



## Measure Information

This document contains the information submitted by measure developers/stewards, but is organized according to NQF's measure evaluation criteria and process. The item numbers refer to those in the submission form but may be in a slightly different order here. In general, the item numbers also reference the related criteria (e.g., item 1b.1 relates to sub criterion 1b).

### Brief Measure Information

**NQF #:** 0575

**Corresponding Measures:**

**De.2. Measure Title:** Comprehensive Diabetes Care: Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) Control (<8.0%)

**Co.1.1. Measure Steward:** National Committee for Quality Assurance

**De.3. Brief Description of Measure:** The percentage of patients 18-75 years of age with diabetes (type 1 and type 2) whose most recent HbA1c level is <8.0% during the measurement year.

**1b.1. Developer Rationale:** This measure assesses HbA1c control among diabetics. The improvement in quality envisioned by the use of this measure is to have more diabetic adults 18-75 years of age with HbA1c levels lower than 8.0%. This measure is critically important for clinical diabetes management, because keeping patients in this desirable range of HbA1c helps to prevent complications of diabetes.

**S.4. Numerator Statement:** Patients whose most recent HbA1c level is less than 8.0% during the measurement year.

**S.6. Denominator Statement:** Patients 18-75 years of age by the end of the measurement year who had a diagnosis of diabetes (type 1 and type 2) during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year.

**S.8. Denominator Exclusions:** This measure excludes adults in hospice. It also excludes adults with advanced illness and frailty, as well as Medicare adults 65 years of age and older enrolled in an I-SNP or living long-term in institutional settings.

Additionally, exclude patients who had a diagnosis of gestational diabetes or steroid-induced diabetes, in my setting, during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year and who did NOT have a diagnosis of diabetes. These patients are sometimes pulled into the denominator via pharmacy data. They are then removed once no additional diagnosis of diabetes (Type I or Type II) is found.

**De.1. Measure Type:** Outcome: Intermediate Clinical Outcome

**S.17. Data Source:** Claims, Electronic Health Data, Electronic Health Records, Paper Medical Records

**S.20. Level of Analysis:** Health Plan

**IF Endorsement Maintenance – Original Endorsement Date:** Dec 04, 2009 **Most Recent Endorsement Date:** Nov 20, 2020

**IF this measure is included in a composite, NQF Composite#/title:**

0731:Comprehensive Diabetes Care

**IF this measure is paired/grouped, NQF#/title:**

**De.4. IF PAIRED/GROUPED, what is the reason this measure must be reported with other measures to appropriately interpret results?** N/A

### 1. Evidence, Performance Gap, Priority – Importance to Measure and Report

Extent to which the specific measure focus is evidence-based, important to making significant gains in healthcare quality, and improving health outcomes for a specific high-priority (high-impact) aspect of healthcare where there is variation in or overall less-than-optimal performance. **Measures must be judged to meet all sub criteria to pass this criterion and be evaluated against the remaining criteria.**

**1a. Evidence to Support the Measure Focus – See attached Evidence Submission Form**

[Good\\_Cntrl\\_Evidence\\_Form\\_-575--637088170316593685.docx](#)

**1a.1 For Maintenance of Endorsement: Is there new evidence about the measure since the last update/submission?**

Do not remove any existing information. If there have been any changes to evidence, the Committee will consider the new evidence. Please use the most current version of the evidence attachment (v7.1). Please use red font to indicate updated evidence.

No

**1b. Performance Gap**

Demonstration of quality problems and opportunity for improvement, i.e., data demonstrating:

- considerable variation, or overall less-than-optimal performance, in the quality of care across providers; and/or
- Disparities in care across population groups.

**1b.1. Briefly explain the rationale for this measure** (e.g., how the measure will improve the quality of care, the benefits or improvements in quality envisioned by use of this measure)

*If a COMPOSITE (e.g., combination of component measure scores, all-or-none, any-or-none), SKIP this question and answer the composite questions.*

This measure assesses HbA1c control among diabetics. The improvement in quality envisioned by the use of this measure is to have more diabetic adults 18-75 years of age with HbA1c levels lower than 8.0%. This measure is critically important for clinical diabetes management, because keeping patients in this desirable range of HbA1c helps to prevent complications of diabetes.

**1b.2. Provide performance scores on the measure as specified (current and over time) at the specified level of analysis.** *(This is required for maintenance of endorsement. Include mean, std dev, min, max, interquartile range, scores by decile. Describe the data source including number of measured entities; number of patients; dates of data; if a sample, characteristics of the entities include.) This information also will be used to address the sub-criterion on improvement (4b1) under Usability and Use.*

The following data are extracted from HEDIS data collection and reflect the most recent years of measurement for this measure. Performance data is summarized at the health plan level and summarized by the mean, standard deviation, minimum health plan performance, maximum health plan performance, performance percentiles (10th, 25th, 50th, 75th, and 90th percentile) and the interquartile range. Data is stratified by year and product line (i.e. commercial, Medicare, Medicaid) at the health plan level.

The following data demonstrate the variation in the rate of patients with diabetes that had good HbA1c control.

