DQA Measure Technical Specifications: Administrative Claims-Based Measures

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

**Prevention: Sealant Receipt on Permanent 2nd Molars**

**Description:** Percentage of enrolled children, who have ever received sealants on permanent second molar teeth: (1) at least one sealant and (2) all four molars sealed by the 15th birthdate.

**Numerator:** Unduplicated number of enrolled children who ever received sealants on a permanent second molar tooth: (1) at least one sealant and (2) all four molars sealed.

**Denominator:** Unduplicated number of enrolled children with their 15th birthdate in the measurement year.

**Exclusions:** Children who have received treatment (restorations, extractions, endodontic, prosthetic, and other dental treatments) on all four permanent second molar teeth in the 48 months prior to the 15th birthdate.

**Rate:** NUM/DEN (after exclusions)

**Rationale:** Dental caries is the most common chronic disease in children in the United States (1). For 2015–2016, prevalence of total caries (untreated and treated) was 45.8% and untreated caries was 13.0% among youth aged 2–19 years (2). Identifying caries early is important to reverse the disease process, prevent progression of caries, and reduce incidence of future lesions. In 2014, 52% of all children and 60% of poor children (FPL<100%) did not have a dental visit during the year (3). Evidence-based Clinical Recommendations recommend that sealants are effective intervention for reducing the incidence of carious lesions in the occlusal surfaces of primary and permanent molars in children and adolescents (4).


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

**Improvement Noted As:** A higher score indicates better quality.

**Data Required:** Administrative enrollment and claims data; data for reporting year and 4 years prior. When using claims data to determine service receipt, include both paid and unpaid claims (including pending, suspended, and denied claims).

**Measure Limitations due to Limitations of Administrative Data**

1. Claims data cannot identify (a) teeth with active decay, (b) sealants not billed to the program/plan, or (c) treatment (e.g., restorations/extractions) not billed to the program/plan, thus impacting the precision of both the numerator and denominator.

2. Comparisons would be biased if programs being compared have significant differences in enrollment duration resulting in differences in the availability of complete treatment history.
for enrollees, which reduces the ability to consistently identify children to be included in the numerator or excluded from the denominator. However, this is not unique to dental measures.

(3) The 12-month enrollment criterion, with the allowed single gap in coverage, may result in a significantly reduced population that is eligible for inclusion in the denominator in programs with shorter enrollment durations (greater “churn”) and, therefore, may be less representative of the population that is the focus of measurement.

Measure Calculation:

1. Check if the subject meets age criterion:
   a. If child has his/her 15th birthdate during the reporting year, then proceed to next step.
   b. If age criterion is not met or there are missing or invalid field codes (e.g., date of birth), then STOP processing. This subject does not get counted.

2. Check if subject is continuously enrolled for 12 months prior to the child’s 15th birthdate with an allowable single gap in continuous enrollment of no more 45 days (1 month gap for programs/plans that verify enrollment on a monthly basis).
   a. If subject meets continuous enrollment criterion, then proceed to next step.
   b. If subject does not meet enrollment criterion, then STOP processing. This enrollee will not be included in the measure calculation.

YOU NOW HAVE THE INITIAL POPULATION (IP) OF ALL CHILDREN WHO MEET THE AGE AND THE ENROLLMENT CRITERIA

3. EXCLUSION: Check if subject qualifies for an exclusion from the denominator because child has received treatment (restorations, extractions, endodontic, prosthodontic and other dental treatments) on all four permanent second molars in the 48 months prior to the 15th birthdate:

   a. On permanent second molar maxillary left [TOOTH NUMBER=15 using the Universal Numbering System]; check if subject meets any of the criteria:
      i. Subject has PREVENTIVE RESIN RESTORATION CODE [D1352] OR
      ii. Subject has any RESTORATIVE CODE [D2140, D2150, D2160, D2161, D2391, D2392, D2393 or D2394] that includes OCCLUSAL TOOTH SURFACE = [MO or DO or MOD or MODL or MODBL or MOL or DOL or MOB or MODB or DOB or BO or LO] OR
      iii. Subject has any RESTORATIVE CODE [D2410 – D2999]

1 Medicaid/CHIP programs should remove those individuals who do not qualify for dental benefits. The qualifying criteria should be reported.
2 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.
3 All surface combinations including the occlusal surface alone and in combination with other surface codes should be included.
iv. Subject has any ENDODONTIC CODE [D3110-D3999] OR
v. Subject has any EXTRACTION CODE [D7111-D7250] OR
vi. Subject has any PROSTHODONTIC CODE [D6205-D6793]

