

Quality News

Medicare, Medicaid & HEDIS updates

Winter 2026

Helping you close important care gaps with education, resources and member campaigns.

Medicare Quality News

Promoting preventive care with our 2026 member rewards

Our 2026 member rewards offer Medicare members the opportunity to earn gift cards for completing the following key preventive health services:

- **Annual wellness visit: \$25** reward
- **Diabetic retinal eye exam** (for patients with a diabetes diagnosis): **\$40** reward
- **Flu shot: \$10** reward
- **Mammogram: \$25** reward
- **New in 2026: Bone density screening for women: \$25** reward

By staying up-to-date on important screenings, immunizations, and wellness visits, members can support their health and receive rewards throughout the year. We encourage providers to remind patients about these incentives during their appointments.

[Get our 2026 Medicare & Medicaid Member Rewards handout.](#)

The 2026 CAHPS survey launches this month

Providers play a pivotal role in shaping patients' health care experiences. Patient feedback from member experience surveys like the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) (runs from February through June) and the Health Outcomes Survey (HOS) (runs from July through November) reflects how well patients feel heard, respected and supported in their care. CAHPS and HOS scores directly impact our quality performance and the funding we use to build member programs and provider resources.

[Explore our latest CAHPS/HOS resource with practical strategies on enhancing patient experience in your practice.](#)

New Medicare Quality measures included in 2026 PIP

To further strengthen quality performance and support providers in delivering safe, evidence-based care, the following Medicare quality measures were added to 2026 PIP:

- **Concurrent Use of Opioids & Benzodiazepines:** Focuses on reducing risks from combined opioid and benzodiazepine use in adults ages 18 and over.
- **Polypharmacy: Multiple Anticholinergic Medications (Poly-ACH):** Works to address fall and cognitive risks related to medication use for adults 65 and over.
- **Osteoporosis Management in Women Who Had a Fracture (OMW):** Supports timely bone density testing or osteoporosis treatment for women ages 67–85 who recently suffered a fracture.
- **Follow-up After ED Visit for High-risk Chronic Conditions (FMC):** Promotes coordinated care follow-up within seven days of an emergency department visit for members with chronic conditions.

Beginning in March, ACNs will receive regular PIP reporting to support gap closure in PIP measures. For more information, refer to the [2026 PIP Manual](#) (login required).

Tips and guidelines supporting preventive care for our members

Annual wellness visits (AWVs)

- AWVs and Comprehensive Physical Exams (CPEs) can occur in the same appointment
- Members can schedule their AWVs at any time in the calendar year, regardless of when their AWV took place in the year prior
- Medicare members have a \$0 copay for all preventive visits that take place in the calendar year
- Our Care Management teams actively reach out to Medicare members who've been disengaged with their care to help them schedule appointments and ensure they get the care they need

Colorectal Cancer (CRC) screenings

- As a reminder, the recommended age for CRC screening was lowered to 45 years of age due to a rise in colorectal cancer diagnoses in younger adults
- Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month takes place in March and is a great opportunity to talk to your patients about the importance of screening, prevention and early detection
- Your Priority Health patients may be eligible to receive free, at-home Cologuard® test kits through our Exact Sciences Cologuard campaign, which begins in March. Contact your ACN's Provider Strategy and Solutions Consultant for information on eligibility and participation.

Improving patient outcomes and quality performance with access and coordination

- **Access and care coordination are major drivers of quality and outcomes**
Timely follow-up for chronic conditions like high blood pressure helps prevent escalation and avoidable complications-up
- **Flexible access supports patient engagement**
Same day options, extended hours, telehealth and clear reminders reduce barriers and keep patients connected to care-day options, extended hours, telehealth
- **Strong coordination closes gaps**
Prompt test result review, clear next steps, completed referrals and scheduling follow-ups before patients leave improve continuity.-ups before patients leave improve continuity
- **SDOH awareness improves equity**
Brief conversations about barriers (transportation, cost, work schedules, literacy, etc.) help identify and address needs early
- **Connecting patients to resources strengthens outcomes**
Offering flexible care options, plain language instructions, printed materials, or referrals to support services improves follow-through.-language instructions, printed materials, or referrals to support services improves follow-through

Medicaid Quality News

Clarification on pediatric immunization schedules

With varying pediatric immunization recommendations coming from state, federal and medical organizations, we want to clarify which schedules we use to determine pediatric immunization coverage.

Priority Health follows [immunization guidance](#) from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). These organizations provide the most clinically current, evidence-based recommendations for Michigan providers, ensuring consistency in coverage decisions across our network.

Combatting poor maternal health outcomes for Medicaid members

According to Priority Health member data, the following factors continue to drive poor health outcomes for our Medicaid population:

- **12%** of pregnant members delivered preterm
- **10%** delivered a low-birthweight infant
- **31%** experienced depression and 28% experienced anxiety—both linked to higher preterm birth risk
- **14%** used tobacco during pregnancy
- Chronic conditions such as hypertension, obesity and diabetes significantly elevated risk

What can you do?

Providers can support our Medicaid members with quality, preventive care that includes the following:

- **A routine depression and anxiety screening:** Screenings (PHQ-9 or EPDS) should take place during prenatal and postpartum visits with timely follow up, if needed
- **A conversation about smoking**
- **Provide and document tobacco-cessation counseling:** Refer members to *1-800-QUIT-NOW*
- **Billable CPT codes for tobacco-cessation counseling:** Use 99406 and/or 99407
- **Accurate coding and documentation:** MDHHS-required codes for quality reporting include 1034F, 1035F, 4000F, 4001F
- **Information on our maternal health programs**
 - **PriorityMOM (PMOM)** for trimester-based education and benefit navigation
 - **Medicaid Maternal Health Incentive Program:** Includes a \$50 member incentive for completing regular visits with a doula (in addition to seeing their provider) and a \$50 member incentive for completing a postpartum visit with their provider
 - **High risk, pregnant Medicaid members living in Detroit or Highland Park** are eligible to participate in **Priority Health's Community Health Worker (CHW) model comprehensive care program.** Refer to Leyla Flores:
Leyla.FloresMorales@priorityhealth.com

HEDIS Quality News

The 2025 HEDIS audit is underway

Our Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) team is contacting providers by fax and phone to request medical records for the 2025 MY (Measure Year) HEDIS audit. This is an annual audit conducted by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and used to measure quality of care across health care organizations in the United States.

The data you submit for this audit directly impacts how we invest in and enhance the benefits we offer our members. If you're contacted, please submit all requested documentation by the deadline provided in your communication.

Questions about the HEDIS audit or submitting documentation?

Email us at HEDIS@priorityhealth.com.

Did you miss our last Quality Newsletter?

You can find past Priority Health provider newsletters in our [Physician and Practice News Digest archive](#).

Register for our upcoming Provider Education Webinars.

- [Billing and Coding, Behavioral Health](#), March 26 @ noon
- [Medicare & Medicaid Quality](#), April 30 @ noon