

Policy Statement:

Dear Chairman Burgess, Ranking Member Green, and House Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee Members:

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) strongly supports the discussion draft bill for “Mandatory Reporting with Respect to Adult Behavioral Health Measures.”

This legislation requires states to report all Medicaid adult behavioral quality core set measures starting in 2024. The core set includes behavioral health measures NCQA stewards, including:

- Antidepressant Medication Management;
- Follow-Up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness;
- Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Mental Illness or Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence;
- Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Drug Treatment;
  
- Medical Assistance with Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation;
- Diabetes Screening for People with Schizophrenia or Bipolar Disorder Who Are Using Antipsychotic Medications
- Diabetes Care for People with Serious Mental Illness: Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) Poor Control (>9.0%)
- Adherence to Antipsychotic Medications for Individuals with Schizophrenia; and
- Requiring states to report these measures will help address the opioid crisis and make behavioral health the priority for Medicaid that beneficiaries need. Behavioral and mental health conditions are substantially undertreated and strongly associated with higher overall utilization and cost. Many behavioral health treatments also have significant side effects that require careful monitoring and often further treatment.

In fact, given the opioid crisis's urgency, we urge you to require reporting as soon as is feasible in 2021 rather than 2024.

NCQA has additional measures to help address the opioid crisis, including:

- Use of Opioids at High Dosage.
- Use of Opioids from Multiple Providers.

Please see Appendix A located at the bottom of the hyperlink for a list of additional behavioral measures we have or are developing.

<https://www.ncqa.org/comment-letter/ncqa-supports-medicaid-behavioral-measure-reporting/>