AND

b. On permanent second molar maxillary right [TOOTH NUMBER=2 using the Universal Numbering System]; check if subject meets any of the criteria:
i. Subject has PREVENTIVE RESIN RESTORATION CODE [D1352] OR
ii. Subject has any RESTORATIVE CODE [D2140, D2150, D2160, D2161, D2391, D2392, D2393 or D2394] that includes OCCLUSAL TOOTH SURFACE = [MO or DO or MOD or MODL or MODBL or MOL or DOL or MOB or MODB or DOB or BO or LO]³ OR
iii. Subject has any RESTORATIVE CODE [D2410 – D2999] OR
iv. Subject has any ENDODONTIC CODE [D3110-D3999] OR
v. Subject has any EXTRACTION CODE [D7111-D7250] OR
vi. Subject has any PROSTHODONTIC CODE [D6205-D6793]

AND

c. On permanent second molar mandibular left [TOOTH NUMBER=18 using the Universal Numbering System]; check if subject meets any of the criteria:
i. Subject has PREVENTIVE RESIN RESTORATION CODE [D1352] OR
ii. Subject has any RESTORATIVE CODE [D2140, D2150, D2160, D2161, D2391, D2392, D2393 or D2394] that includes OCCLUSAL TOOTH SURFACE = [MO or DO or MOD or MODL or MODBL or MOL or DOL or MOB or MODB or DOB or BO or LO]³ OR
iii. Subject has any RESTORATIVE CODE [D2410 – D2999] OR
iv. Subject has any ENDODONTIC CODE [D3110-D3999] OR
v. Subject has any EXTRACTION CODE [D7111-D7250] OR
vi. Subject has any PROSTHODONTIC CODE [D6205-D6793]

AND

d. On permanent second molar mandibular right [TOOTH NUMBER=31 using the Universal Numbering System]; check if subject meets any of the criteria:
i. Subject has PREVENTIVE RESIN RESTORATION CODE [D1352] OR
ii. Subject has any RESTORATIVE CODE [D2140, D2150, D2160, D2161, D2391, D2392, D2393 or D2394] that includes OCCLUSAL TOOTH SURFACE = [MO or DO or MOD or MODL or MODBL or MOL or DOL or MOB or MODB or DOB or BO or LO]³ OR
iii. Subject has any ENDODONTIC CODE [D3110-D3999] OR
iv. Subject has any RESTORATIVE CODE [D2410 – D2999] OR
v. Subject has any EXTRACTION CODE [D7111- D7250] OR
vi. Subject has any PROSTHODONTIC CODE [D6205-D6793]

If ALL permanent second molars were previously treated (a AND b AND c AND d), then the subject *does not* have at least one sealable molar; remove this enrollee from the denominator; STOP processing.

YOU NOW HAVE DENOMINATOR (DEN) FOLLOWING EXCLUSIONS FOR TREATMENT: Enrollees who meet the age and enrollment criteria who have NOT had all permanent second molars previously treated (i.e., have at least one permanent second molar that is a candidate for a sealant)

FOR STEPS 4 – 6 below, for each child in the denominator, look back within claims history in the 12 months prior to the 15th birthday AND for 3 additional prior years (48 months in total). Enrollment in prior years is not necessary. Programs/plans that do not have a 4-year look-back claims history prior to the 15th birthday must include information on the data limitation and the number of available years of claims history.

4. Check if subject ever received a sealant on at least one permanent second molar in the 48 months prior to the 15th birthday:
   a. If [CDT CODE] = D1351 in the 48 months prior to the 15th birthday, AND
   b. If [TOOTH-NUMBER] = 2 OR 15 OR 18 OR 31, using the Universal Numbering System, then include in numerator 1; proceed to next step.
   c. If both a AND b are not met, then STOP processing. This enrollee is already included in the denominator but will not be included in the numerator.

YOU NOW HAVE NUMERATOR (NUM1) COUNT: Enrollees who have ever received a sealant on at least one permanent second molar

5. Check if sealants were placed on all four permanent second molars in the 48 months prior to the 15th birthday:
   a. If [CDT CODE] = D1351 AND [TOOTH-NUMBER] = 2, using the Universal Numbering System, in the 48 months prior to the 15th birthday, AND
   b. If [CDT CODE] = D1351 AND [TOOTH-NUMBER] = 15, using the Universal Numbering System, in the 48 months prior to the 15th birthday, AND
   c. If [CDT CODE] = D1351 AND [TOOTH-NUMBER] = 18, using the Universal Numbering System, in the 48 months prior to the 15th birthday, AND
   d. If [CDT CODE] = D1351 AND [TOOTH-NUMBER] = 31, using the Universal Numbering System, in the 48 months prior to the 15th birthday, then include in numerator 2; STOP processing.
   e. If a AND b AND c AND d are not all met, then STOP processing. This enrollee is not included in numerator 2.