Comprehensive Diabetes Care: Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) Control (<8.0%)

N = Number of Health Plans

YEAR = Measurement Year

**Commercial**

YEAR|N|MEAN|ST DEV|MIN|10th|25th|50th|75th|90th|MAX|Interquartile Range

2016|411|51%|16%|0%|28%|48%|55%|61%|65%|75%|13%

2017|403|53%|15%|1%|30%|49%|57%|62%|66%|76%|13%

2018|401|54%|15%|1%|37%|52%|58%|63%|66%|77%|11%

**Medicaid**

YEAR|N|MEAN|ST DEV|MIN|10th|25th|50th|75th|90th|MAX|Interquartile Range

2016|271|47%|12%|0%|34%|42%|49%|54%|59%|72%|12%

2017|267|49%|10%|0%|37%|44%|51%|55%|60%|72%|11%

2018|250|49%|12%|0%|35%|44%|51%|56%|61%|70%|12%

**Medicare**

YEAR|N|MEAN|ST DEV|MIN|10th|25th|50th|75th|90th|MAX|Interquartile Range

2016|472|64%|13%|0%|47%|57%|66%|73%|76%|92%|16%

2017|475|65%|14%|0%|49%|61%|69%|74%|77%|85%|13%

2018|477|67%|12%|4%|53%|63%|70%|74%|78%|90%|11%

**1b.3. If no or limited performance data on the measure as specified is reported in 1b2, then provide a summary of data from the literature that indicates opportunity for improvement or overall less than optimal performance on the specific focus of**

**measurement.**

N/A

**1b.4. Provide disparities data from the measure as specified (current and over time) by population group, e.g., by race/ethnicity, gender, age, insurance status, socioeconomic status, and/or disability.** *(This is required for maintenance of endorsement. Describe the data source including number of measured entities; number of patients; dates of data; if a sample, characteristics of the entities included.) For measures that show high levels of performance, i.e., “topped out”, disparities data may demonstrate an opportunity for improvement/gap in care for certain sub-populations. This information also will be used to address the sub-criterion on improvement (4b1) under Usability and Use.*

The CMS Office of Minority Health in collaboration with the RAND Corporation produces an annual report: CMS Racial, Ethnic, and Gender Disparities in Health Care in Medicare Advantage. We provide below summary data for this measure from that report. The authors note that “for reporting HEDIS data stratified by race and ethnicity, racial and ethnic group membership is estimated using a methodology that combines information from CMS administrative data, surname, and residential location.”

The report described racial and ethnic disparities among beneficiaries 18-75 years old with diabetes who had their blood sugar levels under control. Asian or Pacific Islander women were the highest performing group to control their blood sugar levels with performance at 90.2%. Compared to White women who performed at 83.2%, Asian or Pacific Islander women overall had a difference of greater than 3 percentage points. White women were more likely to have their blood sugar levels controlled than Black or Hispanic women by more than 3 percentage points. Black women had the lowest rates of controlled HbA1c at 78.3%, followed by Hispanic women at 82.0% and again, White women performing at 83.2%. Similar trends were also found among Asian or Pacific Islander men, whose rates of controlled HbA1c levels were 88.8%. There was a difference of more than 3 percentage points between Asian or Pacific Islander Men and White Men, who performed at 83.5%. As seen with the women, Black men performed the worst at 76.5%, followed by Hispanic men who performed slightly better at 80.9%. There is an overall difference greater than 3 percentage points between White men and Black men whose blood sugar levels are controlled. Hispanic men and White men had a difference of less than a 3 percentage points in blood sugar control levels.

2019 CMS Racial, Ethnic, and Gender Disparities in Health Care in Medicare Advantage report. <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/OMH/Downloads/2019-National-Level-Results-by-Race-Ethnicity-and-Gender.pdf>

HEDIS data are stratified by type of insurance (e.g. commercial, Medicaid, Medicare). NCQA does not currently collect performance data stratified by race, ethnicity, or language. Escarce et al. have described in detail the difficulty of collecting valid data on race, ethnicity, and language at the health plan level (Escarce, 2011). While not specified in the measure, this measure can also be stratified by demographic variables, such as race/ethnicity or socioeconomic status, in order to assess the presence of health care disparities. The HEDIS Health Plan Measure Set contains two measures that can assist with stratification to assess health care disparities. The Race/Ethnicity Diversity of Membership and the Language Diversity of Membership measures were designed to promote standardized methods for collecting these data and follow Office of Management and Budget and Institute of Medicine guidelines for collecting and categorizing race/ethnicity and language data. In addition, NCQA’s Multicultural Health Care Distinction Program outlines standards for collecting, storing and using race/ethnicity and language data to assess health care disparities.

Escarce, J.J., Carreon, R., Veselovskiy, G., Lawson, E.G. Collection of Race and Ethnicity Data by Health Plans has Grown Substantially, but Opportunities Remain to Expand Efforts. *Health Affairs (Millwood)* 2011; 30(10):1984-91. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21976343>

**1b.5. If no or limited data on disparities from the measure as specified is reported in 1b.4, then provide a summary of data from the literature that addresses disparities in care on the specific focus of measurement. Include citations. Not necessary if performance data provided in 1b.4**

Although HEDIS measures are not stratified by race and ethnicity, researchers have explored disparities in HbA1c levels among adults with diabetes. Although racial disparities in complications are somewhat less marked in populations receiving uniform access to care, disparities in HbA1c (A1C) level among African Americans, Asians, and Latinos have been shown compared with non-Hispanic whites. Improvements in glycemic control have been shown to prevent microvascular complications, and large trials have demonstrated the need for glucose control among patients with diabetes. Literature has suggested that A1C control may be poorer among minority populations than among nonminority populations. A number of factors may drive differences in A1C control: biological, socioeconomic, and quality-of-care factors have been suggested. Lack of access to health care may also affect diabetes care among minority individuals.

Kirk, JK, et. al. 2006. Disparities in HbA1c Levels between African-American and Non-Hispanic White Adults with Diabetes. Diabetes Care. 2006; 29(9): 2130-2136.

## 2. Reliability and Validity—Scientific Acceptability of Measure Properties

Extent to which the measure, as specified, produces consistent (reliable) and credible (valid) results about the quality of care when implemented. **Measures must be judged to meet the sub criteria for both reliability and validity to pass this criterion and be evaluated against the remaining criteria.**

**2a.1. Specifications** The measure is well defined and precisely specified so it can be implemented consistently within and across organizations and allows for comparability. eMeasures should be specified in the Health Quality Measures Format (HQMF) and the Quality Data Model (QDM).

