

NCQA Corrections, Clarifications and Policy Changes to the 2022 HE Plus Standards and Guidelines

November 14, 2022

This document includes the corrections, clarifications and policy changes to the 2022 Health Equity (HE) Plus standards and guidelines. NCQA has identified the appropriate page number in the printed publication and the standard and head—subhead for each update. Updates have been incorporated into the Interactive Review Tool (IRT). NCQA operational definitions for correction, clarification and policy changes are as follows:

- A **correction (CO)** is a change made to rectify an error in the standards and guidelines.
- A **clarification (CL)** is additional information that explains an existing requirement.
- A **policy change (PC)** is a modification of an existing requirement.

An organization undergoing a survey under the 2022 HE Plus Standards and guidelines must implement corrections and policy changes within 90 calendar days of the IRT release date, unless otherwise specified. The 90-calendar-day advance notice does not apply to clarifications or FAQs, because they are not changes to existing requirements.

Page	Standard/Element	Head/Subhead	Update	Type of Update	IRT Release Date
9	HE Plus 1, Element B	Scope of review	<p>Revise the scope of review to read:</p> <p><i>For All Surveys:</i> NCQA reviews:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organization's documented process in place throughout the look-back period for acquiring data on the social risks of the communities identified in Element A. • Reports or materials (e.g., screenshots) demonstrating the data sources. • Evidence that at least one data source allows stratification by at least one demographic characteristic/identity. <p><i>For factor 3:</i> NCQA reviews materials as evidence that the data source is endorsed by at least one partner.</p> <p>The organization may submit either multiple documents or one document that collectively demonstrates acquisition from all sources. The organization submits evidence for all communities identified in Element A for each factor. The organization specifies which communities identified in Element A are covered by each factor.</p>	PC	11/14/22
14	HE Plus 1, Element D	Scope of review	<p>Revise the scope of review to read:</p> <p><i>For All Surveys:</i> NCQA reviews the organization's reports from up to four randomly selected communities, or from all communities if the organization's service area has fewer than four, that demonstrates identification of social risks.</p> <p>The score for the element is the average of the scores for all communities.</p>	PC	11/14/22

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Page	Standard/Element	Head/Subhead	Update	Type of Update	IRT Release Date
16	HE Plus 1, Element E	Scope of review	<p>Revise the scope of review to read:</p> <p><i>For Initial Surveys:</i> NCQA reviews the organization's most recent reports from up to four randomly selected communities, or from all communities if the organization's service area has fewer than four, that demonstrates identification of social needs and assessment of similarities and differences. The organization may provide a single report or distinct reports for factors 1 and 2.</p> <p><i>For Renewal Surveys:</i> NCQA reviews the organization's most recent reports from up to four randomly selected communities, or from all communities if the organization's service area has fewer than four, that demonstrates identification of social needs and assessment of similarities and differences. The organization may provide a single report or distinct reports for factors 1 and 2.</p> <p>The score for the element is the average of the scores for all communities.</p>	PC	11/14/22
1-3	Appendix 1— Element Points for 2022	Health Equity Accreditation Plus table	Revise the "Partially Met" scoring option to 0.5 for HE Plus 4, Element E.	CO	11/14/22