

### UDS Modernization Goals

In 2016, HRSA launched the Uniform Data System (UDS) Modernization Initiative. This initiative aims to reduce the reporting burden for health centers, improve the quality of data, and better measure Health Center Program services and outcomes. The goal is to make it easier for health centers to collect and submit data. Health centers can then focus more of their time on patient care for the nation’s underserved populations.

### Journey to Date

Each year, the UDS Modernization Initiative makes advances shown in the table below.



Focus Area	2016	2017 – 2018	2019
Automate Data Collection and Submission.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Analyzed the UDS reporting system to understand the causes of reporting burden.</li> <li>✓ Made recommendations for changes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Created a Strategy and Implementation Plan.</li> <li>✓ Piloted information technology (IT) enhancements to the UDS reporting portal.</li> <li>✓ Launched IT enhancements in the portal for the 2018 Reporting Year.</li> </ul>	
Improve Data Quality and Use.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Analyzed the UDS reporting system to understand the quality and types of data collected.</li> <li>✓ Identified changes to be made and the impact of making those changes to UDS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Established the <a href="#">UDS Test Cooperative (UTC)</a> to test proposed UDS changes.</li> <li>✓ Conducted the first UTC test. The purpose was to align UDS clinical quality measures with the Centers for Medicare &amp; Medicaid Services electronic clinical quality measure specifications.</li> </ul>

## Upcoming in 2020

The UDS Modernization Initiative will continue to define and test suggested UDS changes, such as:

- **Report CQMs by Routine Patient Visits.** HRSA is testing a definition for routine patient visits. Routine visits represent patients typically seen for primary or preventive care at a health center. HRSA plans to test the definition in two ways. First, it will test if clinical quality measure (CQM) scores reflect the quality of care given to established patients who have ongoing contact with their health center. Second, it will test if CQM scores change when non-routine patient data is included. Segmenting routine and non-routine patient visits using electronic standards is expected to improve the accuracy of health center CQM performance.
- **Automate Countable Visits Reporting.** HRSA is also testing if health centers can collect and report UDS countable visits by using electronic standards from the [National Library of Medicine](#). These standards are formats or definitions that have been approved by a recognized standards organization. Using electronic standards is expected to make data more reliable. It should also reduce inconsistent reporting of visits across health centers and decrease reporting burden.
- **Standardize Diagnoses and Services Reporting (Table 6A).** Health centers currently interpret and align diagnoses and services codes with UDS Table 6A and national systems. This creates variation in data and additional burden. HRSA is working to align diagnoses and services in Table 6A with national, standard clinical language. This alignment is expected to improve consistency and accuracy. At the same time, it should reduce maintenance and reporting burden.

## UDS Modernization Resources

 <p><b>Learn About UDS Modernization Testing.</b></p>	<p>Visit the UTC website for updates on UDS Modernization testing. <a href="https://utc.mitre.org/">https://utc.mitre.org/</a></p> <p>If you are interested in taking part in testing, email <a href="mailto:udsmodernization@mitre.org">udsmodernization@mitre.org</a>. You can also contact your region's steering committee member listed on the UTC website.</p>
 <p><b>Stay Update to Date.</b></p>	<p>Visit the UDS Modernization Initiative web page for videos, webinars, and other resources. <a href="https://bphc.hrsa.gov/datareporting/reporting/udsmodernization.html">https://bphc.hrsa.gov/datareporting/reporting/udsmodernization.html</a></p>
 <p><b>Provide Feedback.</b></p>	<p>Share your thoughts and ideas with HRSA. Help improve UDS reporting, reduce burden, and improve data. Complete the feedback form on the UDS Modernization Initiative web page. <a href="https://bphc.hrsa.gov/datareporting/reporting/udsmodernization.html">https://bphc.hrsa.gov/datareporting/reporting/udsmodernization.html</a></p>