

PROGRAM ASSISTANCE LETTER

DOCUMENT NUMBER: PAL 2017-04

DATE: June 6, 2017

DOCUMENT TITLE: Proposed Uniform Data System Changes for Calendar Year 2018

TO: Health Centers
Primary Care Associations
Primary Care Offices
National Cooperative Agreements

I. BACKGROUND

This Program Assistance Letter (PAL) provides an overview of proposed changes to the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) calendar year (CY) 2018 Uniform Data System (UDS) to be reported by Health Center Program grantees and look-alikes in February 2019. The forthcoming 2018 UDS Manual will include additional details regarding these changes.

II. PROPOSED CHANGES FOR CY 2018 UDS REPORTING

A. UPDATE QUALITY OF CARE MEASURES TO ALIGN WITH ECQMS

To support efforts across the federal government to standardize data collection and reduce reporting burden for entities participating in federal programs with data reporting mandates, the following clinical quality measures below have been updated to align with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) electronic-specified clinical quality measures (CMS eQMs) designated for the 2018 reporting period.

Rationale: Data-driven quality improvement and full optimization of electronic health record (EHR) systems are strategic priorities for the Health Center Program. Clinical measure alignment across national programs significantly decreases reporting burden and improves data consistency. Additionally, measure alignment and harmonization with other national quality programs, such as the National Quality Forum (NQF) (<https://www.qualityforum.org/QPS/>) and the CMS Quality Payment Program (QPP) (<https://qpp.cms.gov/measures/quality>), remain a federal priority.

1. Childhood Immunization Status has been revised to align with [CMS117v6](#).
2. Cervical Cancer Screening has been revised to align with [CMS124v6](#).

3. Tobacco Use Screening and Cessation Intervention has been revised to align with [CMS138v6](#).
4. Use of Appropriate Medications for Asthma has been revised to align with [CMS126v5](#).
5. Screening for Clinical Depression and Follow-Up Plan has been revised to align with [CMS2v7](#).
6. Controlling High Blood Pressure has been revised to align with [CMS165v6](#).
7. Diabetes: Hemoglobin A1c Poor Control: the column that includes information on HbA1c<8% has been removed to align with [CMS122v6](#) and the [Healthy People 2020](#) national benchmark.
8. Weight Assessment and Counseling for Nutrition and Physical Activity for Children and Adolescents has been revised to align with [CMS155v6](#).
9. Body Mass Index (BMI) Screening and Follow-Up Plan has been revised to align with [CMS69v6](#).
10. Ischemic Vascular Disease (IVD): Use of Aspirin or Another Antiplatelet has been revised to align with [CMS164v6](#).
11. Colorectal Cancer Screening has been revised to align with [CMS130v6](#).
12. Dental Sealants for Children aged 6 - 9 years has been revised to align with [CMS277](#).

B. REVISION OF APPENDIX D: REMOVAL OF PATIENT-CENTERED MEDICAL HOME (PCMH) QUESTIONS

Data collection elements associated with PCMH recognition and accreditation have been removed from Appendix D to reduce reporting burden and redundancy in data collection.

Rationale: HRSA collects PCMH data on a quarterly basis outside of the UDS. Therefore retiring the PCMH question from the UDS will streamline and decrease UDS reporting burden for health centers.

C. APPENDIX E: EXPANDED TELEHEALTH QUESTION

An expanded telehealth question has been added to Appendix E to better capture data on telehealth use, modalities, and potential obstacles to implementation optimization.

Rationale: Telehealth is increasingly used as a method of health care delivery for the health center patient population, especially hard-to-reach patients living in geographically isolated communities. Collecting information on telehealth capacity and use of telehealth is essential for the delivery of technical assistance to health centers and to improve the health of the Nation's underserved communities and vulnerable populations by assuring access to comprehensive, culturally competent, quality primary health care services.

