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

### DQA Measure Technical Specifications: Administrative Claims-Based Measures: Ambulatory Care Sensitive Emergency Department Visits for Dental Caries in Children

**Description:** Number of emergency department (ED) visits for caries-related reasons per 100,000 member months for children

**Numerator:** Number of ED visits with a caries-related diagnosis code among children 0 through 20 years

**Denominator:** All member months for children 0 through 20 years during the reporting year

**Rate:** \( \frac{\text{NUM}}{\text{DEN}} \times 100,000 \)

**Rationale:** There are approximately 1 million ED visits per year for non-traumatic dental conditions in the United States and more than 200,000 visits are made by children (1, 2, 3). Untreated dental caries (tooth decay) and its sequelae (e.g., dental infections) account for almost 80% of these visits (2, 3). Dental caries is preventable, and use of the ED for dental caries related conditions results in substantial costs (1, 3) with 70% of ED visits for dental conditions among children in the United States being paid for by Medicaid (4). Because dental caries can be reduced and managed through outpatient care processes, caries-related ED visits represent “ambulatory care sensitive” visits - visits that are potentially avoidable through timely and effective use of the ambulatory health care system. Moreover, ED care for dental caries-related conditions is generally not definitive compared to that provided in primary care dental settings and often results in referral to primary care dental sites (5, 6, 7).


**National Quality Measures Clearing House Domain:** Outcome

---

1 Outcome: An outcome of care is a health state of a patient resulting from health care. Outcome measures are supported by evidence that the measure has been used to detect the impact of one or more clinical interventions. Measures in this domain are attributable to antecedent health care and should include provisions for risk-adjustment. Accessed from: https://www.ahrq.gov/gam/summaries/domain-definitions/index.html. Accessed May 25, 2021.
National Quality Forum Domain: Outcome

Institute of Medicine Aim: Equity, Safety, Timeliness

National Quality Strategy Priority: Health and Wellbeing

Level of Aggregation: Program (NOTE: This measure only applies to programs such as Medicaid that have access to medical claims data. Use of this measure as a requirement for stand-alone dental benefit plans will result in feasibility issues due to lack of access to appropriate data. Use by health plans may be considered after assessment of data element feasibility within the plans’ databases).

Improvement Noted As: A lower rate indicates better quality.

Data Required: Administrative enrollment and claims data (medical); single year. When using claims data to determine service receipt, include only paid claims.

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

1. What is the rate of emergency department visits for caries-related reasons in the enrolled population during the reporting period?
2. Over time, does the rate of emergency department visits by children for caries-related reasons stay stable, increase, or decrease?

Applicable Stratification Variables

1. Age: <1; 1-2; 3-5; 6-7; 8-9; 10-11; 12-14; 15-18; 19-20
2. ED Disposition Stratification: Discharged from ED; Inpatient Admissions

Ambulatory Care Sensitive Emergency Department Visits for Dental Caries Calculation

1. Calculate total eligible member months as the sum of all member months for subjects age 0 through 20 years (<21 years) as of the 15th or 30th day of the month as appropriate for when eligibility determinations are made. Either the 15th or the 30th should be selected and used consistently across all member months during the reporting year.

Reporting notes for age stratifications:
- Member months will be attributed to each age stratum based on the member’s age as of the 15th or 30th day of the month. Either the 15th or the 30th should be selected and used consistently across all member months during the reporting year.
- One member can contribute member months to more than one age stratum.

YOU NOW HAVE DENOMINATOR (DEN) COUNT: Total member months

---

2. Identify all emergency department visits for caries-related reasons occurring during eligible member months within the reporting year:
   a. Identify a health care encounter as an ED visit if ANY of the following are met:
      • CPT codes 99281-99285 (ED visit for patient evaluation/management); OR
      • Revenue codes 0450-0459 (Emergency Room) or 0981 (professional fees for ER services); OR
      • CMS place of service code for professional claims - 23 (Emergency Room)
   b. Member must be <21 years on date of visit.
   c. Identify an ED visit as being caries related if:
      i. any of the ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes in Table 1 is listed as a FIRST-LISTED diagnosis code associated with the visit
      OR
      ii. (a) any of the ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes in Table 2 is listed as a FIRST-LISTED diagnosis AND (b) any of the ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes in Table 1 is listed as an ADDITIONAL LISTED diagnosis. (Codes from Table 2 must be accompanied by a code from Table 1 to qualify.)
   d. Count only one visit per member per day.
   e. Sum the number of ED visits for caries-related reasons.

   Reporting note for age stratifications: Numerator cases are stratified based on age on date of ED visit.

   YOU NOW HAVE NUMERATOR (NUM) COUNT: Number of ED visits for caries-related reasons

3. Stratify the numerator by whether visit resulted in an inpatient admission or did not result in an inpatient admission:
   a. Identify a caries-related ED visit as resulting in an inpatient admission if:
      (i) the patient has an inpatient admission defined by UB Type of Bill = 11x OR 12x OR 41x
      AND
      (ii) that admission occurred within 48 hours:
      [inpatient admit date] – [ED admit date] >= 0 days AND <= 2 days
   b. Sum the number of caries-related ED visits that resulted in an inpatient admission.