**De.5. Subject/Topic Area** (check all the areas that apply):

Endocrine, Endocrine : Diabetes

**De.6. Non-Condition Specific**(check all the areas that apply):

**De.7. Target Population Category** (Check all the populations for which the measure is specified and tested if any):

Populations at Risk

**S.1. Measure-specific Web Page** (Provide a URL link to a web page specific for this measure that contains current detailed specifications including code lists, risk model details, and supplemental materials. Do not enter a URL linking to a home page or to general information.)

N/A

**S.2a. If this is an eMeasure**, HQMF specifications must be attached. Attach the zipped output from the eMeasure authoring tool (MAT) - if the MAT was not used, contact staff. (Use the specification fields in this online form for the plain-language description of the specifications)

This is not an eMeasure Attachment:

**S.2b. Data Dictionary, Code Table, or Value Sets** (and risk model codes and coefficients when applicable) must be attached. (Excel or csv file in the suggested format preferred - if not, contact staff)

Attachment Attachment: 0575\_CDC\_HbA1c\_Good\_Control\_Value\_Sets\_Fall\_2019-637088131732250530.xlsx

**S.2c. Is this an instrument-based measure** (i.e., data collected via instruments, surveys, tools, questionnaires, scales, etc.)? Attach copy of instrument if available.

No, this is not an instrument-based measure Attachment:

**S.2d. Is this an instrument-based measure** (i.e., data collected via instruments, surveys, tools, questionnaires, scales, etc.)? Attach copy of instrument if available.

Not an instrument-based measure

**S.3.1. For maintenance of endorsement:** Are there changes to the specifications since the last updates/submission. If yes, update the specifications for S1-2 and S4-22 and explain reasons for the changes in S3.2.

Yes

**S.3.2. For maintenance of endorsement**, please briefly describe any important changes to the measure specifications since last measure update and explain the reasons.

There have been minor changes to the value sets and medication lists to reflect current practice.

NCQA added a hospice exclusion to most HEDIS measures in 2016. The focus of hospice care is not to cure illnesses of patients, but rather to improve comfort and quality of life for those with limited life expectancy. Most HEDIS quality measures are focused on health screenings or treatments that are not clinically appropriate or beneficial for those who are at end of life. Many of these

screenings and treatments would also be uncomfortable for hospice patients, add undue burden and have no impact on improving length or quality of life. Therefore, including individuals who are receiving hospice in our HEDIS quality measures is inappropriate.

In addition, NCQA added exclusion criteria for adults with advanced illness and frailty, as well as Medicare adults 65 years of age and older enrolled in an I-SNP or living long-term in institutional settings. We recognize that for individuals with limited life expectancy, advanced illness or more complex clinical situations, the focus of this measure may not be relevant or in line with the patient's goals of care. By implementing this set of exclusions, those providing care to the frail and advanced illness population can focus on care that's more appropriate for their conditions and health status. Attention can be more focused on quality measures that capture services and care processes that are more relevant for this population (e.g., improving care transitions, getting follow-up after acute care episodes, or avoiding preventable hospitalizations).

**S.4. Numerator Statement** (Brief, narrative description of the measure focus or what is being measured about the target population, i.e., cases from the target population with the target process, condition, event, or outcome) DO NOT include the rationale for the measure.

IF an OUTCOME MEASURE, state the outcome being measured. Calculation of the risk-adjusted outcome should be described in the calculation algorithm (S.14).

Patients whose most recent HbA1c level is less than 8.0% during the measurement year.

**S.5. Numerator Details** (All information required to identify and calculate the cases from the target population with the target process, condition, event, or outcome such as definitions, time period for data collection, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format at S.2b)

IF an OUTCOME MEASURE, describe how the observed outcome is identified/counted. Calculation of the risk-adjusted outcome should be described in the calculation algorithm (S.14).

There are two data sources and approaches used for collecting data reporting the numerator for this measure: Administrative Claims and Medical Record Review

#### ADMINISTRATIVE CLAIMS

Use codes (See code value sets located in question S.2b.) to identify the most recent HbA1c test during the measurement year. The member is not numerator compliant if the result for the most recent HbA1c test is =8.0% or is missing a result, or if an HbA1c test was not done during the measurement year.

Organizations that use CPT Category II codes to identify numerator compliance for this indicator must search for all codes in the following value sets and use the most recent code during the measurement year to evaluate whether the patient is numerator compliant.

#### VALUE SET / NUMERATOR COMPLIANCE

HbA1c Level Less Than 7.0 Value Set / Compliant

HbA1c Level 7.0-9.0 Value Set / Not compliant\*

HbA1c Level Greater Than 9.0 Value Set / Not compliant

\* The CPT Category II code (3045F) in this value set indicates most recent HbA1c (HbA1c) level 7.0%-9.0% and is not specific enough to denote numerator compliance for this indicator. For patients with this code, the organization must use other sources (laboratory data, hybrid reporting method) to identify the actual value and determine if the HbA1c result was <8%.

#### MEDICAL RECORD REVIEW

The most recent HbA1c level (performed during the measurement year) is <8.0% as identified by laboratory data or medical record review.

At a minimum, documentation in the medical record must include a note indicating the date when the HbA1c test was performed and the result. The member is numerator compliant if the most recent HbA1c level during the measurement year is <8.0%. The member is not numerator compliant if the result for the most recent HbA1c level during the measurement year is >=8.0% or is missing, or if a HbA1c test was not performed during the measurement year.

Ranges and thresholds do not meet criteria for this indicator. A distinct numeric result is required for numerator compliance.

**S.6. Denominator Statement** *(Brief, narrative description of the target population being measured)*

Patients 18-75 years of age by the end of the measurement year who had a diagnosis of diabetes (type 1 and type 2) during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year.

**S.7. Denominator Details** *(All information required to identify and calculate the target population/denominator such as definitions, time period for data collection, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format at S.2b.)*

*IF an OUTCOME MEASURE, describe how the target population is identified. Calculation of the risk-adjusted outcome should be described in the calculation algorithm (S.14).*

There are two ways to identify patients with diabetes: by claim/encounter data and by pharmacy data. The organization must use both methods to identify the eligible population, but a patient only needs to be identified by one method to be included in the measure. Patients may be identified as having diabetes during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year.