III. CONTACTS

For questions or comments regarding the proposed changes to the CY 2018 UDS contact the Office of Quality Improvement at OQIComments@hrsa.gov or 301-594-0818.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jim Macrae
Associate Administrator

Attachments:

1. Proposed Changes to UDS Tables 6B, 7, and Appendices D and E.

Table 6B: Quality of Care Measures

Reporting Period: January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018

Section A – Age Categories for Prenatal Care Patients: Demographic Characteristics of Prenatal Care Patients

Line	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)	

Section B – Early Entry into Prenatal Care

Line	Early Entry into Prenatal Care	Women Having First Visit with Health Center (a)	Women Having First Visit with Another Provider (b)
7	First Trimester		
8	Second Trimester		
9	Third Trimester		

Section C – Childhood Immunization Status (CIS)

Line	Childhood Immunization Status (CIS)	Total Patients with 2nd Birthday (a)	Number Charts Sampled or EHR total (b)	Number of Patients Immunized (c)
10	MEASURE: Percentage of children 2 years of age who have received age appropriate vaccines by their 2 nd birthday			

Section D – Cervical Cancer Screening

Line	Cervical Cancer Screening	Total Female Patients 23 through 64 Years of Age (a)	Number Charts Sampled or EHR total (b)	Number of Patients Tested (c)
11	MEASURE: Percentage of women 21-64 years of age, who received one or more Pap tests to screen for cervical cancer			

Section E – Weight Assessment and Counseling for Nutrition and Physical Activity of Children and Adolescents

Line	Weight Assessment and Counseling for Nutrition and Physical Activity for Children and Adolescents	Total Patients Aged 3 through 17 (a)	Number Charts Sampled or EHR Total (b)	Number of Patients with Counseling and BMI Documented (c)
12	MEASURE: Percentage of patients 3-17 years of age with a BMI percentile, <i>and</i> counseling on nutrition and physical activity documented			

Section F – Body Mass Index (BMI) Screening and Follow-Up

Line	Body Mass Index (BMI) Screening and Follow-Up Plan	Total Patients Aged 18 and Older (a)	Number Charts Sampled or EHR Total	Number of Patients with BMI Charted and Follow-Up Plan Documented as Appropriate (c)
13	MEASURE: Percentage of patients aged 18 and older with (1) BMI documented <i>and</i> (2) follow-up plan documented <i>if</i> BMI is outside normal parameters			

Section G – Tobacco Use: Screening and Cessation Intervention

Line	Tobacco Use Screening and Cessation Intervention	Total Patients Aged 18 and Older (a)	Number Charts sampled or EHR total (b)	Number of Patients Assessed for Tobacco Use <i>and</i> Provided Intervention if a Tobacco User (c)
14a	MEASURE: Percentage of patients aged 18 years and older who (1) were screened for tobacco use one or more times within 24 months <i>and</i> if identified to be a tobacco user (2) received cessation counseling intervention			

Section H – Use of Appropriate Medications for Asthma

Line	Use of Appropriate Medications for Asthma	Total Patients Aged 5 through 64 with Persistent Asthma (a)	Number Charts Sampled or EHR Total (b)	Number of Patients with Acceptable Plan (c)
16	MEASURE: Percentage of patients 5 - 64 years of age identified as having persistent asthma and were appropriately prescribed medication during the measurement period			

Section I – Coronary Artery Disease (CAD): Lipid Therapy

Line	Coronary Artery Disease (CAD): Lipid Therapy	Total Patients Aged 18 and Older with CAD Diagnosis (a)	Number Charts Sampled or EHR Total (b)	Number of Patients Prescribed A Lipid Lowering Therapy (c)
17	MEASURE: Percentage of patients aged 18 and older with a diagnosis of CAD who were prescribed a lipid lowering therapy			

Section J – Ischemic Vascular Disease (IVD): Use of Aspirin or Another Antiplatelet

Line	Ischemic Vascular Disease (IVD): Use of Aspirin or Another Antiplatelet	Total Patients 18 and Older with IVD Diagnosis or AMI, CABG, or PTCA Procedure (a)	Charts Sampled or EHR Total (b)	Number of Patients With Documentation of Use of Aspirin or Other Antiplatelet Therapy (c)
18	MEASURE: Percentage of patients aged 18 and older with a diagnosis of IVD or AMI, CABG, or PTCA procedure with documentation of use of aspirin or another antiplatelet therapy			

Section K – Colorectal Cancer Screening

Line	Colorectal Cancer Screening	Total Patients Aged 50 through 75 (a)	Charts Sampled or EHR Total (b)	Number of Patients With Appropriate Screening For Colorectal Cancer (c)
19	MEASURE: Percentage of patients 50-75 years of age who had appropriate screening for colorectal cancer			

Section L – HIV Linkage to Care

Line	HIV Linkage to Care	Total Patients First Diagnosed with HIV (a)	Charts Sampled or EHR Total (b)	Number of Patients Seen Within 90 Days of First Diagnosis of HIV (c)
20	MEASURE: Percentage of patients whose first ever HIV diagnosis was made by health center staff between October 1, of the prior year and September 30, of the measurement year and who were seen for follow-up treatment within 90 days of that first ever diagnosis			

