

**\*\*Please read the DQA Measures User Guide prior to implementing this measure.\*\***

## DQA Measure Specifications: Administrative Claims-Based Measures

### Prevention: Topical Fluoride for Adults at Elevated Caries Risk

**Description:** Percentage of adults aged 18 years and older who are at “elevated” risk (i.e., “moderate” or “high”) who received at least 2 topical fluoride applications within the reporting year

**Numerator:** Unduplicated number of adults at “elevated” risk (i.e., “moderate” or “high”) who received at least 2 topical fluoride applications

**Denominator:** Unduplicated number of adults at “elevated” risk (i.e., “moderate” or “high”)

**Rate:** NUM/DEN

**Rationale:** In the United States, 91% of adults aged 20–64 years and 96% of adults aged 65 years and older had dental caries in their permanent teeth in 2011–2012.(1) American Dental Association evidence-based guidelines suggest that professionally applied fluoride varnish every three to four months is effective in preventing caries in adults at elevated risk for dental caries.(2) Studies published following publication of this systematic review further support this preventive approach.(3-4)

- 1) Dye BA, Thornton-Evans G, Li X, Iafolla TJ. Dental caries and tooth loss in adults in the United States, 2011– 2012. NCHS data brief, no. 197. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2015.
- 2) Weyant RJ, Tracy SL, Anselmo TT, Beltrán-Aguilar ED, et al; American Dental Association Council on Scientific Affairs Expert Panel on Topical Fluoride Caries Preventive Agents. Topical fluoride for caries prevention: executive summary of the updated clinical recommendations and supporting systematic review. J Am Dent Assoc. 2013 Nov;144(11):1279-91.
- 3) Zero DT, Brennan MT, et al. Clinical practice guidelines for oral management of Sjögren disease: Dental caries prevention. J Am Dent Assoc. 2016 Apr;147(4):295-305. doi: 10.1016/j.adaj.2015.11.008.
- 4) Gibson G, Jurasic MM, et al. Longitudinal outcomes of using a fluoride performance measure for adults at high risk of experiencing caries. J Am Dent Assoc. 2014 May;145(5):443-51. doi: 10.14219/jada.2013.53.

**AHRQ Domain:** PROCESS<sup>1</sup>

**IOM Aim:** Equity, Effectiveness

**Level of Aggregation:** Health Plan/Program

**Improvement Noted As:** A higher score indicates better quality<sup>2</sup>

**Data Required:** Dental administrative enrollment and claims data; single year (prior 3

<sup>1</sup> **Process (Clinical Quality Measure):** “A process of care is a health care-related activity performed for, on behalf of, or by a patient. Process measures are supported by evidence that the clinical process—that is the focus of the measure—has led to improved outcomes.” National Quality Measures Clearinghouse. Measure Domain Definitions. Available at: <https://www.ahrq.gov/gam/summaries/domain-definitions/index.html>. Accessed April 26, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Evidence-based guidelines suggest that at-risk adults benefit from topical fluoride applications applied at least every 3- 6 months.

years needed for risk determination)

**Claims Data:** When using claims data to determine service receipt, include both paid and unpaid claims (including pending, suspended, and denied claims).

**Measure purpose:** Examples of questions that can be answered through this measure at each level of aggregation:

1. What percentage of adults at elevated risk for dental caries receive at least 2 topical fluoride applications during the reporting year?
2. Does the receipt of professionally applied topical fluoride for adults at elevated risk vary by any of the stratification variables?
3. Are there disparities in receipt of professionally applied topical fluoride among different groups based on the stratification variables?
4. Over time, is the percentage of adults who receive at least 2 topical fluoride applications stable, increasing or decreasing?

### Applicable Stratification Variables

1. Age: 18-20, 21-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75-84, 85 and above
2. Geographic Location (e.g., rural; suburban; urban)
3. Race/Ethnicity
4. Socioeconomic Status (e.g., premium or income category)

### Measure Limitations:

- This measure assumes that all modes of topical fluoride application are equally effective. The measure calls for the documentation of at least two instances (on different dates of service) of any combination of two fluoride specific CDT codes, D1206 and D1208. D1206 refers to professionally applied fluoride varnish and D1208 is any topical application of fluoride including fluoride gels or fluoride foams (excluding fluoride varnish).
- This measure does not take into account alternate home-use fluoride products including supplements.
- Since the “elevated risk” determination requires an evaluation (to record CDT risk code) or a treatment visit (to record a treatment code), adults who are enrolled but do not have a visit in the reporting year or a treatment visit in any of the prior three years will not have sufficient information to be included in the measure. While this is a limitation, the intent of this PROCESS measure is to seek to understand whether adults who can be positively identified as being at elevated risk receive the recommended preventive services.

