

Proposed Retirement for HEDIS^{®1} 2020:
Ambulatory Care (AMB)
Inpatient Utilization—General Hospital/Acute Care (IPU)

NCQA seeks comments on the proposed retirement of the HEDIS *Ambulatory Care (AMB)* and *Inpatient Utilization—General Hospital/Acute Care (IPU)* measures.

AMB summarizes utilization of ambulatory care in outpatient visits and emergency department visits. IPU summarizes utilization of acute inpatient care and services in maternity, surgery, medicine and total inpatient. Both measures are reported by all three product lines.

AMB and IPU may be redundant with several HEDIS measures that encompass most of the same components.

Emergency Department Utilization and *Acute Hospital Utilization* are utilization measures that assess similar services, but because they are risk-adjusted, we can designate and benchmark a desired rate that accounts for an organization's case mix.

Adults' Access to Preventive/Ambulatory Health Services and *Children and Adolescents' Access to Primary Care Practitioners* are access measures that assess outpatient ambulatory and outpatient care for adults and children, respectively. The child measure applies to commercial and Medicaid plans; the adult measure applies to all product lines.

The AMB and IPU measures' use in programs varies. AMB, IPU and their corresponding risk-adjusted measures are used in the Align Measure Perform program. The AMB measure is also used in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Medicaid Child Core Set and the Health Home Core Set to assess ED visits.

Stakeholders with whom we spoke indicated support for retirement of AMB and IPU because they are redundant with existing risk-adjusted measures of ambulatory and inpatient utilization. Some stakeholders expressed concerns about the lack of corresponding risk-adjusted measures for the Medicaid product line. A few stakeholders noted use of the AMB and IPU measures for internal monitoring of utilization.

Supporting documents include the current measure specifications.

NCQA acknowledges the contributions of the Technical Measurement Advisory Panel

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Ambulatory Care (AMB)

PROPOSED RETIREMENT FOR HEDIS 2020

Description

This measure summarizes utilization of ambulatory care in the following categories:

- Outpatient Visits including telehealth.
- ED Visits.

Calculations

Note: *Members in hospice are excluded from this measure. Refer to General Guideline 17: Members in Hospice.*

Product lines	<p>Report the following tables for each applicable product line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table AMB-1a Total Medicaid. • Table AMB-1b Medicaid/Medicare Dual-Eligibles. • Table AMB-1c Medicaid—Disabled. • Table AMB-1d Medicaid—Other Low Income. • Table AMB-2 Commercial—by Product or Combined HMO/POS. • Table AMB-3 Medicare.
Member months	<p>For each product line and table, report all member months for the measurement year. IDSS automatically produces member years data for the commercial and Medicare product lines. Refer to <i>Specific Instructions for Utilization Tables</i> for more information.</p>
Counting multiple services	<p><i>For combinations of multiple ambulatory services falling in different categories on the same day, report each service that meets the criteria in the appropriate category.</i></p>
Outpatient visits including telehealth	<p>Identify outpatient visits using any of the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outpatient visits (<u>Ambulatory Outpatient Visits Value Set</u>), with or without a telehealth modifier (<u>Telehealth Modifier Value Set</u>). • Telephone visits (<u>Telephone Visits Value Set</u>). • Online assessments (<u>Online Assessments Value Set</u>). <p>Count multiple codes with the same practitioner on the same date of service as a single visit. Count visits with different practitioners separately (count visits with different providers on the same date of service as different visits).</p> <p>Report services without regard to practitioner type, training or licensing.</p>
ED visits	<p>Count each visit to an ED once, regardless of the intensity or duration of the visit. Count multiple ED visits on the same date of service as one visit. Identify ED visits using either of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ED visit (ED Value Set). • A procedure code (ED Procedure Code Value Set) with an ED place of service code (ED POS Value Set). <p>Do not include ED visits that result in an inpatient stay (Inpatient Stay Value Set).</p>

Exclusions (required)

The measure does not include mental health or chemical dependency services. Exclude visits for mental health or chemical dependency. Any of the following meet criteria:

- A principal diagnosis of mental health or chemical dependency (Mental and Behavioral Disorders Value Set).
- Psychiatry (Psychiatry Value Set).
- Electroconvulsive therapy (Electroconvulsive Therapy Value Set).

Note

- *This measure provides a reasonable proxy for professional ambulatory encounters. It is neither a strict accounting of all ambulatory resources nor an effort to be all-inclusive.*

Table AMB-1: Ambulatory Care

Age	Member Months
<1	_____
1-9	_____
10-19	_____
20-44	_____
45-64	_____
65-74	_____
75-84	_____
85+	_____
Unknown	_____
Total	_____

Age	OUTPATIENT VISITS		ED VISITS	
	Visits	Visits/1,000 Member Months	Visits	Visits/1,000 Member Months
<1	_____	_____	_____	_____
1-9	_____	_____	_____	_____
10-19	_____	_____	_____	_____
20-44	_____	_____	_____	_____
45-64	_____	_____	_____	_____
65-74	_____	_____	_____	_____
75-84	_____	_____	_____	_____
85+	_____	_____	_____	_____
Unknown	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total	_____	_____	_____	_____

Table AMB-2/3: Ambulatory Care

Age	Member Months
<1	_____
1-9	_____
10-19	_____
20-44	_____
45-64	_____
65-74	_____
75-84	_____
85+	_____
Unknown	_____
Total	_____

Age	OUTPATIENT VISITS		ED VISITS	
	Visits	Visits/1,000 Member Years	Visits	Visits/1,000 Member Years
<1	_____	_____	_____	_____
1-9	_____	_____	_____	_____
10-19	_____	_____	_____	_____
20-44	_____	_____	_____	_____
45-64	_____	_____	_____	_____
65-74	_____	_____	_____	_____
75-84	_____	_____	_____	_____
85+	_____	_____	_____	_____
Unknown	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total	_____	_____	_____	_____

Inpatient Utilization—General Hospital/Acute Care (IPU)

PROPOSED RETIREMENT FOR HEDIS® 2020

Description

This measure summarizes utilization of acute inpatient care and services in the following categories:

- Maternity.
- Surgery.
- Medicine.
- Total inpatient (the sum of Maternity, Surgery and Medicine).

