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DATE: December 30, 2024

SUBJECT: Statewide Quality Reporting and Measurement System Technical Update—2025 Reporting Year

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has updated the Minnesota Statewide Quality Reporting and Measurement System (SQRMS), a system for physician clinic and hospital quality measurement. MDH continuously works with providers, measurement organizations, and other stakeholders to create an evolving set of standard health care quality measures that are rooted in evidence and informed by national discussions on measurement progress. MDH publishes changes to the measurement set annually.

Without changing any part of Minnesota Rules, chapter 4654, MDH needed only to update measure specifications to maintain alignment with state and federal programs. Accordingly, and to ease administrative burdens, MDH is not promulgating a rule for the 2025 reporting year. In its place, MDH is issuing technical guidance about the updates.¹

A list of SQRMS measures, measure specifications, and other information is available online at the [Quality Measures, 2025 Report Year webpage](https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/hcquality/measures/index.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/hcquality/measures/index.html>).

Supplemental information

Physician clinic registration and reporting

Minnesota physician clinics largely meet the statutory requirement of reporting on quality of care by submitting necessary data to MN Community Measurement (MNCM).² Traditionally, MNCM has received provider submissions for SQRMS measures through a direct data submission (DDS) portal. Starting with 2025, MNCM will only accept data submissions through their new Process Intelligence Performance Engine (PIPE) system. Physician clinics and medical groups are still required to register annually for SQRMS and can continue to do so through

¹Quality Rule Appendices A, B, and E indicate that quality measures are required for reporting in 2018 and every year thereafter.

² MNCM is the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) data collection vendor for the Statewide Quality Reporting and Measurement System (SQRMS)

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MNCM without onboarding to PIPE. Clinics and medical groups that are unable to submit data to MNMCM, can contact MDH for additional options at health.sqrms@state.mn.us or consult information on the Quality Measures page.

In addition, MNMCM began collecting social risk factor data elements from physician clinics in 2024. MDH acknowledges the importance of health equity and although they are not required, MDH encourages physician clinics report these data elements in 2025.

Future measure considerations

To maintain alignment with changes made by the Federal Office of Rural Health (FORHP) to the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP), MDH will consider adding the following critical access hospital measures for 2026 reporting:

- Hospital Commitment to Health Equity (HCHE)
- Hybrid All-Cause Readmissions
- Screening for Social Drivers of Health (SDOH-1)
- Screen Positive Rate for Social Drivers of Health (SDOH-2)

MDH will seek public comment on these and other considerations in the summer of 2025. More details will be provided in advance.

Measurement Framework

MDH continues to pilot test a new measurement framework—the Measurement Framework for Health and Equity Measurement and Improvement—with partners. This framework, developed from 2018-2020, offers a meaningful way to measure and improve health and equity through partnership, accountability, action, and learning. Among other things, the framework seeks to spur action by examining clinical care measures within a broader context of upstream factors that influence the public's health. MDH expects the pilot to conclude in 2026 and its results to inform future statewide framework implementation and SQRMS updates, as well as the general approach to assessing and reporting on clinical care quality. See [Measurement Framework](https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/hcquality/measfrmwk.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/hcquality/measfrmwk.html>) for more information.

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