

Comprehensive Diabetes Care (CDC) – HbA1c poor control (> 9.0 %)

Clinical Rationale

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) advises: “Diabetes is a complex group of diseases marked by high blood glucose (blood sugar) due to the body’s inability to make or use insulin. Left unmanaged, diabetes can lead to serious complications, including heart disease, stroke, hypertension, blindness, kidney disease, diseases of the nervous system, amputations and premature death.” Proper diabetes management is essential to control blood glucose, reduce risks for complications and prolong life. With support from healthcare providers, patients can manage their diabetes with self-care, taking medications as instructed, eating a healthy diet, being physically active and quitting smoking.”¹

This is an inverse measure where a lower calculated performance rate indicates better clinical care or performance. With inverse measures, higher quality has a performance rate closer to 0%, while a score of 100% represents very poor quality.

According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Health Resources & Services Administration, “HbA1c measures blood glucose control in type 1 and type 2 diabetics. For every 1 percent reduction in results of HbA1c blood tests, the risk of developing eye, kidney, and nerve disease is reduced by 40 percent while the risk of heart attack is reduced by 14 percent. Identifying HbA1c values greater than 9 percent among adult patients aged 18 to 75 years allows an organization the opportunity to focus on those patients who are in poor control and at highest risk.”²

References:

*HEDIS CDC: Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set – Comprehensive Diabetes Care. CMS Stars: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services five-star quality rating system. Also see NQF #0059 (National Quality Forum) and QPP #001 (Quality Payment Program).

1. “Comprehensive Diabetes Care (CDC),” The National Committee for Quality Assurance, last accessed July 26, 2023, <https://www.ncqa.org/hedis/measures/comprehensive-diabetes-care/>.
2. “Health and Economic Benefits of Diabetes Interventions,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, last accessed July 26, 2023, <https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/programs-impact/pop/diabetes.htm#>.

Measure At A Glance



Applicable Specialties

Endocrinology



Measure Steward

National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)



Measure Identifiers

HEDIS® CDC*,
CMS Stars*, NQF 0059*,
QPP 001*



Measure Description

Patient(s) 18-75 years of age with evidence of poor diabetic control, defined as the most recent HbA1c result value greater than 9 percent