Calculations

Note: *Members in hospice are excluded from this measure. Refer to General Guideline 17: Members in Hospice.*

Product lines Report the following tables for each applicable product line:

- Table IPU-1a Total Medicaid.
- Table IPU-1b Medicaid/Medicare Dual-Eligibles.
- Table IPU-1c Medicaid—Disabled.
- Table IPU-1d Medicaid—Other Low Income.
- Table IPU-2 Commercial—by Product or Combined HMO/POS.
- Table IPU-3 Medicare.

Member months For each product line and table, report all member months for the measurement year. IDSS automatically produces member years data for the commercial and Medicare product lines. Refer to *Specific Instructions for Utilization Tables* for more information.

Maternity rates are reported per 1,000 male and per 1,000 female total member months for members 10–64 years in order to capture deliveries as a percentage of the total inpatient discharges.

Days Count all days associated with the identified discharges. Report days for total inpatient, maternity, surgery and medicine.

ALOS Refer to *Specific Instructions for Utilization Tables* for the formula. Calculate average length of stay for total inpatient, maternity, surgery and medicine.

Use the following steps to identify and categorize inpatient discharges.

Step 1 Identify all acute inpatient discharges on or between January 1 and December 31 of the measurement year. To identify acute inpatient discharges:

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.

Step 2 Exclude discharges with a principal diagnosis of mental health or chemical dependency (Mental and Behavioral Disorders Value Set).

Exclude newborn care rendered from birth to discharge home from delivery (only include care rendered during subsequent rehospitalizations after the delivery discharge). Identify newborn care by a principal diagnosis of live-born infant (Deliveries Infant Record Value Set). Organizations must develop methods to differentiate between the mother's claim and the newborn's claim, if needed.

Step 3 Report total inpatient, using all discharges identified after completing steps 1 and 2.

Step 4 Report maternity. A delivery is not required for inclusion in the *Maternity* category; any maternity-related stay is included. Include birthing center deliveries and count them as one day of stay.

Starting with all discharges identified in step 3, identify maternity using either of the following:

- A maternity-related principal diagnosis (Maternity Diagnosis Value Set).
- A maternity-related stay (Maternity Value Set).

Step 5 Report surgery. From discharges remaining after removing maternity (identified in step 4) from total inpatient (identified in step 3), identify surgery (Surgery Value Set).

Step 6 Report medicine. Categorize as medicine the discharges remaining after removing maternity (identified in step 4) and surgery (identified in step 5) from total inpatient (identified in step 3).

Table IPU-1: Inpatient Utilization—General Hospital/Acute Care

Age	Member Months
<1	_____
1-9	_____
10-19	_____
20-44	_____
45-64	_____
65-74	_____
75-84	_____
85+	_____
Unknown	_____
Total	_____

Age	Discharges	Discharges/1,000 Member Months	Days	Days/1,000 Member Months	Average Length of Stay
Total Inpatient					
<1	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
1-9	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
10-19	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
20-44	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
45-64	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
65-74	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
75-84	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
85+	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Unknown	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Maternity*					
10-19	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
20-44	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
45-64	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Unknown	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Surgery					
<1	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
1-9	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
10-19	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
20-44	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
45-64	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
65-74	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
75-84	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
85+	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Unknown	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

*The *Maternity* category is calculated using member months for members 10–64 years.

Age	Discharges	Discharges/1,000 Member Months	Days	Days/1,000 Member Months	Average Length of Stay
Medicine					
<1	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
1-9	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
10-19	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
20-44	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
45-64	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
65-74	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
75-84	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
85+	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Unknown	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Table IPU-2/3: Inpatient Utilization—General Hospital/Acute Care

Age	Member Months
<1	_____
1-9	_____
10-19	_____
20-44	_____
45-64	_____
65-74	_____
75-84	_____
85+	_____
Unknown	_____
Total	_____

Age	Discharges	Discharges/1,000 Member Years	Days	Days/1,000 Member Years	Average Length of Stay
Total Inpatient					
<1	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
1-9	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
10-19	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
20-44	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
45-64	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
65-74	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
75-84	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
85+	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Unknown	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Age	Discharges	Discharges/ 1,000 Member Years	Days	Days/ 1,000 Member Years	Average Length of Stay
Maternity*					
10-19	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
20-44	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
45-64	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Unknown	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Surgery					
<1	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
1-9	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
10-19	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
20-44	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
45-64	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
65-74	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
75-84	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
85+	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Unknown	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Medicine					
<1	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
1-9	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
10-19	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
20-44	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
45-64	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
65-74	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
75-84	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
85+	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Unknown	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

*The *Maternity* category is calculated using member months for members 10–64 years.