostate cancer who are currently starting or undergoing androgen deprivation therapy (ADT), for an anticipated period of 12 months or greater and who receive an initial bone density evaluation. The bone density evaluation must be prior to the start of ADT or within 3 months of the start of ADT.	Yes

Version History

Date	Comments
September 2020	The following CQMs were identified as not eligible for telehealth 2021 reporting: CMS 22, CMS 69, CMS 75, CMS 129, CMS 133, CMS 142, CMS 143, CMS 771.
June 2020	CQM tables updated to include telehealth indicator per updates on eCQI website.
May 2020	Original publication of 2021 CQMs posted on eCQI website.