### Topical Fluoride Calculation for Adults at Elevated Caries Risk

1. Check if the subject meets age criterion at the last day of the reporting year.<sup>3</sup>
  - a. If subject is  $\geq 18$ , then proceed to next step.
  - a. If age criterion is not met or there are missing or invalid field codes (e.g.,

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<sup>3</sup>Medicaid programs exclude those enrollees who do not qualify for dental benefits. The exclusion criterion should be reported along with the number and percentage of members excluded.

date of birth), then STOP processing. This subject does not get counted.

2. Check if subject is continuously enrolled for the reporting year (12 months) with a single gap of no more than 31 days (one month gap for programs that determine eligibility on a monthly basis):<sup>4</sup>
  - a. If subject meets continuous enrollment criterion, then proceed to next step.
  - b. If subject does not meet enrollment criterion, then STOP processing. This subject does not get counted.

### YOU NOW HAVE THE COUNT OF THOSE WHO MEET THE AGE AND ENROLLMENT CRITERIA

3. Check if subject is at “elevated risk”:
  - a. If subject meets ANY of the following criteria, then include in **denominator**:  
(**Note:** BOTH (i) and (ii) should be checked to see if subject satisfies any criteria):

- i. the subject has at least 3 instances of the CDT Codes among those in Table 1 in the reporting year OR the three prior years (“look-back” approach),

**Note 1:** There must be at least 3 instances of CDT codes contained in Table 1. These three instances may occur during the same visit or during separate visits. The three instances may occur in any one or more of: the reporting year and the three prior years. The three instances may all occur in the same year, or they may be spread across the years. The same code can be used to count for more than one instance. This criterion does not require unique dates or service or unique codes.

**Note 2:** The subject does not need to be enrolled in any of the prior three years for the denominator enrollment criteria; this is a “look back” for subjects who do have claims experience in any of the prior three years.

**OR**

- ii. the subject has a visit with a CDT code = (D0602 or D0603) in the reporting year.
- b. If the subject does not meet either of the above criteria for elevated risk, then STOP processing. This subject will not be included in the measure denominator.

### YOU NOW HAVE THE DENOMINATOR: Subjects who are at “elevated risk”

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<sup>4</sup>**Enrollment in “same” plan vs. “any” plan:** At the **state** program level (e.g., Medicaid/ CHIP) a criterion of “**any**” plan applies versus at the **health plan** (e.g., MCO) level a criterion of “**same**” plan applies. The criterion used should be reported with the measure score. While this prevents direct aggregation of results from plan to program, each entity is given due credit for the population it serves. Thus, states with multiple MCOs should not merely “add up” the plan level scores but should calculate the state score from their database to allow inclusion of individuals who may be continuously enrolled but might have switched plans in the interim.

4. Check if subject received **at least 2 fluoride applications** during the reporting year — at least two unique dates of service when topical fluoride was provided. Service provided on each date of service should satisfy the following criterion:
  - a. If [CDT CODE] = D1206 or D1208 then include in **numerator**; STOP processing.
  - b. If not, then service was not provided, STOP processing. This subject is already included in the denominator but will not be included in the numerator.

**NOTE:** No more than one fluoride application can be counted for the same member on the same date of service.

**YOU NOW HAVE NUMERATOR (NUM) COUNT: Subjects at “elevated risk” who received at least two topical fluoride applications during the reporting year**