**CLAIM/ENCOUNTER DATA**

Patients who met any of the following criteria during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year (count services that occur over both years):

- At least one acute inpatient encounter with a diagnosis of diabetes without telehealth.
- At least one acute inpatient discharge with a diagnosis of diabetes on the discharge claim. To identify an acute inpatient discharge:
  1. Identify all acute and nonacute inpatient stays.
  2. Exclude nonacute inpatient stays.
  3. Identify the discharge date for the stay.
- At least two outpatient visits, observation visits, telephone visits, online assessments, ED visits, nonacute inpatient encounters or nonacute inpatient discharges, on different dates of service, with a diagnosis of diabetes. Visit type need not be the same for the two visits. To identify a nonacute inpatient discharge:
  1. Identify all acute and nonacute inpatient stays.
  2. Confirm the stay was for nonacute care based on the presence of a nonacute code on the claim.
  3. Identify the discharge date for the stay.
- Only include nonacute inpatient encounters without telehealth.
- Only one of the two visits may be an outpatient telehealth visit, a telephone visit or an online assessment. Identify telehealth visits by the presence of a telehealth modifier or the presence of a telehealth POS code associated with the outpatient set.

See attached code value sets.

**PHARMACY DATA**

Patients who were dispensed insulin or hypoglycemics/antihyperglycemics on an ambulatory basis during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year.

**PRESCRIPTIONS TO IDENTIFY MEMBERS WITH DIABETES**

**DESCRIPTION / PRESCRIPTION**

Alpha-glucosidase inhibitors / Acarbose, Miglitol

Amylin analogs / Pramlintide

Antidiabetic combinations / Alogliptin-metformin, Alogliptin-pioglitazone, Canagliflozin-metformin, Dapagliflozin-metformin, Empagliflozin-linagliptin, Empagliflozin-metformin, Glimepiride-pioglitazone, Glipizide-metformin, Glyburide-metformin, Linagliptin-metformin, Metformin-pioglitazone, Metformin-repaglinide, Metformin-rosiglitazone, Metformin-saxagliptin, Metformin-sitagliptin  
 Insulin / Insulin aspart, Insulin aspart-insulin aspart protamine, Insulin degludec, Insulin detemir, Insulin glargine, Insulin glulisine, Insulin isophane human, Insulin isophane-insulin regular, Insulin lispro, Insulin lispro-insulin lispro protamine, Insulin regular human, Insulin human inhaled

Meglitinides / Nateglinide, Repaglinide

Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP1) agonists / Dulaglutide, Exenatide, Albiglutide, Liraglutide

Sodium glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitor / Canagliflozin, Dapagliflozin, Empagliflozin

Sulfonylureas / Chlorpropamide, Glimepiride, Glipizide, Glyburide, Tolazamide, Tolbutamide

Thiazolidinediones / Pioglitazone, Rosiglitazone

Dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DDP-4) inhibitors / Alogliptin, Linagliptin, Saxagliptin, Sitagliptin

Note: Glucophage/metformin as a solo agent is not included because it is used to treat conditions other than diabetes; members with diabetes on these medications are identified through diagnosis codes only.

**S.8. Denominator Exclusions** *(Brief narrative description of exclusions from the target population)*

This measure excludes adults in hospice. It also excludes adults with advanced illness and frailty, as well as Medicare adults 65 years of age and older enrolled in an I-SNP or living long-term in institutional settings.

Additionally, exclude patients who had a diagnosis of gestational diabetes or steroid-induced diabetes, in my setting, during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year and who did NOT have a diagnosis of diabetes. These patients are sometimes pulled into the denominator via pharmacy data. They are then removed once no additional diagnosis of diabetes (Type I or Type II) is found.

**S.9. Denominator Exclusion Details** *(All information required to identify and calculate exclusions from the denominator such as definitions, time period for data collection, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format at S.2b.)*

**ADMINISTRATIVE CLAIMS**

Exclude patients who use hospice services or elect to use a hospice benefit any time during the measurement year, regardless of when the services began. These patients may be identified using various methods, which may include but are not limited to enrollment data, medical record or claims/encounter data.

Exclude adults who meet any of the following criteria:

- Medicare members 66 years of age and older as of December 31 of the measurement year who meet either of the following:
  - Enrolled in an Institutional SNP (I-SNP) any time on or between July 1 of the year prior to the measurement year and the end of the measurement year.
  - Living long-term in an institution any time on or between July 1 of the year prior to the measurement year and the end of the measurement year as identified by the LTI flag in the Monthly Membership Detail Data File. Use the run date of the file to determine if an adult had an LTI flag any time on or between July 1 of the year prior to the measurement year and the end of the measurement year.
- Adults 66 years of age and older as of December 31 of the measurement year (all product lines) with frailty and advanced illness. Adults must meet BOTH of the following frailty and advanced illness criteria to be excluded:
  1. At least one claim/encounter for frailty during the measurement year.
  2. Any of the following during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year (count services that occur over both years):
    - At least two outpatient visits, observation visits, ED visits, nonacute inpatient encounters or nonacute inpatient discharges (instructions below) on different dates of service, with an advanced illness diagnosis. Visit type need not be the same for the two visits. To identify a nonacute inpatient discharge:
      1. Identify all acute and nonacute inpatient stays (Inpatient Stay Value Set).
      2. Confirm the stay was for nonacute care based on the presence of a nonacute code (Nonacute Inpatient Stay Value Set) on the claim.
      3. Identify the discharge date for the stay.
    - At least one acute inpatient encounter with an advanced illness diagnosis.
    - At least one acute inpatient discharge with an advanced illness diagnosis. To identify an acute inpatient discharge:
      1. Identify all acute and nonacute inpatient stays (Inpatient Stay Value Set).
      2. Exclude nonacute inpatient stays (Nonacute Inpatient Stay Value Set).
      3. Identify the discharge date for the stay.
    - A dispensed dementia medication

**DEMENTIA MEDICATIONS**

**DESCRIPTION / PRESCRIPTION**

Cholinesterase inhibitors / Donepezil; Galantamine; Rivastigmine

Miscellaneous central nervous system agents / Memantine

Exclude patients with gestational diabetes or steroid diabetes. Codes associated with identifying these identifying exclusions are



attached in a separate file with code value sets.

