

# ECDS Explained: Key Insights and Common Questions

**We will begin momentarily**

Anna Bentler, AVP, Quality Informatics

Fern McCree, Director, Quality Informatics

03/25/2025

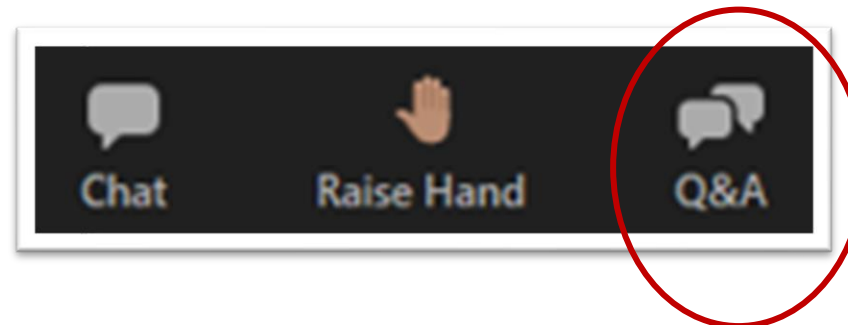


# Zoom Housekeeping



## How to Submit Questions During the Webinar

- 1) Locate the 'Q&A' icon on the menu bar.
- 2) During the webinar, please submit questions via the 'Q&A' box.
- 3) Your question will be responded to live by one of the presenters.



# ECDS Explained: Key Insights and Common Questions

Anna Bentler, AVP, Quality Informatics  
Fern McCree, Director, Quality Informatics  
03/25/2025



# Agenda

What is ECDS?

ECDS Transitions and Updates

Measure use and Adoption

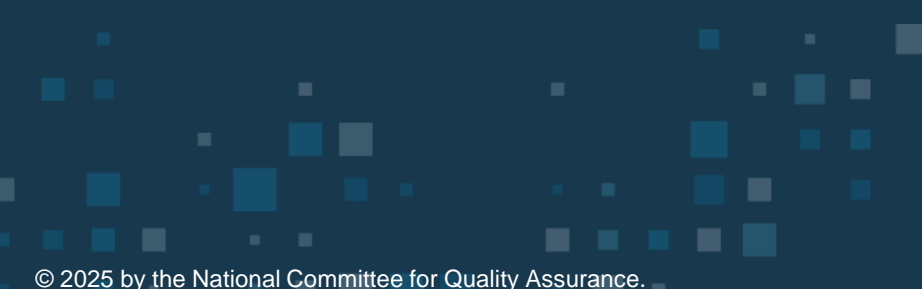
Frequently Asked Questions

Q&A



# Background

## Electronic Clinical Data Systems (ECDS)





# ECDS, dQMs

*Related but not synonymous*



## Electronic Clinical Data Systems (ECDS)

- A HEDIS **reporting method**
- Provides a **structured** way to aggregate **electronic data** for HEDIS reports
- Incentivizes **electronic exchange** of clinical data

## Digital Quality Measure (dQM)

- A standard, interoperable **format**
- Computer interpretable, fully specified, **standards-based** (i.e., FHIR-CQL) measure content
- Improves the **delivery** of specifications and makes it easier to use measure content
- ECDS and traditional HEDIS measures are available as dQMs through **Digital Content Services**.

Visit the **Digital Quality Hub** to learn more about NCQA's Digital Quality Transformation.

# Digital Quality Transformation

*Availability of Electronic Health Data Enables Digital HEDIS*



## Traditional HEDIS

Measures rely on claims and retrospective methods of assessing quality

Enables tailoring to non-standard local health data environments

## Future HEDIS

Focus on leveraging more electronic health data for greater insight

Advancement of measures focused on health outcomes

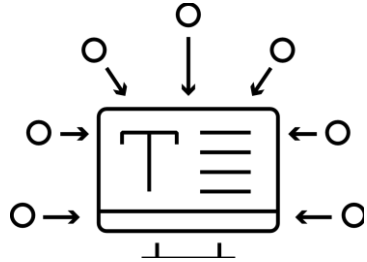
**ECDS is a HEDIS Reporting Method** that encourages the use and exchange of electronic data sources.



