



# PROGRAM ASSISTANCE LETTER

**DOCUMENT NUMBER:** 2010-12

**DATE:** August 30, 2010

**DOCUMENT TITLE:** Proposed Uniform Data System Changes to Clinical Measures for Calendar Year 2011

**TO:** Health Center Program Grantees  
Primary Care Associations  
Primary Care Offices  
National Cooperative Agreements

## **I. BACKGROUND**

This Program Assistance Letter (PAL) provides information on the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) proposed changes to the calendar year (CY) 2011 Uniform Data System (UDS) clinical measures to be reported by Health Center Program grantees in early 2012. These changes were among those announced in the Federal Register Notice (FRN) on July 9, 2010, wherein approval is sought for UDS data collection for the next three years. The proposed changes to the UDS clinical measures are described in greater detail in this PAL. Although the 60 day comment period for this FRN ends September 9, 2010, you are invited to submit comments either directly to HRSA, as a response to the current 60 day notice or to the 30 day notice that is expected to be published by October.

## **II. PROPOSED NEW AND REVISED MEASURES FOR CY 2011 UDS REPORTING**

Four new clinical measures are proposed for the CY 2011 UDS. In addition, HRSA is proposing revisions to two current clinical measures for diabetes and childhood immunizations. Reporting on the four other UDS clinical measures (prenatal access to care, low birth weight babies, Pap tests for adult women, and blood pressure control – hypertension) will continue as currently prescribed.

*Proposed New Measures:*

### **1. Weight Assessment and Counseling for Children and Adolescents:**

Percentage of patients age 2 to 17 years who had a visit during the current year and who had Body Mass Index (BMI) Percentile documentation, counseling for nutrition, and counseling for physical activity during the measurement year.

2. **Adult Weight Screening and Follow-up:** Percentage of patients age 18 years or older who had their Body Mass Index (BMI) calculated at the last visit or within the last six months and, if they were overweight or underweight, had a follow-up plan documented.
3. **Tobacco Use Assessment and Counseling.**
  - a. **Tobacco use Assessment:** Percentage of patients age 18 years and older who were queried about tobacco use one or more times within 24 months.
  - b. **Tobacco Cessation Counseling:** Percentage of patients age 18 years and older who are users of tobacco and who had a visit during the current year who received (charted) advice to quit smoking or tobacco use.
4. **Asthma – Pharmacological therapy:** Percentage of patients age 5 to 40 years with a diagnosis of persistent asthma (either mild, moderate, or severe) who were prescribed either the preferred long term control medication (inhaled corticosteroid) or an acceptable alternative pharmacological therapy (leukotrene modifiers, cromolyn sodium, nedocromil sodium, or sustained released methylxanthines) during the current year.

*Proposed Revised Measures:*

1. **Diabetes HbA1c Control:** Proposed to include HbA1c levels < 8 percent in addition to readings less than or equal to 7 percent and > 9 percent.
2. **Childhood Immunizations 2 years:** Proposed to add two Hepatitis A shots, two or three Rotavirus shots and two influenza shots; and to reduce the number of H influenza type B shots from 3 to 2. (HRSA continues to recommend that the required three shots be given if the HiB vaccine is used.)

### **III. RATIONALE**

The proposed new and revised clinical measures were selected because they are highly relevant to patients served by health centers (adult weight screening and follow up, weight assessment and counseling for children and adolescents, tobacco use assessment and counseling, asthma pharmacologic therapy, diabetes HbA1c control, childhood immunizations).

All of the proposed new and revised measures are aligned with the Department's meaningful use measures that eligible providers will report on starting in 2011. (These measures are described in the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Final Rule dated July 28, 2010).

- Two of the measures (adult weight screening and follow up, tobacco use assessment and counseling) are included in the three core meaningful use measures that all eligible providers are required to report.

- Two of the measures (weight assessment and counseling for children and adolescents, childhood immunizations) are included in the three alternate core meaningful use measures.
- The remaining two measures are among the other 38 meaningful use measures from which eligible providers must select three to report.

Two other current measures are also meaningful use measures - Pap tests for adult women and blood pressure control-hypertension. The remaining two measures, prenatal access to care and low birth weight babies, are in the core set of measures for use in implementing the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA).

**IV. DETAILED INFORMATION ON PROPOSED NEW MEASURES FOR CY 2011 UDS REPORTING**

The table below shows the numerators and denominators for the proposed new and revised clinical measures for the CY 2011 UDS. The specifications for each of these measures are available at

[http://www.cms.gov/QualityMeasures/03\\_ElectronicSpecifications.asp](http://www.cms.gov/QualityMeasures/03_ElectronicSpecifications.asp)

