

Important Notes and Considerations for Using These Data
Last updated: August 2008

The downloadable data files posted on this website (Excel and comma-separated-value, or CSV, files) are comprised of measurement results generated by pilot communities as part of the Better Quality Information for Medicare Beneficiaries (BQI) Pilot Project.

Depending on the community, results are presented for physician groups (as defined by the community), or individual physician. Table 1 describes the reporting level and the measures for each pilot community. Currently, measurement results are only available for MHQP, MNMCM, and WCHQ.

Table 1: Measures and Reporting Level, by Pilot Community, 2005-2007 Measurement Years

Pilot Community	Reporting Level	Measurement Year (s)	Breast Cancer Screening	Colorectal Cancer Screening	Hypertension blood pressure control	Optimal Diabetes Care	LDL Testing	LDL Control	HbA1c Testing	HbA1c Control	Blood Pressure control	Nephropathy Testing	Eye Exam	Tobacco Free	Daily Aspirin Use
Massachusetts Health Quality Partners (MHQP)	Group	2006	✓				✓		✓						
Minnesota Community Measurement (MNCM)	Group	2006	✓				✓		✓			✓	✓		
Minnesota Community Measurement (MNCM)	Group	2007				✓		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓
Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality (WCHQ)	Group	2005, 2006	✓	✓			✓		✓ ⁽¹⁾	✓					
Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality (WCHQ)	Group	2007			✓		✓	✓	✓ ⁽¹⁾	✓	✓	✓			

(1) Note: The HgA1c Testing Measure Result (Blood Sugar Testing) is reflective of one or more tests being administered during the measurement period.

Table 2 presents the data element dictionary for the files. Row 1 in the Excel file contains the column names; in the comma-separated-value (CSV) file, the column names are contained the first record.

Table 2: Data Element Dictionary, Pilot Community Files

Column	Description	Notes, Valid Values
Pilot	Pilot community name	MHQP, MNMCM, WCHQ
Year	Measurement year	2005, 2006, 2007
MeasureDesc	Measure Description	See Table 1
GrpID	Physician Group Identifier	Unique for group, assigned by pilot community
GrpName	Physician Group Name	As provided by pilot community
GrpAddress	Physician Group Address	As provided by pilot community
GrpCity	Physician Group City	As provided by pilot community
GrpZip	Physician Group Zip	As provided by pilot community
Rate	Measure rate, in percent	Calculated as (numerator/denominator)*100 0.00-100.00%
Denom	Measure denominator	See Table 3
Num	Measure numerator	See Table 3

Users of these data should be aware of the limitations with using the data, including but not limited to the variations across the communities in measurement specifications as well as data sources used to calculate the measures and attribution characteristics. For these reasons, the ability to make any comparisons across communities is severely limited.

Table 3 presents the differences in specifications and data sources across the communities.

Table 3: Measurement Specifications and Data Sources, by Pilot Community

Pilot Community	Measurement Specifications	Data Sources / Populations Included	Attribution Specifications
Massachusetts Health Quality Partners (MHQP)	HEDIS® 2005, HEDIS® 2006, PCPI	Commercial (HMO, POS, PPO); Medicare FFS. Administrative claims and health plan reported HEDIS results	Attribution to MDs and DOs (PCPs), except where the patient did not see any primary care physician for a preventive or routine visit in the measurement period. For relevant measures, endocrinologists, gynecologists, cardiologists and pulmonologists are included as PCPs where they are the only physician that has been seen for routine care. Other specialists to be included as PCPs if a plan had so designated them.

Pilot Community	Measurement Specifications	Data Sources / Populations Included	Attribution Specifications
Minnesota Community Measurement (MNCM)	<p>2006: HEDIS® 2007. Hybrid data collection for diabetes measures.</p> <p>2007: MNCM Direct Data Submission (see MNCM "Read Me" document found in the MNCM Data File)</p>	<p>Commercial (HMO, POS, PPO); Medicare FFS; Medicare Managed Care; Medicaid FFS.</p> <p>Aggregated claims data by medical group for administrative measures, patient level medical record data attributed to each medical group for hybrid measures, FFS claims.</p> <p>All patients as per direct data submission specifications.</p>	All specialties and all provider types as appropriate.
Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality (WCHQ)	WCHQ - Medical groups/providers determine denominators as per WCHQ methodology, and then provide numerator information.	All payers - membership organizations measure results (numerators and denominators)	Attribution to Medical Doctors, Doctors of Osteopathy, Physician Assistants, and Nurse Practitioners

Important Notes:

- The measure results have been calculated based on multiple, varying data sources.
- This report is based on 2005 and 2006 claims data (the most current claims available at the time of data aggregation), and may not reflect today’s practice. In addition, 2007 provider submitted data has been included where available.
- The claims data may not reflect all of the services provided by the physician groups/individual physicians.
- These measures may not provide a comprehensive picture of physician groups/individual physicians, as they are limited to treatments for a few health conditions and/or some preventive exams.
- Each performance measure is calculated by determining the number of people who should have received a health care service (the denominator) and the number of people in the denominator who actually received a recommended health care service (the numerator).
- Differences in measures for physician groups/individual physicians may not indicate actual differences in the quality of care provided by the physician groups/individual physicians.
- These results have not yet been fully validated; we continue to work on validating the accuracy of the methods used to calculate the measures.
- Merging commercial and Medicare data results in loss of detail that might be important, as for many measures, groups performing well for commercial members do not always perform equally well for Medicare members and vice versa.
- The addresses contained in the data files may pertain to a practice’s billing address and not necessarily a practice office address.