See attached code value sets.

#### MEDICAL RECORD

Exclusionary evidence in the medical record must include a note indicating the patient did NOT have a diagnosis of diabetes, in any setting, during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year AND had a diagnosis of gestational diabetes or steroid-induced diabetes, in any setting, during the measurement year or the year prior to the measurement year.

**S.10. Stratification Information** (Provide all information required to stratify the measure results, if necessary, including the stratification variables, definitions, specific data collection items/responses, code/value sets, and the risk-model covariates and coefficients for the clinically-adjusted version of the measure when appropriate – Note: lists of individual codes with descriptors that exceed 1 page should be provided in an Excel or csv file in required format with at S.2b.)

No stratification

**S.11. Risk Adjustment Type** (Select type. Provide specifications for risk stratification in measure testing attachment)

No risk adjustment or risk stratification

If other:

**S.12. Type of score:**

Rate/proportion

If other:

**S.13. Interpretation of Score** (Classifies interpretation of score according to whether better quality is associated with a higher score, a lower score, a score falling within a defined interval, or a passing score)

Better quality = Higher score

**S.14. Calculation Algorithm/Measure Logic** (Diagram or describe the calculation of the measure score as an ordered sequence of steps including identifying the target population; exclusions; cases meeting the target process, condition, event, or outcome; time period for data, aggregating data; risk adjustment; etc.)

STEP 1: Determine the eligible population. To do so, identify patients who meet all the specified criteria.

- AGES: 18-75 years as of December 31 of the measurement year.

- EVENT/DIAGNOSIS: Identify patients with diabetes in two ways: by claim/encounter data and by pharmacy data. SEE S.6 and S.7 for eligible population and denominator criteria and details.

STEP 2: Exclude patients who meet the exclusion criteria. SEE S.8 and S.9 for denominator exclusion criteria and details.

STEP 3: Determine the number of patients in the eligible population who had a recent HbA1c test during the measurement year through the search of administrative data systems.

STEP 4: Identify patients with a most recent HbA1c test performed.

STEP 5: Identify the most recent result. If that result has an HbA1c level <8.0%, then that patient is numerator compliant. If the most recent result is instead with an HbA1c level >=8.0% or a missing result or if no HbA1c test was done during the measurement year, then the member is not in the numerator.

STEP 6: Calculate the rate dividing the numerator (STEP 5) by the denominator (after exclusions) (STEP 2).

**S.15. Sampling** (If measure is based on a sample, provide instructions for obtaining the sample and guidance on minimum sample size.)

IF an instrument-based performance measure (e.g., PRO-PM), identify whether (and how) proxy responses are allowed.

Plans may report this measure using a systematic sample of 411 members. Plans are instructed to list and sort all eligible members for a measure. NCQA then provides plans with a Random Number Table that is released towards the end of the measurement year. The Random Number Table lists a value that is used to determine which members from the eligible population (i.e., every nth member) for whom numerator compliance will be determined.

**S.16. Survey/Patient-reported data** (If measure is based on a survey or instrument, provide instructions for data collection and guidance on minimum response rate.)

Specify calculation of response rates to be reported with performance measure results.

N/A

**S.17. Data Source** (Check ONLY the sources for which the measure is SPECIFIED AND TESTED).



If other, please describe in S.18.

[Claims, Electronic Health Data, Electronic Health Records, Paper Medical Records](#)

**S.18. Data Source or Collection Instrument** (Identify the specific data source/data collection instrument (e.g. name of database, clinical registry, collection instrument, etc., and describe how data are collected.)

IF instrument-based, identify the specific instrument(s) and standard methods, modes, and languages of administration.

This measure is based on administrative claims and medical record documentation collected in the course of providing care to health plan patients. NCQA collects the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) data for this measure directly from health plans via NCQA's online data submission system.

**S.19. Data Source or Collection Instrument** (available at measure-specific Web page URL identified in S.1 OR in attached appendix at A.1)

[No data collection instrument provided](#)

**S.20. Level of Analysis** (Check ONLY the levels of analysis for which the measure is SPECIFIED AND TESTED)

[Health Plan](#)

**S.21. Care Setting** (Check ONLY the settings for which the measure is SPECIFIED AND TESTED)

[Outpatient Services](#)

If other:

**S.22. COMPOSITE Performance Measure** - Additional Specifications (Use this section as needed for aggregation and weighting rules, or calculation of individual performance measures if not individually endorsed.)

[N/A](#)

## **2. Validity – See attached Measure Testing Submission Form**

[Good\\_Cntrl\\_Testing\\_Form\\_-575-.docx](#)

### **2.1 For maintenance of endorsement**

*Reliability testing: If testing of reliability of the measure score was not presented in prior submission(s), has reliability testing of the measure score been conducted? If yes, please provide results in the Testing attachment. Please use the most current version of the testing attachment (v7.1). Include information on all testing conducted (prior testing as well as any new testing); use red font to indicate updated testing.*

[Yes](#)

### **2.2 For maintenance of endorsement**

*Has additional empirical validity testing of the measure score been conducted? If yes, please provide results in the Testing attachment. Please use the most current version of the testing attachment (v7.1). Include information on all testing conducted (prior testing as well as any new testing); use red font to indicate updated testing.*

[Yes](#)

### **2.3 For maintenance of endorsement**

*Risk adjustment: For outcome, resource use, cost, and some process measures, risk-adjustment that includes social risk factors is not prohibited at present. Please update sections 1.8, 2a2, 2b1, 2b4.3 and 2b5 in the Testing attachment and S.140 and S.11 in the online submission form. NOTE: These sections must be updated even if social risk factors are not included in the risk-adjustment strategy. You MUST use the most current version of the Testing Attachment (v7.1) -- older versions of the form will not have all required questions.*

[No - This measure is not risk-adjusted](#)

## **3. Feasibility**

Extent to which the specifications including measure logic, require data that are readily available or could be captured without undue burden and can be implemented for performance measurement.