Section M – Screening for Clinical Depression and Follow-Up Plan

Line	Screening for Clinical Depression and Follow-Up Plan	Total Patients Aged 12 and Older (a)	Charts Sampled or EHR Total (b)	Number of patients Screened for Depression and Follow-Up Plan Documented as Appropriate (c)
21	MEASURE: Percentage of patients aged 12 and older who were (1) screened for depression with a standardized tool, <i>and</i> if screening was positive (2) had a follow-up plan documented			

Section N – Dental Sealants for Children aged 6 - 9 years

Line	Dental Sealants for Children aged 6 - 9 years	Total Patients Aged 5 through 9 at Moderate to High Risk for Caries (a)	Charts Sampled or EHR Total (b)	Number of patients with Sealants to First Molars (c)
22	MEASURE: Children aged 6 - 9 years, at moderate to high risk of caries, who received a sealant on a first permanent molar			

Table 7: Health Outcomes and Disparities

Reporting Period: January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018

Section A: Low Birth Weight

Line	Description	Patients			
0	HIV Positive Pregnant Women				
2	Deliveries Performed by Health Center's Providers				
Line #	Race and Ethnicity	Prenatal Care Patients Who Delivered During the Year (1a)	Live Births: <1500 grams (1b)	Live Births: 1500–2499 grams (1c)	Live Births: ≥2500 grams (1d)
Hispanic/Latino					
1a	Asian				
1b1	Native Hawaiian				
1b2	Other Pacific Islander				
1c	Black/African American				
1d	American Indian/Alaska Native				
1e	White				
1f	More than One Race				
1g	Unreported/Refused to Report Race				
	<i>Subtotal Hispanic/Latino</i>				
Non-Hispanic/Latino					
2a	Asian				
2b1	Native Hawaiian				
2b2	Other Pacific Islander				
2c	Black/African American				
2d	American Indian/Alaska Native				
2e	White				
2f	More than One Race				
2g	Unreported/Refused to Report Race				
	<i>Subtotal Non-Hispanic/Latino</i>				
Unreported/Refused to Report Ethnicity					
h	Unreported/Refused to Report Race and Ethnicity				
i	Total				

Section B: Controlling High Blood Pressure

Line #	Race and Ethnicity	Total Patients 18 through 85 Years of Age with Hypertension (2a)	Charts Sampled or EHR Total (2b)	Patients with HTN Controlled (2c)
Hispanic/Latino				
1a	Asian			
1b1	Native Hawaiian			
1b2	Other Pacific Islander			
1c	Black/African American			
1d	American Indian/Alaska Native			
1e	White			
1f	More than One Race			
1g	Unreported/Refused to Report Race			
	<i>Subtotal Hispanic/Latino</i>			
Non-Hispanic/Latino				
2a	Asian			
2b1	Native Hawaiian			
2b2	Other Pacific Islander			
2c	Black/African American			
2d	American Indian/Alaska Native			
2e	White			
2f	More than One Race			
2g	Unreported/Refused to Report Race			
	<i>Subtotal Non-Hispanic/Latino</i>			
Unreported/Refused to Report Ethnicity				
h	Unreported/Refused to Report Race and Ethnicity			
i	Total			

Section C: Diabetes: Hemoglobin A1c Poor Control

Line #	Race and Ethnicity	Total Patients 18 through 75 Years of Age with Diabetes (3a)	Charts Sampled or EHR Total (3b)	Patients with HbA1c >9% Or No Test During Year (3f)
Hispanic/Latino				
1a	Asian			
1b1	Native Hawaiian			
1b2	Other Pacific Islander			
1c	Black/African American			
1d	American Indian/Alaska Native			
1e	White			
1f	More than One Race			
1g	Unreported/Refused to Report Race			
	<i>Subtotal Hispanic/Latino</i>			
Non-Hispanic/Latino				
2a	Asian			
2b1	Native Hawaiian			
2b2	Other Pacific Islander			
2c	Black/African American			
2d	American Indian/Alaska Native			
2e	White			
2f	More than One Race			
2g	Unreported/Refused to Report Race			
	<i>Subtotal Non-Hispanic/Latino</i>			
Unreported/Refused to Report Ethnicity				
h	Unreported/Refused to Report Race and Ethnicity			
i	Total			

Appendix D: Health Center Electronic Health Record (EHR) Capabilities

Instructions

The Electronic Health Record (EHR) Capabilities and Quality Recognition Form includes a series of questions on health information technology (HIT) capabilities, including EHR interoperability and leverage for Meaningful Use. The EHR and Quality Recognition Form must be completed and submitted as part of the UDS submission. It includes questions about the health center's implementation of EHR, certification of systems, and how widely adopted the system is throughout the health center and its providers.