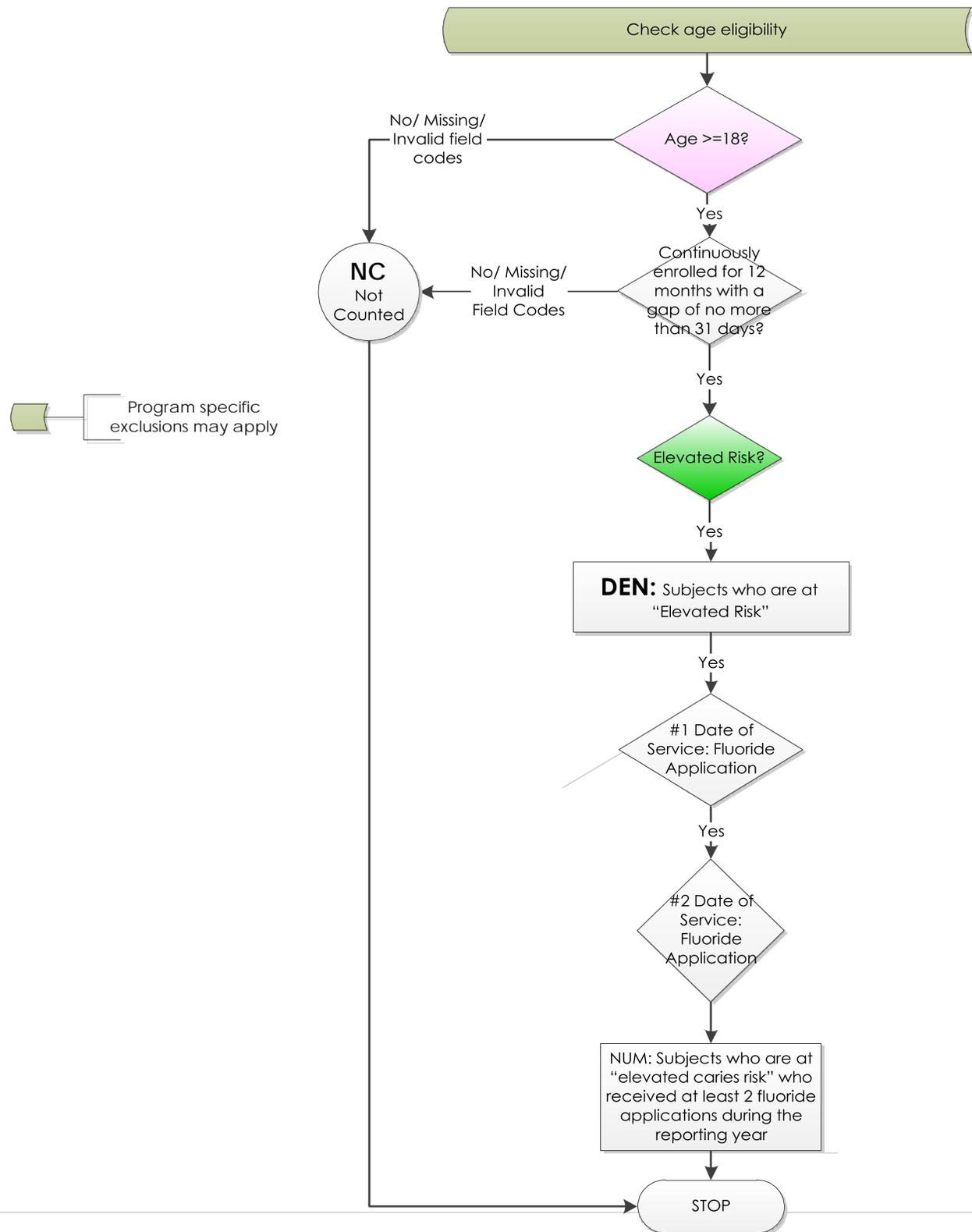
5. Report
  - a. Unduplicated number of subjects in numerator
  - b. Unduplicated number of subjects in denominator
  - c. Measure rate (NUM/DEN)
  - d. Rate stratified by age

**Table 1: CDT Codes to identify “elevated risk” for adults**

D1352	D1354	D2393	D2620	D2712
D2790	D2140	D2394	D2630	D2720
D2791	D2150	D2410	D2642	D2721
D2792	D2160	D2420	D2643	D2722
D2794	D2161	D2430	D2644	D2740
D2799	D2330	D2510	D2650	D2750
D2931	D2331	D2520	D2651	D2751
D2932	D2332	D2530	D2652	D2752
D2933	D2335	D2542	D2662	D2753
D2390	D2543	D2663	D2781	D2780
D2391	D2544	D2664	D2782	
D2392	D2610	D2710	D2783	

\*\*\* Note: Reliability of the measure score depends on the quality of the data that are used to calculate the measures. The percentages of missing and invalid data for these data elements must be investigated prior to measurement. Data elements with high rates of missing or invalid data will adversely affect the subsequent counts that are recorded. For example, records with missing or invalid CDT CODE may be excluded from measurement. These records are assumed to not have had a qualifying service. In this case, a low quality data set will result in a measure score that will not be reliable.\*\*\*





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