### **3a. Byproduct of Care Processes**

For clinical measures, the required data elements are routinely generated and used during care delivery (e.g., blood pressure,

lab test, diagnosis, medication order).

**3a.1. Data Elements Generated as Byproduct of Care Processes.**

Generated or collected by and used by healthcare personnel during the provision of care (e.g., blood pressure, lab value, diagnosis, depression score), Coded by someone other than person obtaining original information (e.g., DRG, ICD-9 codes on claims), Abstracted from a record by someone other than person obtaining original information (e.g., chart abstraction for quality measure or registry)

If other:

**3b. Electronic Sources**

The required data elements are available in electronic health records or other electronic sources. If the required data are not in electronic health records or existing electronic sources, a credible, near-term path to electronic collection is specified.

**3b.1. To what extent are the specified data elements available electronically in defined fields** (*i.e., data elements that are needed to compute the performance measure score are in defined, computer-readable fields*) Update this field for **maintenance of endorsement**.

Some data elements are in defined fields in electronic sources

**3b.2. If ALL the data elements needed to compute the performance measure score are not from electronic sources, specify a credible, near-term path to electronic capture, OR provide a rationale for using other than electronic sources.** For **maintenance of endorsement**, if this measure is not an eMeasure (eCQM), please describe any efforts to develop an eMeasure (eCQM).

To allow for widespread reporting across health plans and health care practices, this measure is collected through multiple data sources (administrative data, electronic clinical data, and paper records). We anticipate as electronic health records become more widespread, the reliance on paper record review will decrease.

**3b.3. If this is an eMeasure, provide a summary of the feasibility assessment in an attached file or make available at a measure-specific URL. Please also complete and attach the NQF Feasibility Score Card.**

Attachment:

**3c. Data Collection Strategy**

Demonstration that the data collection strategy (e.g., source, timing, frequency, sampling, patient confidentiality, costs associated with fees/licensing of proprietary measures) can be implemented (e.g., already in operational use, or testing demonstrates that it is ready to put into operational use). For eMeasures, a feasibility assessment addresses the data elements and measure logic and demonstrates the eMeasure can be implemented or feasibility concerns can be adequately addressed.

**3c.1. Required for maintenance of endorsement.** Describe difficulties (as a result of testing and/or operational use of the measure) regarding data collection, availability of data, missing data, timing and frequency of data collection, sampling, patient confidentiality, time and cost of data collection, other feasibility/implementation issues.

**IF instrument-based**, consider implications for both individuals providing data (patients, service recipients, respondents) and those whose performance is being measured.

NCQA conducts an independent audit of all HEDIS collection and reporting processes, as well as an audit of the data which are manipulated by those processes, in order to verify that HEDIS specifications are met. NCQA has developed a precise, standardized methodology for verifying the integrity of HEDIS collection and calculation processes through a two-part program consisting of an overall information systems capabilities assessment followed by an evaluation of the MCO's ability to comply with HEDIS specifications. NCQA-certified auditors using standard audit methodologies will help enable purchasers to make more reliable "apples-to-apples" comparisons between health plans.

The HEDIS Compliance Audit addresses the following functions:

- 1) Information practices and control procedures
- 2) Sampling methods and procedures
- 3) Data integrity
- 4) Compliance with HEDIS specifications
- 5) Analytic file production
- 6) Reporting and documentation

In addition to the HEDIS audit, NCQA provides a system to allow "real-time" feedback from measure users. Our Policy Clarification

Support System receives thousands of inquiries each year on over 100 measures. Through this system, NCQA responds immediately to questions and identifies possible errors or inconsistencies in the implementation of the measure. This system informs both annual updates to the measures as well as routine re-evaluation of measures. These processes include updating value sets and clarifying the specifications. Measures are re-evaluated on a periodic basis and when there is a significant change in evidence.

**3c.2. Describe any fees, licensing, or other requirements to use any aspect of the measure as specified (e.g., value/code set, risk model, programming code, algorithm).**

Broad public use and dissemination of this measure is encouraged. NCQA has agreed with NQF that noncommercial users do not require the consent of the measure developer. Use by health care providers in connections with their own practices is not commercial use. Commercial use of a measure requires the prior written consent of NCQA. As used herein, "commercial use" refers to any sale, license, or distribution of a measure for commercial gain, or incorporation of a measure into any product or service that is sold, licensed, or distributed for commercial gain, even if there is no actual charge for inclusion of the measure.

## 4. Usability and Use

Extent to which potential audiences (e.g., consumers, purchasers, providers, policy makers) are using or could use performance results for both accountability and performance improvement to achieve the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations.

### 4a. Accountability and Transparency

Performance results are used in at least one accountability application within three years after initial endorsement and are publicly reported within six years after initial endorsement (or the data on performance results are available). If not in use at the time of initial endorsement, then a credible plan for implementation within the specified timeframes is provided.