Questions

The following questions will be presented on a screen in the HRSA Electronic Handbooks (EHBs) to be completed before the UDS Report is submitted. Instructions for the EHR questions can be found in EHBs as you are completing the questions.

1. Does your center currently have an Electronic Health Record (EHR) system installed and in use?
 - a. Yes, at all sites and for all providers
 - b. Yes, but only at some sites or for some providers
 - c. No

This question seeks to determine whether or not an EHR has been installed by the health center as of December 31, 2016, and, if so, which product is in use, how broad is access to the system, and what features are available and being used. While they can often produce much of the UDS data, do not include practice management systems or other billing systems. If the health center has purchased an EHR, but had not yet placed it into use by December 31, 2016, answer "No." If it has been installed, indicate if it was being used as of December 31, 2016, by:

- a. **All sites and all providers:** For the purposes of this response, "providers" mean all medical providers including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives. While some or all of the dental, mental health, or other providers may also have used the system, as may medical support staff, this is not required to choose response "a." For the purposes of this response, "all sites" means all permanent sites where medical providers serve health center medical patients and does not include administrative-only locations, hospitals or nursing homes, mobile vans, or sites used on a seasonal or temporary basis.
- b. **At some sites or for some providers:** Select option b if one or more permanent sites did not have the EHR installed, or in use (even if this is planned), or if one or more medical providers (as defined above) were not yet using the system by December 31, 2016. When determining if all providers had access to the system, the health center should also consider part time and locum providers who serve clinic patients. Do not select this option if the only medical providers who did not

have access were those who were newly hired and still being trained on the system.

- c. **No:** Select “no” if no EHR was in use on December 31, 2016, even if the system had been installed and staff was training on how to use the system.

If a system is in use (i.e., if a or b has been selected above), indicate if your system has been certified under the Office of the National Coordinator - Authorized Testing and Certification Bodies (ONC-ATCB).

1a. Is your system certified under the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) Health IT Certification Program?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Health centers are to indicate in the blanks the vendor, product name, version number, and certified health IT product list number. More information is available at [ONC-ATCB](#). If you have more than one EHR (if, for example, you acquired another practice which has its own EHR), report the EHR that will be the successor system.

Vendor _____

Product Name _____

Version Number _____

Certified Health IT Product List Number _____

1b. Did you switch to your current EHR from a previous system this year?

- a. Yes
- b. No

If ‘yes, but only at some sites or for some providers’ is selected above, a box will expand for health centers to identify how many sites have the EHR in use and how many (medical) providers were using it. Please enter the number of sites (as defined above) where the EHR was in use, and the number of providers who used the system (at any site). Include part time and locum medical providers who serve clinic patients. A provider who has separate login identities at more than one site is still counted as just one provider:

1c. How many sites had the EHR system in use?

1d. How many providers used the EHR system?

1e. When do you plan to install the EHR system?

With reference to your EHR, BPHC would like to know if your system had each of the specified capabilities which relate to the CMS Meaningful Use criteria for EHRs and if you are using them (more information on [Meaningful Use](#)). For each capability, indicate:

- a. **Yes** if your system had this capability and it was being used by your center;
- b. **No** if your system did not have the capability or it was not being used; or

- c. **Not sure** if you do not know if the capability was built in and/or do not know if your center was using it.

Select (a) (has the capability and it is being used) if the software is able to perform the function and some or all of your medical providers were making use of it. It is not necessary for all providers to have used a specific capability in order to select (a).

Select (b) or (c) if the capability is not present in the software or if the capability is present, but the function has not been turned on, or if it is not currently in use by any medical providers at your center. Select (b) or (c) only if none of the providers are making use of the function.

- 2. Does your center send prescriptions to the pharmacy electronically? (Do not include faxing.)
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not sure
- 3. Does your center use computerized, clinical decision support such as alerts for drug allergies, checks for drug-drug interactions, reminders for preventive screening tests, or other similar functions?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not sure
- 4. Does your center exchange clinical information electronically with other key providers/health care settings such as hospitals, emergency rooms, or subspecialty clinicians?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not sure
- 5. Does your center engage patients through health IT such as patient portals, kiosks, secure messaging (i.e., secure email) either through the EHR or through other technologies?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not sure
- 6. Does your center use the EHR or other health IT system to provide patients with electronic summaries of office visits or other clinical information when requested?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

- c. Not sure
7. How do you collect data for UDS clinical reporting (Tables 6B and 7)?
- a. We use the EHR to extract automated reports
 - b. We use the EHR but only to access individual patient charts
 - c. We use the EHR in combination with another data analytic system
 - d. We do not use the EHR
8. Are your eligible providers participating in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) EHR Incentive Program commonly known as “Meaningful Use”?
- a. Yes, all eligible providers at all sites were participating
 - b. Yes, some eligible providers at some sites were participating
 - c. No, our eligible providers were not yet participating
 - d. No, because our providers were not eligible
 - e. Not sure

If yes (a or b), at what stage of Meaningful Use is the majority (more than half) of your participating providers (i.e., what is the stage for which they most recently received incentive payments)?

- a. Adoption, Implementation, or Upgrade (AIU)
- b. Stage 1
- c. Stage 2
- d. Stage 3
- e. Not sure

If no (c only), are your eligible providers planning to participate?

- a. Yes, over the next 3 months
- b. Yes, over the next 6 months
- c. Yes, over the next 12 months or longer
- d. No, they are not planning to participate

9. Does your center use health IT to coordinate or to provide enabling services such as outreach, language translation, transportation, case management, or other similar services?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. If yes, then specify the type(s) of service: _____

Appendix E: Other Data Elements

Instructions

Health centers are becoming increasingly diverse and comprehensive in the care and services provided. These questions capture the changing landscape of healthcare centers to include expanded services and delivery systems.

Questions

The following questions will be presented on a screen in the HRSA Electronic Handbooks (EHBs) to be completed before the UDS Report is submitted. Instructions for these questions can be found in the EHBs as you are completing the questions.

Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for Opioid Use Disorder

Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for Opioid Use Disorder

- a) How many physicians, on-site or with whom the health center has contracts, had obtained a Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 (DATA) waiver to treat opioid use disorder with medications specifically proposed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for that indication?
- b) How many patients received medication-assisted treatment such as ICD-10 F11.xx for opioid use disorder from a physician with a DATA waiver working on behalf of the health center?

Telehealth

Did your organization use telehealth in order to provide remote clinical care services?

(The term “telehealth” includes “telemedicine” services, but encompasses a broader scope of remote healthcare services. Telemedicine is specific to remote clinical services whereas telehealth may include remote non-clinical services, such as provider training, administrative meetings, and continuing medical education, in addition to clinical services.)

- a. Yes
 - i. Who did you use telehealth to communicate with? (Select all that apply)
 - (1) Patients at remote locations from your organization (e.g., home telehealth, satellite locations)
 - (2) Specialists outside your organization (e.g., specialists at referral centers)
 - ii. What telehealth technologies did you use? (Select all that apply)
 - (1) Real-time telehealth (e.g., video conference)
 - (2) Store-and-forward telehealth (e.g., secure email with photos or videos of patient examinations)
 - (3) Remote patient monitoring
 - (4) Mobile Health (mHealth)

iii. What primary telehealth services were used at your organization? (Select all that apply)

- (1) Primary care
- (2) Oral health
- (3) Psychiatry
- (4) Behavioral health
- (5) Mental health
- (6) Substance abuse
- (7) Dermatology
- (8) Chronic conditions
- (9) Disaster management
- (10) Consumer and professional health education
- (11) Other, please specify _____

b. If you did not have telehealth services, please comment why (Select all that apply)

- i. Have not considered/unfamiliar with telehealth service options
- ii. Lack of reimbursement for telehealth services
- iii. Inadequate broadband/telecommunication service (Select all that apply)
 - (1) Cost of service
 - (2) Lack of infrastructure
 - (3) Other, please specify _____

iv. Lack of funding for telehealth equipment

v. Lack of training for telehealth services

vi. Not needed

vii. Other, please specify _____

Outreach and Enrollment Assistance

Provide the number of assists during the past year by a trained assister (e.g. Certified Application Counselor or equivalent). Outreach and enrollment assists are defined as customizable education sessions about affordable health insurance coverage options (one-on-one or small group) and any other assistance provided by a health center assister to facilitate enrollment through the Marketplace, Medicaid or CHIP.

Enter Number of Assists ____