## Medical Assistance With Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation (MSC)

## Summary of Changes to HEDIS 2020

* Clarified how rolling averages are calculated if an organization has a change in submission entity.

Description

The following components of this measure assess different facets of providing medical assistance with smoking and tobacco use cessation:

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| Advising Smokers and Tobacco Users  to Quit | A rolling average[[1]](#footnote-1) represents the percentage of members 18 years of age and older who were current smokers or tobacco users and who received advice to quit during the measurement year. |
| Discussing Cessation Medications | A rolling average represents the percentage of members 18 years of age and older who were current smokers or tobacco users and who discussed or were recommended cessation medications during the measurement year. |
| Discussing Cessation Strategies | A rolling average represents the percentage of members 18 years of age and older who were current smokers or tobacco users and who discussed or were provided cessation methods or strategies during the measurement year. |

Eligible Population

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| --- | --- |
| Product lines | Commercial, Medicaid, Medicare (report each product line separately). |
| Ages | 18 years and older as of December 31 of the measurement year. |
| Continuous enrollment | *Commercial:* The measurement year.  *Medicaid:* The last six months of the measurement year.  *Medicare:* Six months prior to the CMS administration of the survey. |
| Allowable gap | No more than one gap in enrollment of up to 45 days during the continuous enrollment period. To determine continuous enrollment for a Medicaid beneficiary for whom enrollment is verified monthly, the member may not have more than a 1-month gap in coverage (a member whose coverage lapses for 2 months [60 days] is not considered continuously enrolled). |
| Anchor date | December 31 of the measurement year. |
| Current enrollment | Currently enrolled at the time the survey is completed. |

Protocol and Survey Instrument

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| Commercial, Medicaid | Collected annually as part of the CAHPS Health Plan Survey 5.0H, Adult Version using rolling average methodology. |
| Medicare | Collected by CMS using the Medicare CAHPS Survey. Only the *Advising Smokers and Tobacco Users to Quit* rate is collected for the Medicare product line (no rolling average methodology is used). |

Questions Included in the Measure

### *Table MSC-1: Medical Assistance With Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation—Commercial Product Line*

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| Question | | Response Choices | | |
| **Q35** | Do you now smoke cigarettes or use tobacco every day, some days, or not at all? | Every day  Some days  Not at all  Don’t know | 🡺If Not at all, Go to Question 39  🡺If Don’t know, Go to Question 39 |
| **Q36** | In the last 12 months, how often were you advised to quit smoking or using tobacco by a doctor or other health provider in your plan? | Never  Sometimes  Usually  Always | | |
| **Q37** | In the last 12 months, how often was medication recommended or discussed by a doctor or health provider to assist you with quitting smoking or using tobacco? Examples of medication are: nicotine gum, patch, nasal spray, inhaler, or prescription medication. | Never  Sometimes  Usually  Always | | |
| **Q38** | In the last 12 months, how often did your doctor or health provider discuss or provide methods and strategies other than medication to assist you with quitting smoking or using tobacco? Examples of methods and strategies are: telephone helpline, individual or group counseling, or cessation program. | Never  Sometimes  Usually  Always | | |

### *Table MSC-2: Medical Assistance With Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation—Medicaid Product Line*

| Question | | Response Choices |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Q32** | Do you now smoke cigarettes or use tobacco every day, some days, or not at all? | Every day  Some days  Not at all 🡺If Not at all, Go to Question 36  Don’t know 🡺If Don’t know, Go to Question 36 |
| **Q33** | In the last 6 months, how often were you advised to quit smoking or using tobacco by a doctor or other health provider in your plan? | Never  Sometimes  Usually  Always |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Question | | | Response Choices |
| **Q34** | In the last 6 months, how often was medication recommended or discussed by a doctor or health provider to assist you with quitting smoking or using tobacco? Examples of medication are: nicotine gum, patch, nasal spray, inhaler, or prescription medication. | Never  Sometimes  Usually  Always | |
| **Q35** | In the last 6 months, how often did your doctor or health provider discuss or provide methods and strategies other than medication to assist you with quitting smoking or using tobacco? Examples of methods and strategies are: telephone helpline, individual or group counseling, or cessation program. | Never  Sometimes  Usually  Always | |

### *Table MSC-3: Medical Assistance With Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation—Medicare Product Line*

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Question | | Response Choices |
| **Q54** | Do you now smoke cigarettes or use tobacco every day, some days, or not at all? | Every day  Some days  Not at all 🡺If Not at all, Go to Question 56  Don’t know 🡺If Don’t know, Go to Question 56 |
| **Q55** | In the last 6 months, how often were you advised to quit smoking or using tobacco by a doctor or other health provider? | Never  Sometimes  Usually  Always  I had no visits in the last 6 months |

Calculation of Medical Assistance With Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation

For the commercial and Medicaid product lines, rolling averages are calculated using the formula below.

Rate = (Year 1 Numerator + Year 2 Numerator) / (Year 1 Denominator + Year 2 Denominator)

* If the denominator is less than 100, NCQA assigns a measure result of *NA.*
* If the denominator is 100 or more, NCQA calculates a rate.

If the health plan did not report results for the current year (Year 2) NCQA assigns a measure result of *NR*. If the health plan did not report results in the prior year (Year 1), but reports results for the current year and achieves a denominator of 100 or more, NCQA calculates a rate; if the denominator is less than 100, NCQA assigns a measure result of *NA*.