#### 4.1. Current and Planned Use

*NQF-endorsed measures are expected to be used in at least one accountability application within 3 years and publicly reported within 6 years of initial endorsement in addition to performance improvement.*

| Specific Plan for Use | Current Use (for current use provide URL) |
|-----------------------|---|
|                       |   |

#### 4a1.1 For each CURRENT use, checked above (update for maintenance of endorsement), provide:

- Name of program and sponsor
- Purpose
- Geographic area and number and percentage of accountable entities and patients included
- Level of measurement and setting

**STATE OF HEALTH CARE ANNUAL REPORT:** This measure is publicly reported nationally and by geographic regions in the NCQA State of Health Care annual report. This annual report published by NCQA summarizes findings on quality of care. In 2019, the report included results from calendar year 2018 for health plans covering a record 136 million people, or 43 percent of the U.S. population.

**HEALTH PLAN RATING/REPORT CARDS:** This measure is used to calculate health plan rankings which are reported on the NCQA website. These rankings are based on performance on HEDIS measures among other factors. In 2019, a total of 255 Medicare health plans, 515 commercial health plans and 188 Medicaid health plans across 50 states were included in the rankings.

**QUALITY COMPASS:** This measure is used in Quality Compass which is an indispensable tool used for selecting a health plan, conducting competitor analysis, examining quality improvement and benchmarking plan performance. Provided in this tool is the ability to generate custom reports by selecting plans, measures, and benchmarks (averages and percentiles) for up to three trended years. Results in table and graph formats offer simple comparison of plans' performance against competitors or benchmarks.

**DIABETES RECOGNITION PROGRAM:** This measure is used in NCQA's Diabetes Recognition Program (DRP), that assesses clinician performance on key quality measures that are based on national evidence-based guidelines in diabetes care. The DRP Program has 6 measures which cover areas such as: HbA1c control, blood pressure control, eye examinations, nephropathy Assessment, foot examination, and smoking and tobacco use cessation advice or treatment. Eligible clinicians will abstract data from the charts of diabetes patients (25 patients for a single applicant) and submit this information to NCQA for review.

**HEALTH PLAN ACCREDITATION:** This measure is used in scoring for accreditation of Medicare Advantage Health Plans. As of Fall 2018, a total of 184 Medicare Advantage health plans were accredited using this measure among others covering 9.2 million Medicare beneficiaries; 451 commercial health plans covering 113 million lives; and 125 Medicaid health plans covering 35 million lives. Health plans are scored based on performance compared to benchmarks.

**INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION (IHA) CALIFORNIA PAY FOR PERFORMANCE:** This measure is used in the California P4P program which is the largest non-governmental physician incentive program in the United States. Founded in 2001, it is managed by the Integrated Healthcare Association (IHA) on behalf of eight health plans representing 10 million insured persons. IHA is responsible for collecting data, deploying a common measure set, and reporting results for approximately 35,000 physicians in nearly 200 physician groups. This program represents the longest running U.S. example of data aggregation and standardized results reporting across diverse regions and multiple health plans. California consumers benefit from the availability of standardized performance results from a common measure set, which are available to the public through the State of California, Office of the Patient Advocate.

**4a1.2. If not currently publicly reported OR used in at least one other accountability application (e.g., payment program, certification, licensing) what are the reasons? (e.g., Do policies or actions of the developer/steward or accountable entities restrict access to performance results or impede implementation?)**

N/A

**4a1.3. If not currently publicly reported OR used in at least one other accountability application, provide a credible plan for implementation within the expected timeframes -- any accountability application within 3 years and publicly reported within 6 years of initial endorsement. (Credible plan includes the specific program, purpose, intended audience, and timeline for implementing the measure within the specified timeframes. A plan for accountability applications addresses mechanisms for data aggregation and reporting.)**

N/A

**4a2.1.1. Describe how performance results, data, and assistance with interpretation have been provided to those being measured or other users during development or implementation.**

**How many and which types of measured entities and/or others were included? If only a sample of measured entities were included, describe the full population and how the sample was selected.**

Health plans that report HEDIS calculate their rates and know their performance when submitting to NCQA. NCQA publicly reports rates across all plans and also creates benchmarks in order to help plans understand how they perform relative to other plans. Public reporting and benchmarking are effective quality improvement methods.

**4a2.1.2. Describe the process(es) involved, including when/how often results were provided, what data were provided, what educational/explanatory efforts were made, etc.**

NCQA publishes HEDIS results annually in our Quality Compass tool. NCQA also presents data at various conferences and webinars. For example, at the annual HEDIS Update and Best Practices Conference (now the Health Care Quality Congress), NCQA presents results from all new measures' first year of implementation or analyses from measures that have changed significantly and insight into new measure development projects. NCQA also regularly provides technical assistance on measures through its Policy Clarification Support System, as described in Section 3c.1.

**4a2.2.1. Summarize the feedback on measure performance and implementation from the measured entities and others described in 4d.1.**

**Describe how feedback was obtained.**

NCQA measures are evaluated regularly using a consensus-based process to consider input from multiple stakeholders, including but not limited to entities being measured. We use several methods to obtain input, including vetting of the measure with several multi-stakeholder advisory panels, public comment posting, and review of questions submitted to the Policy Clarification Support System. This information enables NCQA to comprehensively assess a measure's adherence to the HEDIS Desirable Attributes of Relevance, Scientific Soundness and Feasibility.

**4a2.2.2. Summarize the feedback obtained from those being measured.**

This is a long-standing, well-understood measure so NCQA receives very few questions or requests for clarification about it. Questions received through the Policy Clarification System have generally centered around clarification on optional exclusions in

relation to the other Comprehensive Care Diabetes measures (HbA1c Control <7, poor control >9, eye exam or attention to nephropathy), guidelines supporting the age ranges for the measure, and methods used to convert units for the HbA1c result.

**4a2.2.3. Summarize the feedback obtained from other users**

This measure has been deemed a priority measure by NCQA and other entities, as illustrated by its use in programs such as the Annual State of Healthcare Quality and the Health Plan Rating.

**4a2.3. Describe how the feedback described in 4a2.2.1 has been considered when developing or revising the measure specifications or implementation, including whether the measure was modified and why or why not.**

We have provided minor clarifications about the measure during the annual update process in order to address questions received through the Policy Clarification Support System.

