

Health Headlines

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HHS Issues 26 Quality Care Measures for Medicaid Eligible Adults

On December 31, 2011, HHS issued a final notice of 26 health care quality measures for Medicaid-eligible adults. The quality measures will be used on a voluntary basis and are designed to provide state Medicaid programs, health insurers, and providers a tool for monitoring and evaluating the quality of care provided for adults eligible for Medicaid. Development of the quality measures is mandated by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), which imposed a January 1, 2012, deadline for release. The measures were reported in the *Federal Register* on January 4, 2012.

CMS grouped the 26 quality measures into six health categories and, to the extent possible, aligned them with existing Federal reporting requirements: (1) Prevention and Health Promotion; (2) Management of Acute Conditions; (3) Management of Chronic Conditions; (4) Family Experience of Care (*i.e.*, patient surveys); (5) Care Coordination; and (6) Availability (*i.e.*, prenatal and postpartum care; alcohol or drug treatment).

The measures were developed through recommendations to CMS by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Subcommittee to the National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality, along with public comment. Beginning with more than 1,000 potential measures, HHS released an initial set of 51 quality measures in December 2010 for public comment due March 1, 2011. The public submitted 100 comments that were considered by CMS and AHRQ in creating the final 26 measures.

In the final notice, HHS stated “[t]hese core set measures will support HHS and its state partners in developing a quality-driven, evidence-based, national system for measuring the quality of health care provided to Medicaid-eligible adults.” HHS is required under the PPACA to develop by January 1, 2013, a standard reporting format for the quality measures to encourage voluntary reporting by states. A copy of the final notice is available by clicking [here](#).

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