

Telehealth Impact on 2026 Uniform Data System (UDS) Clinical Quality Measure Reporting

PURPOSE

The table included in this file is intended to help health centers determine how services to patients provided via telehealth¹ should be considered for the UDS clinical quality measure (CQM) denominator, numerator, and denominator exclusion/exception reporting on Tables 6B and 7.

This is not intended to provide guidance on federal and state regulations or restrictions on the use of telehealth. Guidance provided is limited to the measure specifications and guidance provided by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Specifically, this aligns with the [CMS Telehealth Guidance for Electronic Clinical Quality Measures \(eCQMs\) for Eligible Clinician 2026 Quality Reporting](#) guidance.

REQUIREMENT

Health centers are to identify the number of patients meeting each measure's criteria, using the criteria outlined below.

- **Denominator:** Patients who fit the detailed criteria described in the specific measure are to be included and evaluated.
- **Qualifying Encounter:** An encounter that meets the specific criteria defined in a measure's specification and establishes the patient's eligibility for inclusion in the denominator.
- **Numerator:** Patients (from the denominator) that meet the criteria for the specified measure.
- **Denominator Exclusions:** Patients not to be considered for the measure and who are removed from the denominator before determining if numerator criteria are met.
- **Denominator Exceptions:** Patients who meet denominator criteria, do not meet numerator criteria, and meet any of the exceptions listed for the measure and, therefore, are removed from the denominator and numerator.

TABLE NOTES

- Each of the CQMs reported in the UDS is included as separate rows, with their corresponding UDS table and section, as well as CMS CQM number.
- The denominator exclusions and denominator exceptions are extracted from the full reporting criteria.
- Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) or Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes for qualifying encounters used for identification of a patient for the denominator need to be identified by reviewing the CQM criteria specifications, value sets, and codes directly.
- Not all services must be performed/completed at a visit at the health center.

¹ The term "telehealth" includes "telemedicine" services but encompasses a broader scope of remote health care 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.

COLUMN CONSIDERATIONS

Denominator

- This column defines whether a telehealth visit meets the denominator requirement for the measure.
- There is variation among the measures as to whether (or not) telephone evaluation and management (E/M) services provided by a physician or physician equivalent (e.g., NP, PA, CNM) constitute a denominator qualifying encounter. Review the specification criteria for each CQM to determine whether patients with only telephone visits should be excluded from the denominator.

Numerator

- This column defines whether a telehealth visit meets the numerator requirement for the measure.
- Verification of completed services can be done outside of a visit for some measures.
 - For example, a mammogram cannot be completed via telehealth. However, if the patient had a mammogram performed during the measurement period (or identified timeframe) and documentation is included in the patient health record, the record may be included in the numerator for the Breast Cancer Screening measure.
- To determine if the criteria for the specified measure are met, review the associated CQM guidance. Some require the service to be performed by, paid for, or approved by the health center provider.

RESOURCES

- [UDS Manual](#)
- [CMS Telehealth Guidance for Electronic Clinical Quality Measures \(eCQMs\) for Eligible Clinician 2026 Quality Reporting](#)
- [The Center for Connected Health Policy National Telehealth Policy Resource Center](#)
- [Telehealth Resource Centers](#)
- [List of Telehealth Services for Calendar Year 2026 \(ZIP\)](#)
- [Electronic Clinical Quality Improvement \(eCQI\) Resource Center](#)
- [Value Set Authority Center \(VSAC\)](#)
- [eCQM Issue Tracking](#)
- [UDS Support Line](#) and [BPHC Contact Form](#)

Note: Items highlighted in pink are intended to draw attention to measure components that do not permit services via telehealth.

Clinical Measure Name, eCQM ID, UDS Table, and UDS Section	Include patients with telehealth only visits on UDS Tables 6B and 7, Column A (Denominator)?	Can service, test, or procedure be done by telehealth to meet UDS Tables 6B and 7, Columns C or F (Numerator), requirements?
Early Entry into Prenatal Care, no eCQM Table 6B, Lines 7-9	No. Prenatal care patients are defined based on a comprehensive in-person prenatal physical exam. Prenatal care patients established in the prior year (through a comprehensive in-person exam) and only seen through telehealth in the current year should be included.	Yes. Identification of the trimester of entry may be identified in this way.
Childhood Immunization Status, CMS117v14 Table 6B, Line 10	Yes	No. Administration of immunizations is not acceptable in this way. These services cannot be conducted via telehealth.
Cervical Cancer Screening, CMS124v14 Table 6B, Line 11	Yes	Yes. Telehealth codes are included as part of the defined qualifying encounters. The method of collection is not specified, so as long as the self-swab test result is documented in the EHR using one of the codes in the included value sets, then this scenario would be allowed.
Breast Cancer Screening, CMS125v14 Table 6B, Line 11a	Yes	No. Mammograms are not acceptable in this way. These services cannot be conducted via telehealth.
Weight Assessment and Counseling for Nutrition and Physical Activity for Children/Adolescents, CMS155v14 Table 6B, Line 12	Yes	Yes. Counseling for physical activity and nutrition are acceptable in this way. Patient reported height and weight are acceptable in this way, provided the information is recorded in the EHR and is sufficiently accurate for use in clinical care.
Preventive Care and Screening: Body Mass Index (BMI) Screening and Follow Up Plan, CMS69v14 Table 6B, Line 13	No. This screening measure requires therapy, treatment, or assessment that cannot be conducted via telehealth. Telehealth encounters of any kind do not meet the qualifying encounter requirements for this measure.	No. Height and weight are to be performed by health center staff or paid for by the health center. Yes. A follow-up plan is acceptable in this way.