**Improvement**

Progress toward achieving the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations is demonstrated. If not in use for performance improvement at the time of initial endorsement, then a credible rationale describes how the performance results could be used to further the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations.

**4b1. Refer to data provided in 1b but do not repeat here. Discuss any progress on improvement (trends in performance results, number and percentage of people receiving high-quality healthcare; Geographic area and number and percentage of accountable entities and patients included.)**

If no improvement was demonstrated, what are the reasons? If not in use for performance improvement at the time of initial endorsement, provide a credible rationale that describes how the performance results could be used to further the goal of high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations.

Performance across all plan types has generally improved over the past three years, with Medicare, Medicaid, and commercial plan performance increasing each year by about 1-2%. We are encouraged by this continued improvement across health plans. Current average performance (MY 2018) is highest in Medicare plans (67%), followed by commercial plans (54%), and then Medicaid plans (49%).

**4b2. Unintended Consequences**

The benefits of the performance measure in facilitating progress toward achieving high-quality, efficient healthcare for individuals or populations outweigh evidence of unintended negative consequences to individuals or populations (if such evidence exists).

**4b2.1. Please explain any unexpected findings (positive or negative) during implementation of this measure including unintended impacts on patients.**

There were no identified unexpected findings during testing or since implementation of this measure.

**4b2.2. Please explain any unexpected benefits from implementation of this measure.**

There were no identified unexpected findings during testing or since implementation of this measure.

## 5. Comparison to Related or Competing Measures

If a measure meets the above criteria and there are endorsed or new related measures (either the same measure focus or the same target population) or competing measures (both the same measure focus and the same target population), the measures are compared to address harmonization and/or selection of the best measure.

**5. Relation to Other NQF-endorsed Measures**

Are there related measures (conceptually, either same measure focus or target population) or competing measures (conceptually both the same measure focus and same target population)? If yes, list the NQF # and title of all related and/or competing measures.  
Yes

**5.1a. List of related or competing measures (selected from NQF-endorsed measures)**

2608 : Diabetes Care for People with Serious Mental Illness: Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) Control (<8.0%)

**5.1b. If related or competing measures are not NQF endorsed please indicate measure title and steward.**

0729 Optimal Diabetes Care. The measure steward is MN Community Measurement. This measure is NQF endorsed, but was not

showing up in the previous question.

**5a. Harmonization of Related Measures**

The measure specifications are harmonized with related measures;

**OR**

The differences in specifications are justified

**5a.1. If this measure conceptually addresses EITHER the same measure focus OR the same target population as NQF-endorsed measure(s):**

**Are the measure specifications harmonized to the extent possible?**

Yes

**5a.2. If the measure specifications are not completely harmonized, identify the differences, rationale, and impact on interpretability and data collection burden.**

There are two related measures that assess HbA1c control of <8% but they are either focused on different population, use different data sources or are specified at different levels of accountability than NQF 0575. Measure 2608 is NQF endorsed as a single measure that uses health plan reported data to assess the percentage of patients 18-75 years of age with a serious mental illness and diabetes (type 1 and type 2) whose most recent HbA1c level during the measurement year is <8.0%. Measure 0729 is a composite measure (all or nothing) that uses physician reported data to assess the percentage of adult diabetes patients, 18-75 years of age, who have optimally managed modifiable risk factors HbA1c control (<8%) and four other indicators. **HARMONIZED MEASURE ELEMENTS:** All measures focus on an HbA1c target of <8% for adults age 18-75. **DIFFERENCES:** - Population Focus: While NQF 0575 and 0729 are focused on the general population of people with diabetes, NQF 2608 is focused on people with a serious mental illness and diabetes. - Data Source and Level of Accountability: Measure 00575 is collected through administrative claims and/or medical record review using health plan reported data. Measure 0729 is collected through medical record abstraction and reported at the physician level of accountability. **IMPACT ON INTERPRETABILITY?AND DATA COLLECTION BURDEN?:** The differences between measures 0575 and 2608 do not have an impact on interpretability of?publicly?reported rates or an impact on data collection burden as the measures are focused on different populations.

**5b. Competing Measures**

The measure is superior to competing measures (e.g., is a more valid or efficient way to measure);

**OR**

Multiple measures are justified.

**5b.1. If this measure conceptually addresses both the same measure focus and the same target population as NQF-endorsed measure(s):**

**Describe why this measure is superior to competing measures (e.g., a more valid or efficient way to measure quality); OR provide a rationale for the additive value of endorsing an additional measure. (Provide analyses when possible.)**

N/A

**Appendix**

**A.1 Supplemental materials may be provided in an appendix.** All supplemental materials (such as data collection instrument or methodology reports) should be organized in one file with a table of contents or bookmarks. If material pertains to a specific submission form number, that should be indicated. Requested information should be provided in the submission form and required attachments. There is no guarantee that supplemental materials will be reviewed.

**No appendix Attachment:**

**Contact Information**

**Co.1 Measure Steward (Intellectual Property Owner):** National Committee for Quality Assurance

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**Co.3 Measure Developer if different from Measure Steward:** National Committee for Quality Assurance

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**Additional Information**

**Ad.1 Workgroup/Expert Panel involved in measure development**

**Provide a list of sponsoring organizations and workgroup/panel members' names and organizations. Describe the members' role in measure development.**

NCQA follows a standard process of vetting members of the measurement advisory panel for conflicts of interest.

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JoAnn Volk, MA, Georgetown University

**Measure Developer/Steward Updates and Ongoing Maintenance**

**Ad.2 Year the measure was first released:** 2009

**Ad.3 Month and Year of most recent revision:** 07, 2018

**Ad.4 What is your frequency for review/update of this measure?** Approximately every 3 years, sooner if the clinical guidelines have changed significantly

**Ad.5 When is the next scheduled review/update for this measure?** 12, 2020

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