

FEHB [X] PSHB [X]

Letter Number 2024-16

Date: July 18, 2024

Fee-for-service [14]

Experience-rated HMO [14]

Community-rated HMO [13]

**Subject: Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB)
Plan Performance Assessment 2026 Clinical
Quality, Customer Service, and Resource Use (QCR)
Measure Set**

This Carrier Letter announces the 2026 Clinical Quality, Customer Service, and Resource Use (QCR) Measure Set that will be scored as part of the 2026 Plan Performance Assessment (PPA). Attachment 1 is a chart displaying the complete QCR Measure Set.

Changes from previous years' QCR Measure Set are enumerated below:

- 1. Antidepressant Medication Management (AMM):** The National Committee of Quality Assurance (NCQA) has announced the retirement of AMM in Measurement Year 2025. NCQA's Measurement Year designation always precedes the year in which data is reported to NCQA and scored under the FEHB Plan Performance Assessment. Therefore, AMM will be retired from the 2026 QCR Measure Set in conformance with NCQA's announcement.
- 2. Use of Imaging Studies for Low Back Pain: Total (LBP):** The total rate will replace the 18–64 age band. The measure weight will remain 2.5 with a measure priority level of 1.

Technical clarifications are enumerated below:

1. Glycemic Status Assessment for Patients With Diabetes (GSD):

In Measurement Year 2022 NCQA changed the measure title for Comprehensive Diabetes Care (CDC) to Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) Control for Patients With Diabetes (HBD). For Measurement Year 2025 NCQA has announced another change to the measure title from HBD to Glycemic Status Assessment for Patients With Diabetes (GSD). NCQA's Measurement Year always precedes the year in which measurement data is reported and scored under OPM's annual PPA. The measure rate scored by OPM under CDC and HBD, titled HbA1c Control (<8.0%) has been relabeled by NCQA as Glycemic Status <8.0%. OPM will continue to score this rate with the same measure priority and weight.

2. Breast Cancer Screening (BCS-E): NCQA has announced it will add an additional 40–49 years age band to the Breast Cancer Screening (BCS-E) measure for Measurement Year 2025; however, for Measurement Year 2025 OPM will continue to collect and score the 50–74 years age band. NCQA's Measurement Year always precedes the year in which measurement data is reported and scored under OPM's annual PPA. OPM is also monitoring the recent USPSTF recommendation for all women to be screened for breast cancer beginning at age 40 and will provide future guidance on this topic.

3. Adult Immunization Status–Influenza: 19–65 Years (AIS-E): For Measurement Year 2025, NCQA is proposing to change the 19–65 years age band to 19–64. NCQA's Measurement Year always precedes the year in which measurement data is reported and scored under OPM's annual PPA. If this change occurs, for Measurement Year 2025 OPM will collect and score the 19–64 years age band.

Please consult Attachment 1 for a complete list of the 2026 QCR Measure Set.

If you have questions on this Carrier Letter, other aspects of the FEHB PPA, or wish to suggest additional performance measures for OPM to consider utilizing the PPA, please contact FEHBPerformance@opm.gov and copy your Contract Officer and Health Insurance Specialist (Contracts).

Sincerely,

Laurie B. Bodenheimer
Associate Director
Healthcare and Insurance