MassHealth Quality and Equity Incentive Program (QEIP)

Program:	**ACO QEIP**
Performance Year:	3
Metric:	Achievement of External Standards for Health Equity
Deliverable:	External Standards for Health Equity Report
Submission Portal:	OnBase
Submission Due Date:	January 31, 2026
File Naming Convention:	EntityAbbreviation_ExternalStandardsReport_YYYYMMDD
Suggested Page Limit:	3 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[1] 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[2] achieve NCQA Health Equity Accreditation, the ACPP will receive full credit for this measure.

Reporting Template

Contact Information

Point of Contact Name:	Add text
Organization Name:	Add text
Point of Contact Email Address:	Add text

[1] 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.

[2] 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, 2026, complete and timely submission of this "External Standards for Health Equity Report" that includes, at a minimum:

1. Documentation of achievement of **NCQA Health Equity Accreditation** (at the Health Plan and/or PCACO level); or
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 PY3

Alternatively, ACPPs may submit both of the following in place of the three requirements above:

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
- Section 2: HPC ACO Certification ("ACO LEAP")
- Section 3: TJC Health Care Equity Certification Report

Section 1: NCQA Health Equity Accreditation

Please provide a screenshot of the formal certificate of achievement for Health Equity Accreditation from NCQA below. Alternatively, you may upload the certificate from NCQA alongside this reporting template in OnBase.

Section 2: HPC ACO Certification

Please provide a screenshot of the formal certificate of achievement for the HPC ACO Certification (or "ACO LEAP") below. Alternatively, you may upload the certificate from HPC alongside this reporting template in OnBase.

Section 3: TJC Health Care Equity Certification Report

1. 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 PY3 performance requirements for the Hospital QEIP (HQEIP) "Achievement of External

Standards for Health Equity" measure. The PY3 HQEIP Performance Requirements for this measure include:

a. Achievement of The Joint Commission's (TJC) Health Care Equity (HCE) Certification, as demonstrated by:
    i. Completion of HCE Certification review conducted by The Joint Commission;
    ii. Completion of the Evidence of Standards Compliance (ESC) process for any identified Requirements for Improvement (if applicable); and
    iii. Receipt of a HCE certification decision of "Certified."

Please add additional rows as needed.

Name of Partnered Hospital	Completed TJC HCE Certification Review? (Y, N)	Completed ESC Process, if applicable? (Y, N, N/A)	Received "Certified" decision from TJC (Y, N)