Clinical Measure Name, eCQM ID, UDS Table, and UDS Section	Include patients with telehealth only visits on UDS Tables 6B and 7, Column A (Denominator)?	Can service, test, or procedure be done by telehealth to meet UDS Tables 6B and 7, Columns C or F (Numerator), requirements?
Preventive Care and Screening: Tobacco Use: Screening and Cessation Intervention, CMS138v14 Table 6B, Line 14a	Yes	Yes. Screening for tobacco use and cessation intervention are acceptable in this way.
Statin Therapy for the Prevention and Treatment of Cardiovascular Disease, CMS347v9 Table 6B, Line 17a	Yes	Yes. Prescription or an order for statin therapy is acceptable in this way.
Ischemic Vascular Disease (IVD): Use of Aspirin or Another Antiplatelet, CMS164v7 Table 6B, Line 18	Yes	Yes. Medication list inclusion (of aspirin or other antiplatelet) is acceptable in this way.
Colorectal Cancer Screening, CMS130v14 Table 6B, Line 19	Yes	No. Procedures (flexible sigmoidoscopy and colonoscopy) and diagnostic studies (CT colonography) are not acceptable in this way. These services cannot be conducted via telehealth.
		Yes. An FOBT or stool deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) (sDNA) with fecal immunochemical test (FIT) that is mailed and processed by a lab are acceptable.
HIV Linkage to Care, no eCQM, Table 6B, Line 20	Yes	Yes. At the discretion of the healthcare and prescribing provider, the medical visit may be conducted and HIV treatment are acceptable in this way.
HIV Screening, CMS349v8 Table 6B, Line 20a	Yes	No. Patient attestation or self-report of HIV results is not acceptable in this way.
		Yes. HIV self-tests may be acceptable; the provider must receive documentation of the lab test result.
Preventive Care and Screening: Screening for	Yes	Yes. Screening for depression and follow-up plans are acceptable in this way.

Clinical Measure Name, eCQM ID, UDS Table, and UDS Section	Include patients with telehealth only visits on UDS Tables 6B and 7, Column A (Denominator)?	Can service, test, or procedure be done by telehealth to meet UDS Tables 6B and 7, Columns C or F (Numerator), requirements?
Depression and Follow-Up Plan, CMS2v15 Table 6B, Line 21		
Depression Remission at Twelve Months, CMS159v14 Table 6B, Line 21a	Yes	Yes. Identification of remission achieved is acceptable in this way.
Sealant Receipt on Permanent First Molars, SFM-CH-A Table 6B, Line 22a	Yes	No. Application of sealants is not acceptable in this way. These services cannot be conducted via telehealth.
Initiation and Engagement of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment, CMS137v14 Table 6B, Lines 23a and 23b	Yes	Yes. Psychosocial visits and medication list inclusion (of SUD medications) are acceptable in this way. Note: there may be restrictions for prescription of medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD).
Falls: Screening for Future Fall Risk, CMS139v14 Table 6B, Line 24	Yes	Yes. Screening for future falls risk are acceptable in this way.
Deliveries and Birth Weight, no eCQM, Table 7, Section A	Yes (for existing prenatal care patients who had a delivery during the year).	Yes. Birth weights may be identified in this way.
Controlling High Blood Pressure, CMS165v14 Table 7, Section B	Yes	Only blood pressure readings performed by a clinician or an automated blood pressure monitor or device are acceptable for numerator compliance with this measure. This includes blood pressures taken in person by a clinician and blood pressures measured remotely by electronic monitoring devices capable of transmitting the blood pressure data to the clinician. At the discretion of the clinician, blood pressure readings taken by an automated blood pressure monitor or device and conveyed by the patient to the clinician may also be acceptable.

Clinical Measure Name, eCQM ID, UDS Table, and UDS Section	Include patients with telehealth only visits on UDS Tables 6B and 7, Column A (Denominator)?	Can service, test, or procedure be done by telehealth to meet UDS Tables 6B and 7, Columns C or F (Numerator), requirements?
Diabetes: Glycemic Status Assessment Greater Than 9%, CMS122v14 Table 7, Section C	Yes	No. The HbA1c lab test is not acceptable in this way. These services cannot be conducted via telehealth.