YOU NOW HAVE NUMERATOR (NUM2) COUNT: Enrollees who have received sealants on ALL FOUR permanent second molars

6. When reporting the measure score, report:
a. Number of enrollees meeting age and enrollment criteria (before exclusion) (IP)
b. Number of enrollees excluded (EXC)
c. Percentage of enrollees excluded (%EXC=EXC/IP)
d. Number of enrollees in denominator after exclusions (DEN=IP-EXC)
e. Number of enrollees in numerator 1 (NUM1)
f. Number of enrollees in numerator 2 (NUM2)
g. Measure score rate 1: at least one sealant (NUM1/DEN)
h. Measure score rate 2: all four molars sealed (NUM2/DEN)

*** Note: Reliability of the measure score depends on the quality of the data that are used to calculate the measure. 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 TOOTH-NUMBER CODE may be counted in the denominator but not in the numerator. These records are assumed to not have had a qualifying service. In this case, a low quality data set will result in a low measure score and will not be reliable.***

Reporting Guidance (Please refer to the User Guide for detailed implementation considerations and reporting guidance.)

1. Programs adopting this measure should note the measure purpose and limitations indicated above.
2. If programs are interested in understanding the rate of sealant application by risk status, the measure score denominator may be stratified by caries risk codes present during the 12 months prior to the 15th birthdate:
   - Elevated risk (D0602 OR D0603)
   - Not at elevated risk (D0601)

If the subject has both D0601 and (D0602 or D0603) during the 12 months prior to the 15th birthdate, the subject should be classified as being at elevated risk. Each subject should be classified into only one stratification category such that the two stratified denominators sum to the total denominator reported in 6d.

3. Consideration should be given to evaluation of the impact of exclusions on the measure scores, particularly when using the measure to compare scores between reporting entities. Such consideration may assist in allowing users to understand the impact of access or other factors on the measure scores and the potential for measurement bias.
Check Age Eligibility

15th Birthday in the Reporting Year?

YES

Continuously enrolled for 12 months prior to the 15th birthday?

YES

Were all 4 permanent 2nd molars previously restored, extracted or treated?

NO

NC- Not Counted

YES

DBN: Enrollees who meet age and enrollment criteria following EXCLUSIONS

Sealants on at least one 2nd molar?

YES

NUM 1: Enrollees who have ever received a sealant on at least one permanent second molar

NO

Sealants on All 4 2nd Molars?

YES

NUM 2: Enrollees who have ever received sealants on all permanent second molars

STOP
Dental Quality Alliance Measures (Measures) and related data specifications, developed by the Dental Quality Alliance (DQA), are intended to facilitate quality improvement activities. These Measures are intended to assist stakeholders in enhancing quality of care. These performance Measures are not clinical guidelines and do not establish a standard of care. The DQA has not tested its Measures for all potential applications. Measures are subject to review and may be revised or rescinded at any time by the DQA. The Measures may not be altered without the prior written approval of the DQA. The DQA shall be acknowledged as the measure steward in any and all references to the measure. Measures developed by the DQA, while copyrighted, can be reproduced and distributed, without modification, for noncommercial purposes. Commercial use is defined as the sale, license, or distribution of the Measures for commercial gain, or incorporation of the Measures into a product or service that is sold, licensed or distributed for commercial gain. Commercial uses of the Measures require a license agreement between the user and DQA. Neither the DQA nor its members shall be responsible for any use of these Measures.

THE MEASURES ARE PROVIDED “AS IS” WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND

Limited proprietary coding is contained in the Measure specifications for convenience.

For Proprietary Codes:

The code on Dental Procedures and Nomenclature is published in Current Dental Terminology (CDT), Copyright © 2020 American Dental Association (ADA). All rights reserved.

Users of the proprietary code sets should obtain all necessary licenses from the owners of these code sets. The DQA, American Dental Association (ADA), and its members disclaim all liability for use or accuracy of any terminologies or other coding contained in the specifications.

THE SPECIFICATIONS ARE PROVIDED “AS IS” WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND.