



# MassHealth Quality and Equity Incentive Program (QEIP)

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<b>Program:</b>	ACO QEIP
<b>Performance Year:</b>	2
<b>Metric:</b>	Achievement of External Standards for Health Equity
<b>Deliverable:</b>	External Standards for Health Equity Report
<b>Submission Portal:</b>	OnBase
<b>Submission Due Date:</b>	January 31, 2025
<b>File Naming Convention:</b>	EntityAbbreviation_ExternalStandardsReport_YYYYMMDD
<b>Suggested Page Limit:</b>	5 pages

## Summary

This measure assesses ACO progress towards and/or achievement of external standards related to health equity established by NCQA, HPC, and The Joint Commission.

NCQA's Health Equity Accreditation Standards are intended to serve as a foundation for Health Plans<sup>1</sup> and ACOs to address health care disparities. These Health Equity Standards build on the equity-focused Health Plan Accreditation standards to recognize organizations that go above and beyond to provide high quality and equitable care. HPC's ACO Certification Program, or ACO Learning, Equity, and Patient-Centeredness (LEAP), is a program designed to accelerate care delivery transformation in Massachusetts and promote a high quality, efficient health system. The Joint Commission's Health Care Equity Certification recognizes acute hospitals that go above and beyond to high quality and equitable care. Together, these three certification programs provide a comprehensive and objective assessment of the necessary health equity systems and structures across the entire health system.

This measure incentivizes ACOs to demonstrate achievement of the following:

1. Health Plans and PCACOs: Progress towards/achievement of the NCQA Health Equity Accreditation
2. All ACOs: Achievement/maintenance of the HPC ACO Certification (ACO LEAP) for the 2024-2025 and 2026-2027 cycles.
3. ACO's partnered-Hospitals (per the Joint Accountability partnerships formed in the HQEIP): Progress towards/achievement of TJC's Health Care Equity Certification Program

ACOs must demonstrate that all three requirements listed above are met to earn full credit for this measure. Alternatively, for ACPPs, if both the Health Plan and ACO Partner<sup>2</sup> achieve NCQA Health Equity Accreditation, the ACPP will receive full credit for this measure.

## Reporting Template

### Contact Information

<b>Point of Contact Name:</b>	Add text
<b>Organization Name:</b>	Add text
<b>Point of Contact Email Address:</b>	Add text

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<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this measure, the Health Plan is defined as the MassHealth Contractor, or Managed Care Organization, for the Accountable Care Partnership Plan (ACPP) contract.

<sup>2</sup> The ACO Partner is defined as the ACO entity the Contractor or Health Plan has an arrangement with for the ACPP contract.

## Introduction & Reporting Guidance

By January 31, 2025, complete and timely submission of this “**External Standards for Health Equity Report**” that includes, at a minimum:

1. NCQA Health Equity Accreditation Report (either 1a or 1b must be included):
  - a. Documentation of achievement of NCQA Health Equity Accreditation (at the Health Plan and/or PCACO level); or
  - b. Progress Report related to achievement of NCQA Health Equity Accreditation (at the Health Plan and/or PCACO level), including:
    - a. List of NCQA Health Equity Standards achieved to date (may be from the Health Plan or ACOs (or ACO Partner, as applicable) own assessment of standards achieved)
    - b. List of NCQA Health Equity Standards in progress (may be from the Health Plan or ACOs (or ACO Partner, as applicable) own assessment of standards in progress)
    - c. Description of any efforts undertaken in PY2 (CY2024) to make progress towards achieving NCQA Health Equity Accreditation
    - d. Description of any anticipated efforts, resources, etc. needed to achieve Accreditation by the end of PY3.
2. Documentation of achievement of the HPC ACO Certification (ACO LEAP)
3. TJC Health Care Equity Certification Report
  - a. List of Partnered Hospitals (per HQEIP Joint Accountability partnership attestations to MassHealth) and each hospital’s status in meeting HQEIP “Achievement of External Standards for Health Equity” Performance Requirements for PY2

Alternatively, ACPPs may submit both of the following in place of the “External Standards for Health Equity Report”:

1. Documentation of achievement of NCQA Health Equity Accreditation for the Health Plan
2. Documentation of achievement of NCQA Health Equity Accreditation for the ACO Partner

There are three sections to this report:

- Section 1: NCQA Health Equity Accreditation Report
- Section 2: Documentation of Achievement of the HPC ACO Certification (“ACO LEAP”)
- Section 3: TJC Health Care Equity Certification Report

## Section 1: NCQA Health Equity Accreditation Report

Please respond to the following questions related to the Health Plan (ACPP) or PCACOs progress towards achieving the NCQA Health Equity Accreditation. In lieu of responding to these questions, the organization may submit the formal certificate of achievement for Health Equity Accreditation from NCQA. Please upload the certificate from NCQA alongside this reporting template in OnBase.

1. List the NCQA Health Equity Standards achieved to date (may be from the Health Plan or ACOs (or ACO Partner, as applicable) own assessment of standards achieved):

Response:

2. List the NCQA Health Equity Standards in progress (may be from the Health Plan or ACOs (or ACO Partner, as applicable) own assessment of standards in progress):

Response:

3. Describe any efforts undertaken in PY2 (CY2024) to make progress towards achieving NCQA Health Equity Accreditation

Response:

4. Describe any anticipated efforts, resources, etc. needed to achieve Accreditation by the end of PY3.

Response:

## Section 2: Documentation of Achievement of the HPC ACO Certification

5. To earn credit for this section of the report, please upload the formal certificate of achievement for the HPC ACO Certification (or “ACO LEAP”) alongside this reporting template in OnBase.

## Section 3: TJC Health Care Equity Certification Report

6. In the table below, please list the ACO’s Partnered Hospitals (per HQEIP Joint Accountability Partnership Attestations to MassHealth) and each hospital’s status in meeting the PY2 performance requirements for the Hospital QEIP (HQEIP) “Achievement of External Standards for Health Equity.” The PY2 HQEIP Performance Requirements for this measure include:
  - Submission of an application for Health Care Equity (HCE) Certification to The Joint Commission.

