



MassHealth Quality and Equity Incentive Program (QEIP)

Program:	Hospital QEIP
Performance Year:	4
Measure:	Patient Experience: Communication, Courtesy, and Respect
Deliverable:	HCAHPS Data
Submission Portal:	MassQEX
Submission Due Date:	June 30, 2027 by 5pm

Summary

The *Patient Experience: Communication, Courtesy, and Respect* measure evaluates MassHealth member perceptions of their hospital experience. The measure utilizes elements of the HCAHPS (Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems) survey for patients' perspectives of hospital care experience specifically related to communication, courtesy, and respect.

PY4 HCAHPS Deliverable Guidance

Introduction

Hospitals participating in the EOHHS Hospital Quality and Equity Incentive Program (HQEIP) are expected to complete performance requirements as stated in the HQEIP Performance Years 3-5 (PYs 3-5) Technical Specifications. This document provides instructions for submission of the deliverable associated with the *Patient Experience: Communication, Courtesy, and Respect* measure. Using data from the HCAHPS survey, this measure requires hospitals to report HCAHPS survey results for MassHealth members, including but not limited to MassHealth members participating in the HCAHPS survey as part of a hospital's collection efforts for the Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) program for the Performance Year ([HCAHPS: Patients' Perspectives of Care Survey | CMS](#)). Surveys conducted via paper or online modes are acceptable.

Section 1: Reporting Components

A. HCAHPS Aggregate Data – Data Entry

I. Summary of Survey Statistics for CY2026

A summary of survey statistics for CY2026 should be included with the following:

1. Total number of MassHealth adult (18+) acute inpatient discharges in PY4;
2. Total number of MassHealth HCAHPS-eligible acute inpatient discharges¹ in PY4;
3. Total number of MassHealth HCAHPS-eligible members sampled to participate in the HCAHPS survey in PY4;
4. Total number of submitted HCAHPS surveys for MassHealth HCAHPS-eligible inpatient discharges in PY4; and
5. Response rate* of MassHealth HCAHPS-eligible members participating in the HCAHPS survey in PY4.

**Response rate is defined as the total MassHealth HCAHPS surveys submitted (Item 4) over the total MassHealth HCAHPS-eligible members sampled (Item 3).*

B. Raw data file: Member-level Survey Responses

Hospitals should submit member-level results for all completed HCAHPS surveys for MassHealth members who participated in the HCAHPS survey during CY2026. Hospitals should use the HCAHPS XML File Specifications *version 4.7* to submit survey data for eligible discharges.

The CMS XML File Specifications can be located here: <https://hcahpsonline.org/en/technical-specifications/>.

XML files must be formatted following published CMS specifications. Please include all fields that are included in CMS specifications and ensure adherence to published specification formatting. For the purpose of the MassHealth *HCAHPS: Items Related to Cultural Competency* measure, EOHHS will use the following fields from the XML File Specifications:

- Q1: *During this hospital stay, how often did nurses treat you with courtesy and respect?* (XML Element: <nurse-courtesy-respect>)
- Q2: *During this hospital stay, how often did nurses listen carefully to you?* (XML Element: <nurse-listen>)
- Q3: *During this hospital stay, how often did nurses explain things in a way you could understand?* (XML Element: <nurse-explain>)
- Q4: *During this hospital stay, how often did doctors treat you with courtesy and respect?* (XML Element: <dr-courtesy-respect>)
- Q5: *During this hospital stay, how often did doctors listen carefully to you?* (XML Element: <dr-listen>)
- Q6: *During this hospital stay, how often did doctors explain things in a way you could understand?* (XML Element: <dr-explain>)
- Q27: *In general, how would you rate your overall health?* (XML Element: <overall-health>)

¹ Reference HCAHPS eligibility criteria

- Q28: *In general, how would you rate your overall mental or emotional health?* (XML Element: [<mental-health>](#))
- Q29: *What language do you mainly speak at home?* (XML Element: [<language-speak>](#))
- Q31: *Are you of Spanish, Hispanic or Latino origin?* (XML Element: [<ethnic>](#))
- Q32: *What is your race? Please choose one or more.* (XML Elements: [<race-white>](#), [<race-african-amer>](#), [<race-asian>](#), [<race-hi-pacific-islander>](#), [<race-amer-indian-ak>](#))

Note: These data may be aggregated further by MassHealth to provide statewide insights.

If Hospitals have zero eligible MassHealth HCAHPS discharges to report for a particular month(s), then the XML file format should follow CMS instructions for uploading "Zero Case" information. The hospital should upload one file for each month that they have "Zero Cases." Please note a blank file that is not formatted using the instruction for uploading a file with Zero Cases will be rejected.

If Hospitals have 5 or fewer eligible MassHealth HCAHPS discharges to report for a particular month(s), then the XML file format should follow CMS instructions for uploading "5 or Fewer Eligible HCAHPS Discharges in a Month" information. The hospital should upload one file for each month that they have 5 or fewer eligible HCAHPS discharges.

Section 2: Deliverable Submission Information

- Hospitals will submit reporting for components A and B in the MassQEX portal.
- For reporting component A, submit this aggregate data via a data entry form in the MassQEX portal.
- For reporting component B, hospitals will upload twelve files: one XML file for each monthly discharge period, using the applicable CMS file specification version as outlined in Section C above. *When uploading the file, the hospital should select the appropriate measure period (i.e., quarter) and file version for each of the twelve files.*

Please submit the performance requirements outlined above via the MassQEX portal by 5pm on **June 30, 2027**. MassQEX submission instructions are included in the publish HQEIP Portal User Guide.