   You now have the numerator stratum: caries-related ED visits that resulted in an inpatient admission

   c. Identify caries-related ED visits not resulting in an inpatient admission:
      [total caries-related ED visits]–[caries-related ED visits resulting in inpatient admission]
You have the numerator stratum: caries-related ED visits that did not result in an inpatient admission

4. Report
   a. Unduplicated number of ED visits in the numerator
   b. Unduplicated number of member months in denominator
   c. Rate per 100,000 member months: (NUM/DEN) x 100,000
   d. Rates for ED visits resulting in an inpatient admission and those not resulting in an inpatient admission

*** Note: Reliability of the measure score depends on 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 accuracy and reliability of the measure rate.***

**Table 1. Caries-Related ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes**
*(NOTE: Please reference the User Guide for ICD-9 CM and ICD-10 CM cross-mapping)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICD-10 CODE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KØ2.3</td>
<td>Arrested dental caries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ2.51</td>
<td>Dental caries on pit and fissure surface limited to enamel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ2.52</td>
<td>Dental caries on pit and fissure surface penetrating into dentin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ2.53</td>
<td>Dental caries on pit and fissure surface penetrating into pulp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ2.61</td>
<td>Dental caries on smooth surface limited to enamel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ2.62</td>
<td>Dental caries on smooth surface penetrating into dentin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ2.63</td>
<td>Dental caries on smooth surface penetrating into pulp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ2.7</td>
<td>Dental root caries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ2.9</td>
<td>Dental caries, unspecified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ3.89</td>
<td>Other specified diseases of hard tissues of teeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ4.0</td>
<td>Pulpitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ4.Ø1</td>
<td>Reversible Pulpitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ4.Ø2</td>
<td>Irreversible pulpitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ4.1</td>
<td>Necrosis of pulp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ4.2</td>
<td>Pulp degeneration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ4.3</td>
<td>Abnormal hard tissue formation in pulp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ4.4</td>
<td>Acute apical periodontitis of pulpal origin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ4.5</td>
<td>Chronic apical periodontitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ4.6</td>
<td>Periapical abscess with sinus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ4.7</td>
<td>Periapical abscess without sinus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ4.8</td>
<td>Radicular cyst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ4.9Ø</td>
<td>Unspecified diseases of pulp and periapical tissues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ4.99</td>
<td>Other diseases of pulp and periapical tissues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ8.131</td>
<td>Complete loss of teeth due to caries, class I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ8.132</td>
<td>Complete loss of teeth due to caries, class II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ8.133</td>
<td>Complete loss of teeth due to caries, class III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KØ8.134</td>
<td>Complete loss of teeth due to caries, class IV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KØ8.139  Complete loss of teeth due to caries, unspecified class
KØ8.3  Retained dental root
KØ8.431  Partial loss of teeth due to caries, class I
KØ8.432  Partial loss of teeth due to caries, class II
KØ8.433  Partial loss of teeth due to caries, class III
KØ8.434  Partial loss of teeth due to caries, class IV
KØ8.439  Partial loss of teeth due to caries, unspecified class
KØ8.50  Unsatisfactory restoration of tooth, unspecified
KØ8.51  Open restoration margins of tooth
KØ8.530  Fractured dental restorative material without loss of material
KØ8.531  Fractured dental restorative material with loss of material
KØ8.539  Fracture dental restorative material, unspecified
KØ8.8  Other specified disorders of teeth and supporting structures
KØ8.89  Other specified disorders of teeth and supporting structures
KØ8.9  Disorder of teeth and supporting structures, unspecified
K12.2  Cellulitis and abscess of mouth
M26.79  Other specified alveolar anomalies
M27.2  Inflammatory conditions of jaws
M27.3  Alveolitis of jaws
M27.51  Perforation of root canal space due to endodontic treatment
M27.52  Endodontic overfill
M27.53  Endodontic underfill
M27.59  Other periradicular pathology associated with previous endodontic treatment

Table 2. Additional First-Listed ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes to Identify Caries-Related Visits when Paired with an Additional Listed Diagnosis Code from the Caries-Related ICD-10-CM Codes in Table 1
(NOTE: Please reference the User Guide for ICD-9 CM and ICD-10 CM cross-mapping)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICD-10 CODE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LØ3.211</td>
<td>Cellulitis of face</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LØ3.212</td>
<td>Acute lymphangitis of face</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LØ3.213</td>
<td>Periorbital cellulitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LØ3.221</td>
<td>Cellulitis of neck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LØ3.222</td>
<td>Acute lymphangitis of neck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LØ3.90</td>
<td>Cellulitis, unspecified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LØ3.91</td>
<td>Acute lymphangitis, unspecified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R22.0</td>
<td>Localized swelling, mass and lump, head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R22.1</td>
<td>Localized swelling, mass and lump, neck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R6Ø.0</td>
<td>Localized edema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R6Ø.1</td>
<td>Generalized edema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R6Ø.9</td>
<td>Edema, unspecified</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Check age eligibility

Age-eligible member month

DEN: Total age-eligible member months for all enrollees

Yes

No/ Missing/ Invalid field codes

NC: Not Counted

MED: Medicaid/CHIP use < 21; Exchange plans use < 19; others consult program officials.

Caries related reasons?

No/ Missing/ Invalid field codes

Yes

Caries related reasons?

No/ Missing/ Invalid field codes

Yes

NUM: Number of ED Visits for Caries-Related Reasons

Did the Visit Result in an Inpatient Admission?

NUM-STRATUM 1:
Caries Related ED Visits Resulting in Inpatient Admissions

NUM-STRATUM 2:
Caries Related ED Visits Not Resulting in Inpatient Admissions

STOP
DQA Measure EDV-CH-A
NQF #2689
Effective January 1, 2022

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 © 2021 American Dental Association (ADA). All rights reserved.
This material contains National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC) Health Care Provider Taxonomy codes (http://www.nucc.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14&Itemid=125). Copyright © 2021 American Medical Association. 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.