# Electronic Clinical Data Systems (ECDS) Reporting Method

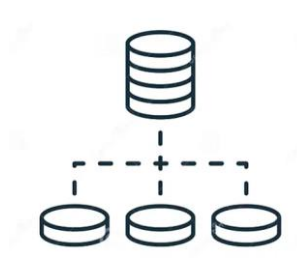


## Objectives



### More data, greater insights

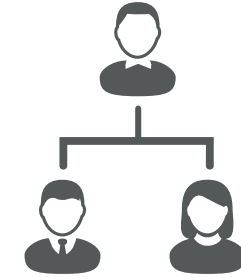
Any relevant data source can be used for any part of the measure.



### Interoperability standards

Data must be stored in structured electronic formats that use standard layouts

*Promotes the use of clinical terminologies such as LOINC, SNOMED CT*



### Bi-directional data exchange

Data must be available to the care team upon request



# History of HEDIS ECDS Reporting



Developed measures addressing patient outcomes for depression<sup>1</sup> which require clinical information not often found in claims

Introduced new HEDIS ECDS reporting method

Added measures addressing gap areas such as unhealthy alcohol use screening, prenatal and postpartum care, immunization, and social needs

Transitioning traditional (administrative and hybrid) HEDIS measures to the ECDS reporting standard

**Currently, there are 19 HEDIS measures specified for ECDS reporting.**

<sup>1</sup><https://www.ncqa.org/hedis/the-future-of-hedis/hedis-depression-measures-specified-for-electronic-clinical-data/>

# Measures that use HEDIS ECDS Reporting Method

*Measurement Year 2025*



## **12 Measures Originally Developed for ECDS-only reporting**

- Prenatal Immunization Status
- Adult Immunization Status
- Depression Screening and Follow-Up for Adolescents and Adults
- Utilization of the PHQ-9 to Monitor Depression Symptoms for Adolescents and Adults
- Depression Remission or Response for Adolescents and Adults
- Unhealthy Alcohol Use Screening and Follow-Up
- Prenatal Depression Screening and Follow-Up
- Postpartum Depression Screening and Follow-Up
- Social Needs Screening and Intervention
- Blood Pressure Control for Patients With Hypertension
- Documented BI-RADS Assessment After Mammogram
- Follow-Up After Abnormal Mammogram Assessment

## **7 Administrative and Hybrid Measures transitioned to ECDS-only reporting**

- Breast Cancer Screening
- Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication
- Metabolic Monitoring for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotics
- Colorectal Cancer Screening
- Cervical Cancer Screening
- Childhood Immunization Status
- Immunization for Adolescents

# Different Reporting Methods for HEDIS



## *Data Sources*



**Administrative Method:** *Administrative (Enrollment, Claims, Encounter) + Supplemental Data*



**Hybrid Method:** *Administrative + Supplemental Data + Medical Record Review*



**Electronic Clinical Data Systems Method** *Administrative, EHRs, HIEs, Registries, Case Management*

ECDS provides a more standardized way to incorporate many of the data sources that are considered “supplemental” for traditional HEDIS reporting.

# Understand the Difference in the Reporting Methods in HEDIS



## Administrative

*Administrative + supplemental*



## Hybrid

*Administrative + supplemental + medical record review*



## ECDS

*Administrative, EHRs, HIEs, Registries, Case Management*

	Administrative	Hybrid	ECDS
<b>Population</b>	Full eligible population	<u>Systematic Sample</u>	Full eligible population
<b>Can administrative claims information be used?</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Can clinical data be used for the denominator?</b>	No, must follow “supplemental” data rules which do not allow non-administrative data to be used for the denominator	No, must follow “supplemental” data rules which do not allow non-administrative data to be used for the denominator	<u>Yes, all relevant data sources can be used for <b>any</b> part of the <u>measure.</u></u>
<b>Considerations</b>	Routinely collected and readily available  Limited clinical detail	Enables tailoring to non-standard local health data environments  Resource intensive, less actionable	Captures clinical data more efficiently and more actionable  Health plan capabilities vary

# NCQA Digital Strategy: Leverage Clinical Detail in Digital Form



*ECDS Reporting Method, Sunset Hybrid Reporting Method, Align Data Standards*



Support existing ECDS-reported measures and transitions

19 measures specified for ECDS reporting (7 transitioning from administrative and hybrid methods)

Support public reporting and uptake in programs



Transition the Hybrid Reporting method

Streamline data management processes and reduce the burden of manual record review

Expand use of ECDS methods and digital quality measure deployment



Strategic engagement in standards

Align with the evolution of health data standards (such as USCDI) and the availability of electronic clinical data

Inform implementation of new measure concepts



# ECDS Transitions



# HEDIS Measures Transitioned to ECDS-only Reporting

*7 measure transitions, as of Measurement Year 2025*



## ***ECDS-only beginning MY 2023***

- Breast Cancer Screening (BCS-E)

## ***ECDS-only beginning MY 2024***

- Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication (ADD-E)
- Metabolic Monitoring for Children and Adolescents on Antipsychotics (APM-E)
- Colorectal Cancer Screening (COL-E)

## ***ECDS-only beginning MY 2025***

- Cervical Cancer Screening (CCS-E)
- Childhood Immunization Status (CIS-E)
- Immunization for Adolescents (IMA-E)

# HEDIS ECDS Data Collection Considerations

## *Transition to ECDS Reporting*



### Administrative to ECDS

Typically, plans use the **same data sources** for ECDS that they use for the Administrative reporting method (claims and supplemental data).

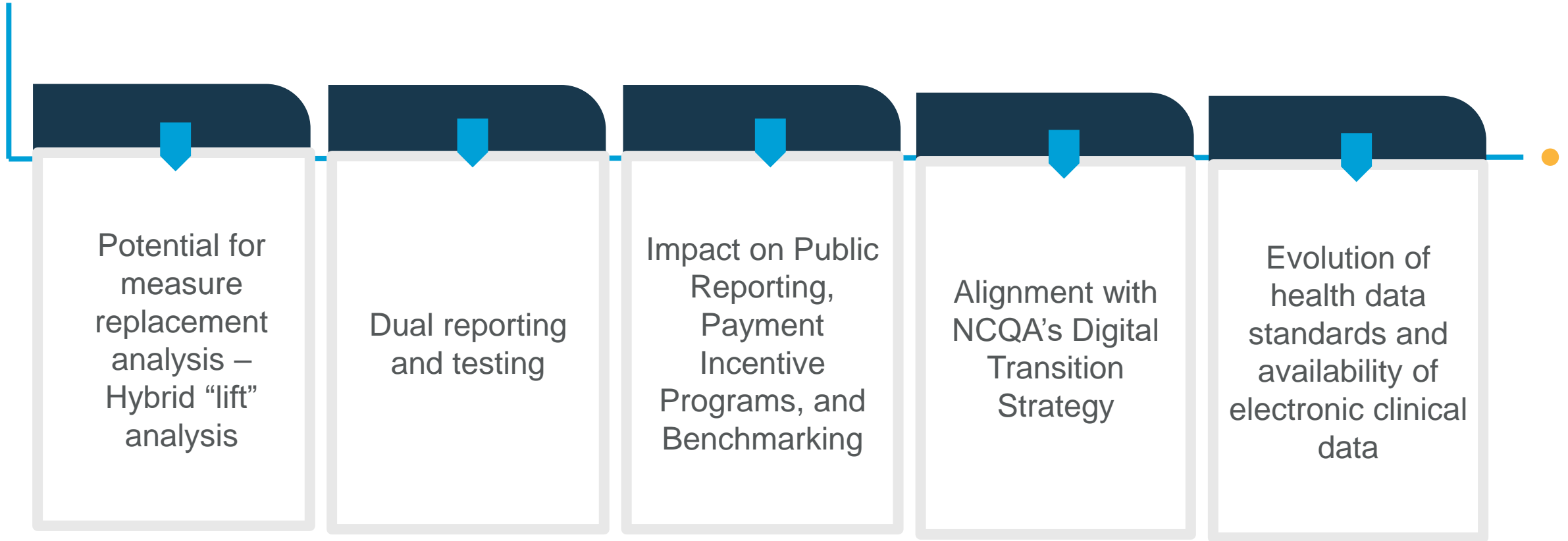
### Hybrid to ECDS

For hybrid measures, some plans rely on clinical information found in medical charts. ECDS measure population includes all members who satisfy criteria (without sampling).

Data abstracted from medical records and **standardized** in an electronic source may also be used for ECDS.

# Sequencing the Transition Away from Hybrid Method

## *Measure Specific Considerations*



# Planned Timeline to Sunset Hybrid Reporting Method



Goal: **Hybrid** measure specification and reporting method removed from HEDIS my **MY2029**.

Measure	MY 2025	MY 2026	MY 2027	MY 2028	MY 2029
Lead Screening in Children (LSC)		• +ECDS			
Weight Assessment and Counseling for Nutrition and Physical Activity for Children and Adolescents (WCC)			•		
Prenatal and Postpartum Care (PPC)				•	
Controlling High Blood Pressure (CBP)	+ECDS			•	
Blood Pressure Control for Patients with Diabetes (BPD)		+ECDS		•	
Glycemic Status Assessment for Patients With Diabetes (GSD) (formerly Hemoglobin A1c Control for Patients With Diabetes)			+ECDS		•
Transitions of Care (TRC)			+ECDS		•
Care for Older Adults (COA)			+ECDS		•

• = Removal of the hybrid reporting method only.

# Pathway to Replacing Hybrid Measures with ECDS



*Develop a new ECDS measure and then replace the original measure*



Transition Period (~ 2-3 years)

- ✓ Evaluate HEDIS reporting data.
- ✓ Provide anticipatory guidance about benchmarks.
- ✓ Identify and close digital feasibility gaps through engagement in standards.

# ECDS Updates for Measurement Year 2026

*HEDIS Public Comment (February 13 – March 13, 2025)*



## **New ECDS Measures**

### **PROPOSED**

*Tobacco Use Screening and Cessation Intervention (TSC-E)*  
*Follow-Up After Acute Care Visits for Asthma (AAF-E)*

## **Transition to ECDS**

*Lead Screening in Children (LSC-E)*

### **CONFIRMED**

*Blood Pressure Control for Patients With Diabetes (BPD-E)*

*Statin Therapy for Patients With Diabetes (SPD-E)*

*Statin Therapy for Patients With Cardiovascular Disease (SPC-E)*





# Measure Use

# ECDS Measure Use in NCQA Quality Programs



15 ECDS-reported measures are now Publicly Reported



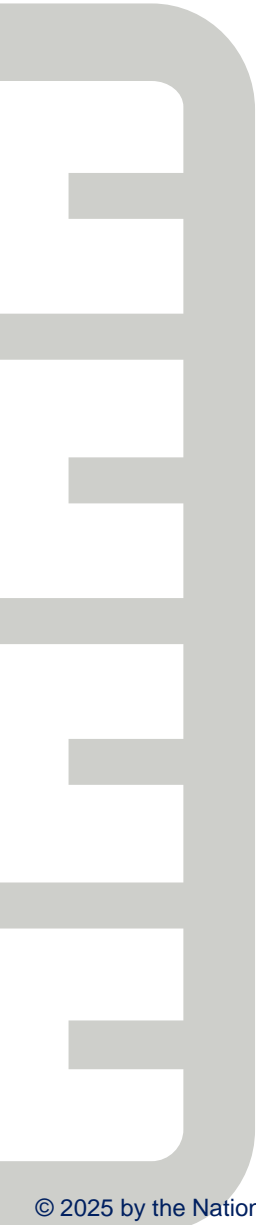
Accreditation of health plans and health systems

Health Plan Ratings - based on HEDIS results

# ECDS Measure Use in External Programs



- CMS Quality Rating System
- CMS Part C Star Ratings / Display
- Medicaid Adult Core Set
- Medicaid Child Core Set
- State Reporting Programs
- Private Sector Value-Based Contracting Programs





# Strategies and Resources Supporting ECDS Reporting

# Strategies for Leveraging Electronic Clinical Data



1. Improve the *standardization* of data
2. Increase the *exchange* of electronic data



# 1. Improve Data Standardization

## Consistent and reliable data

To facilitate data usability for quality measurement & QI, data should be captured using standard terminologies and codes

### *Example: Prenatal Immunization Status*

	Example Codes	Example Code Systems
<b>Influenza</b>	88, 158, 205	CVX
	90630, 90756	CPT
	348047008, 46233009	SNOMED
<b>Tdap</b>	115	CVX
	90715	CPT
	428251000124104	SNOMED



# 2. Increase Data Exchange



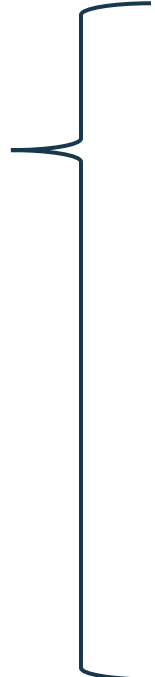
## Interoperability across systems

### Strategies

Incorporate data sharing into value-based payment arrangements

Exchange data between providers, health plans, registries and HIEs using HL7 FHIR standards

New validation tools (e.g., [Data Aggregator Validation program](#)) evolving to support the management and exchange of health data and more efficient reporting.



### Key Facilitators

Regulations and infrastructure; alignment with interoperability standards

HL7 Implementation Guides that support data exchange:

#### Data Exchange For Quality Measures (DEQM)

- Framework to enable the exchange of measure data using FHIR

#### Payer Data Exchange (PDex)

- Enable health plans to create a member's health history using FHIR clinical resources

# Stay Engaged



Visit our resource pages for updates and additional resources

Visit our **ECDS webpage**:

<http://www.ncqa.org/ecds>

**Digital Quality Hub:**

<https://www.ncqa.org/digital-quality-transition/>



# DIGITAL QUALITY

FACT  
CHECK

# DIGITAL QUALITY

FACT  
CHECK

## Does ECDS reporting use claims data?

Yes! Administrative claims are an allowable data source used in ECDS reporting.

Note, some measures assess clinical outcomes which are not typically found in administrative data (e.g., depression screen results)

Link to ECDS FAQs:

<https://www.ncqa.org/hedis/the-future-of-hedis/ecds-frequently-asked-questions/>

# DIGITAL QUALITY

FACT CHECK

## What is the difference between ECDS, dQMs and eCQMs?

### Electronic Clinical Data Systems (ECDS)

- A HEDIS reporting method
- Provides a **structured** way to aggregate **electronic data** for HEDIS reports
- Incentivizes **electronic exchange** of clinical data

### Digital Quality Measure (dQM)

- A standard, interoperable **format**
- Computer interpretable, fully specified, **standards-based** (i.e., FHIR-CQL) measure content
- Improves the **delivery** of specifications and makes it easier to use measure content

HEDIS measures available for ECDS and traditional reporting are provided as dQMs through NCQA's Digital Content Services.

### eCQM (Electronic Clinical Quality Measures)

- CMS-defined digital measures derived from EHR data (Quality Data Model and/or FHIR)

Link to ECDS FAQs:

<https://www.ncqa.org/hedis/the-future-of-hedis/ecds-frequently-asked-questions/>

# DIGITAL QUALITY

FACT  
CHECK

## How are data for ECDS different from supplemental data?

There may be no differences in the data sources themselves. ECDS reporting provides a standardized way to incorporate data considered “supplemental” for traditional HEDIS reporting. While the primary source of data may be the same, ECDS reporting has specific guidelines (see HEDIS Volume 2) for how data are categorized. For example, immunization information systems data are considered “supplemental data” for traditional reporting and classified as “HIE/clinical registry” for ECDS reporting.

Link to ECDS FAQs:

<https://www.ncqa.org/hedis/the-future-of-hedis/ecds-frequently-asked-questions/>

# DIGITAL QUALITY

FACT  
CHECK

## Can data from medical records be used for ECDS reporting?

The intent of ECDS reporting is to encourage the electronic exchange of clinical data. However, we know not all organizations currently receive all data electronically. Therefore, we currently allow data abstracted from medical records to be used if they are captured and stored in structured formats that use standard layouts and meet the data source requirements laid out in the Guidelines for Measures Reported Using Electronic Clinical Data Systems.

Link to ECDS FAQs:

<https://www.ncqa.org/hedis/the-future-of-hedis/ecds-frequently-asked-questions/>

# Questions?