<b>PROPOSED NEW AND REVISED CLINICAL MEASURES FOR CY 2011 UDS REPORTING</b>			
<b>Performance Measure</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Numerator</b>	<b>Denominator</b>
<b>Weight Assessment and Counseling for Children and Adolescents</b>	Percentage of patients age 2 to 17 years who had a visit during the current year and who had Body Mass Index (BMI) percentile documentation, counseling for nutrition, and counseling for physical activity during the measurement year.	Patients in the denominator with Body Mass Index (BMI) percentile documentation, counseling for nutrition, and counseling for physical activity during the measurement year.	All patients age 2 to 17 years on December 31 of the measurement year.
<b>Adult Weight Screening and Follow Up</b>	Percentage of all patients age 18 years or older who had their BMI calculated at the last visit or within the last six months <b>and</b> , if they were overweight or underweight, had a follow-up plan documented.	Patients in the denominator with (1) BMI charted and (2) a follow up plan documented if patients are overweight or underweight.	All patients age 18 years and over on December 31 of the measurement year.
<b>Tobacco Pair: Assessment</b>	Percentage of tobacco users age 18 years or older who were queried about tobacco use in the measurement year or year prior.	Patients in the denominator who have been queried about tobacco use in the measurement year or year prior.	All patients age 18 years and over on December 31 of the measurement year.
<b>Tobacco Pair: Cessation</b>	Percentage of patients 18 years or older and	Patients who received advice to quit smoking or	All patients aged 18 years and older with diagnosed tobacco

<b>Counseling</b>	are smokers or tobacco users who received advice to quit smoking.	tobacco use.	dependence.
<b>Asthma: Pharmacologic therapy</b>	Percentage of patients age 5 to 40 years with a diagnosis of persistent asthma (mild, moderate, or severe) who were prescribed either the preferred long term control medication (inhaled corticosteroid) or an acceptable alternative pharmacological therapy (leukotrene modifiers, cromolyn sodium, nedocromil sodium, or sustained released methylxanthines) during the current year.	Patients in the denominator who were prescribed either the preferred long-term control medication (inhaled corticosteroid) or an acceptable alternative pharmacologic therapy (leukotrene modifiers, cromolyn sodium, nedocromil sodium, or sustained released methylxanthines) during the current year.	All patients age 5 to 40 years with a diagnosis of persistent asthma (mild, moderate, or severe).
<b>Diabetes HbA1c control</b>	Percentage diabetic patients whose HbA1c levels are less than or equal to 7% and <8%; ≥8% and ≤9%; and >9%.	Number adult patients age 18 to 75 years with a diagnosis of Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes whose most recent HbA1c level during the measurement year is ≤7 % and <8%, among those patients included in the denominator (also for ≥8% and ≤9%; and >9%).	Number of adult patients age 18 to 75 years as of December 31 of the measurement year with a diagnosis of Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, who have had a visit at least twice during the reporting year and do not meet any of the exclusion criteria.
<b>Childhood immunizations 2 years</b>	Percentage of children with 2nd birthday during the measurement year with appropriate immunizations.	Number of children who received all of the following: 4 DTP/DTaP, 3 IPV, 1 MMR, 2 Hib, 3 HepB, 1VZV (Varicella) and 4 Pneumococcal conjugate, 2 HepA, 2 or 3 RV, and 2 influenza vaccines prior to or on their 2nd birthday whose second birthday occurred during the measurement year, among those children included in the denominator.	Number of children with at least one medical visit during the reporting period, who had their second birthday during the reporting period, who did not have a contraindication for a specific vaccine.

Proposed changes to UDS Tables 6B and 7 for CY 2011 reporting of the clinical measures are shown in the attachment.

**V. CONTACTS**

If you have any questions regarding the proposed changes to the 2011 UDS, please contact the Office of Quality and Data at [OQDComments@hrsa.gov](mailto:OQDComments@hrsa.gov) or 301-594-0818.

Sincerely,

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James Macrae  
Associate Administrator for Primary Care

Attachment

**DRAFT FOR CY 2011 UDS  
TABLE 6B – QUALITY OF CARE INDICATORS**

(NO PRENATAL CARE PROVIDED? CHECK HERE: <input type="checkbox"/> )				
<b>SECTION A: AGE CATEGORIES FOR PRENATAL PATIENTS (GRANTEES WHO PROVIDE PRENATAL CARE ONLY)</b>				
<b>DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF PRENATAL CARE PATIENTS</b>				
AGE		NUMBER OF PATIENTS (a)		
1	LESS THAN 15 YEARS			
2	AGES 15-19			
3	AGES 20-24			
4	AGES 25-44			
5	AGES 45 AND OVER			
6	TOTAL PATIENTS (SUM LINES 1 – 5)			
<b>SECTION B – TRIMESTER OF ENTRY INTO PRENATAL CARE</b>				
TRIMESTER OF FIRST KNOWN VISIT FOR WOMEN RECEIVING PRENATAL CARE DURING REPORTING YEAR		Women Having First Visit with Grantee (a)	Women Having First Visit with Another Provider (b)	
7	First Trimester			
8	Second Trimester			
9	Third Trimester			
<b>SECTION C – CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION</b>				
CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION		TOTAL NUMBER PATIENTS WITH 2 <sup>ND</sup> BIRTHDAY DURING MEASUREMENT YEAR (a)	NUMBER CHARTS SAMPLED OR EHR TOTAL (b)	NUMBER OF PATIENTS IMMUNIZED (c)
10	Children who have received age appropriate vaccines who had their 2 <sup>nd</sup> birthday during measurement year (on or prior to 31 December)			
<b>SECTION D – CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING</b>				
PAP TESTS		TOTAL NUMBER OF FEMALE PATIENTS 24-64 YEARS OF AGE (a)	NUMBER CHARTS SAMPLED OR EHR TOTAL (b)	NUMBER OF PATIENTS TESTED (c)
11	Female patients aged 24-64 who received one or more Pap tests to screen for cervical cancer			
<b>SECTION E – WEIGHT ASSESSMENT AND COUNSELING FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS</b>				
ASSESSMENT AND COUNSELING		TOTAL PATIENTS AGED 2 – 17 ON DECEMBER 31 (a)	CHARTS SAMPLED OR EHR TOTAL (b)	NUMBER OF PATIENTS WITH AND COUNSELING AND BMI DOCUMENTED (c)
12	Children and adolescents aged 2 - 17 with a BMI percentile, <b><i>and</i></b> counseling on nutrition and physical activity documented for			