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| Changes in submission entity | If a health plan, for example, reports HMO and POS products separately in the prior year and reports HMO/POS combined in the current year, Year 1 numerators and denominators are created by combining data from the separate HMO and POS results using the methodology described below. The combined Year 1 numerators and denominators and Year 2 numerators and denominators are used for rolling average calculations.  Alternatively, if the health plan, for example, reports HMO/POS combined in the prior year and reports HMO and POS separately in the current year, the reporting entity is considered changed and prior year data are not used for rolling average calculations. |

Calculating Combined Year 1 Numerators and Denominators for Rolling Average Calculations

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| --- | --- |
| *Rotate Submission ID1:* | The submission ID of the HMO survey sample in Year 1. |
| *Rotate Submission ID2:* | The submission ID of the POS survey sample in Year 1. |
| *Yr1\_Num1:* | Year 1 Numerator for Rotate Submission ID1. |
| *Yr1\_Num2:* | Year 1 Numerator for Rotate Submission ID2. |
| *Yr1\_Denom1:* | Year 1 Denominator for Rotate Submission ID1. |
| *Yr1\_Denom2:* | Year 1 Denominator for Rotate Submission ID2. |
| *SampleFrame1Yr1:* | The sample frame size in year 1 of Rotate Submission ID1. |
| *SampleFrame2Yr1:* | The sample frame size in year 1 of Rotate Submission ID2. |
| *Yr1\_Num =* | [Yr1\_Num1 \* (SampleFrame1Yr1/(SampleFrame1Yr1 + SampleFrame2Yr1))] + [Yr1\_Num2 \* (SampleFrame1Yr1/(SampleFrame1Yr1 + SampleFrame2Yr1))] |
| ***Yr1\_Denom =*** | [Yr1\_Denom1 \* (SampleFrame1Yr1/(SampleFrame1Yr1 + SampleFrame2Yr1))] + [Yr1\_Denom2 \* (SampleFrame1Yr1/(SampleFrame1Yr1 + SampleFrame2Yr1))] |

Question numbers reference the adult survey for the commercial product line. The rate for the Medicaid product line is calculated by substituting the corresponding questions and response options.

Advising Smokers and Tobacco Users to Quit—Commercial and Medicaid Product Lines

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Denominator | The number of members who responded to the survey and indicated that they were current smokers or tobacco users. Member response choices *must* be as follows to be included in the denominator:  *Q35* = “Every day” or “Some days.”  *Q36* = “Never” or “Sometimes” or “Usually” or “Always.” |
| Numerator | The number of members in the denominator who indicated that they received advice to quit from a doctor or other health provider by answering “Sometimes” or “Usually” or “Always” to Q36. |

Advising Smokers and Tobacco Users to Quit—Medicare Product Line

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Denominator | The number of members who responded to the survey and indicated that they were current smokers or tobacco users. Member response choices *must* be as follows to be included in the denominator:  *Q54* = “Every day” or “Some days.”  *Q55* = “Never” or “Sometimes” or “Usually” or “Always.”  **Note:** Medicare results for the Advising Smokers and Tobacco Users to Quit rate requires a minimum denominator of at least 30 responses. |
| Numerator | The number of members in the denominator who indicated that they received advice to quit from a doctor or other health provider by answering “Sometimes” or “Usually” or “Always” to Q55. |

Discussing Cessation Medications—Commercial and Medicaid Product Lines

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| --- | --- |
| Denominator | The number of members who responded to the survey and indicated that they were current smokers or tobacco users. Member response choices *must* be as follows to be included in the denominator:  *Q35* = “Every day” or “Some days.”  *Q37* = “Never” or “Sometimes” or “Usually” or “Always.” |
| Numerator | The number of members in the denominator who indicated that their doctor or health provider recommended or discussed cessation medications by answering “Sometimes” or “Usually” or “Always” to Q37. |

Discussing Cessation Strategies—Commercial and Medicaid Product Lines

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| --- | --- |
| Denominator | The number of members who responded to the survey and indicated that they were current smokers or tobacco users. Member response choices *must* be as follows to be included in the denominator:  *Q35* = “Every day” or “Some days.”  *Q38* = “Never” or “Sometimes” or “Usually” or “Always.” |
| Numerator | The number of members in the denominator who indicated that their doctor or health provider discussed or provided cessation methods and strategies by answering “Sometimes” or “Usually” or “Always” to Q38. |

Percentage of Current Smokers and Tobacco Users—Supplemental Calculation

This calculation is provided to support analysis of *Medical Assistance With Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation* rates and provides additional context for *NA* results. A health plan with a small number of smokers or tobacco users may not be able to obtain a large enough denominator to achieve reportable rates (and may receive *NA* results).

The percentage of current smokers and tobacco users is calculated using data collected during the current reporting year only (not calculated as a rolling average).

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| Denominator | The number of members who responded “Every day,” “Some days,” “Not at all” or “Don’t know” to the question “Do you now smoke cigarettes or use tobacco every day, some days, or not at all?” |
| Numerator | The number of members in the denominator who responded “Every day” or “Some days” to the question “Do you now smoke cigarettes or use tobacco every day, some days, or not at all?” |

1. Refer to the *Calculations* section in the MSC measure specifications for additional details about Medicare reporting/scoring. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)