	the current year			
SECTION F – ADULT WEIGHT SCREENING AND FOLLOW-UP				
	SCREENING AND FOLLOW-UP	TOTAL PATIENTS 18 AND OVER (a)	CHARTS SAMPLED OR EHR TOTAL (b)	NUMBER OF PATIENTS WITH BMI CHARTED AND APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-UP PLAN DOCUMENTED (c)
13	Patients aged 18 and over with (1) BMI charted <b>and</b> (2) follow-up plan documented <b>if</b> patients are overweight or underweight			
SECTION G – TOBACCO USE ASSESSMENT AND CESSATION ADVICE				
	TOBACCO ASSESSMENT AND COUNSELING	TOTAL PATIENTS 18 AND OVER (a)	CHARTS SAMPLED OR EHR TOTAL (b)	NUMBER OF PATIENTS ASSESSED FOR TOBACCO USE (c)
14	Patients queried about tobacco use one or more times in the measurement year or prior year			
	TOBACCO CESSATION ADVICE	TOTAL PATIENTS WITH DIAGNOSED TOBACCO DEPENDENCE (a)	CHARTS SAMPLED OR EHR TOTAL (b)	NUMBER OF PATIENTS ADVISED TO QUIT (c)
15	Tobacco users aged 18 and above who have been advised to quit			
SECTION H – ASTHMA PHARMACOLOGICAL THERAPY				
	ASTHMA TREATMENT PLAN	TOTAL ASTHMATIC PATIENTS AGED 5 - 40 (a)	CHARTS SAMPLED OR EHR TOTAL (b)	NUMBER OF PATIENTS WITH ACCEPTABLE PLAN (c)
16	Patients aged 5 through 40 diagnosed with asthma who have an acceptable pharmacological treatment plan			

	Hispanic/Latino (1)								Non - Hispanic/Latino (2)							Unreported / Refused to Report Race and Identity (h)	Total (i)
	Asian (a)	Native Hawaiian (b1)	Pacific Islander (b2)	Black/African American (c)	American Indian / Alaska Native (d)	White (e)	More than one race (f)	Race Unreported / Refused to Report (g)	Asian (a)	Native Hawaiian (b1)	Pacific Islander (b2)	Black/African American (c)	American Indian / Alaska Native (d)	White (e)	More than one race (f)		
HIV Positive Pregnant Women	<<report total only>> ----->																
(NO PRENATAL CARE PROVIDED? CHECK HERE: <input type="checkbox"/> )																	
<b>SECTION A: DELIVERIES AND BIRTH WEIGHT BY RACE AND HISPANIC/LATINO IDENTITY</b>																	
1	Prenatal care patients who delivered during the year																
2	Deliveries performed by Grantee Provider	<<report total only>> ----->															
3	Live Births < 1500 grams																
4	Live Births 1500 – 2499 grams																
5	Live Births ≥ 2500 grams																

	Hispanic/Latino (1)							Non - Hispanic/Latino (2)							Unreported / Refused to Report Race and Identity (h)	Total (i)	
	Asian (a)	Native Hawaiian (b1)	Pacific Islander (b2)	Black/African American (c)	American Indian / Alaska Native (d)	White (e)	More than one race (f)	Race Unreported / Refused to Report (g)	Asian (a)	Native Hawaiian (b1)	Pacific Islander (b2)	Black/African American (c)	American Indian / Alaska Native (d)	White (e)			More than one race (f)
<b>SECTION B: HYPERTENSION BY RACE AND HISPANIC/LATINO IDENTITY</b>																	
Patients 18 to 85 diagnosed with hypertension whose last blood pressure was less than 140 / 90																	
6	Total hypertensive patients																
7	Charts sampled / EHR total																
8	Patients with HTN controlled																
<b>SECTION C: DIABETES BY RACE AND HISPANIC/LATINO IDENTITY</b>																	
Patients 18 to 75 diagnosed with Type I or Type II diabetes: Most recent test results																	
9	Total diabetic patients																
10	Charts sampled / EHR total																
11	Patients with HBA1c < 7%																
12a	Patients with HBA1c >= 7% and < 8%																
12b	Patients with HBA1c >= 8% and <= 9%																
13	Patients with HBA1c > 9% OR No test during year																