**Clarifications, Technical Corrections, and Policy Changes
to the Technical Specifications for the
MassHealth Hospital Quality and Equity Incentives Program
Performance Years 3-5**

This document outlines clarifications, technical corrections, and policy changes to the Technical Specifications for Performance Year (PY3-5) of the MassHealth Hospital Quality and Equity Incentives Program (HQEIP). Updates are incorporated into the change log table below.

MassHealth's working definitions for clarification, technical correction and policy changes are as follows:

Clarification is additional information that explains an existing requirement.

Technical Correction is a change made to rectify an error in the technical specification.

Policy Update is a modification of an existing requirement.

Measure Name	Page #	Type of Update	Section Header	Update	Update release date
N/A	3	Clarification	Introduction	Added language on audit process for the HQEIP	2/21/25
Health-Related Social Needs Screening	63	Clarification	Measure Requirement and Assessment: 3-5	Audit of data submitted for Rate 1 and Rate 2	2/21/25
Meaningful Access to Healthcare Services for Individuals with a Preferred Language other than English	78-79	Clarification	Measure Requirement and Assessment: 3-5	Revised audit language from MassHealth "reserves" the right to "expects" to audit data submitted for Component 2; moved this language from *Reporting Methods* section to the *Measure Requirement and Assessment: 3-5* section	2/21/25
Disability Accommodation Needs	88	Technical Correction	Measure Requirement and Assessment: 3-5	Corrected the date in the examples from March 31 to June 30	2/21/25
Disability Accommodation Needs	88	Clarification	Measure Requirement and	Revised audit language from MassHealth "reserves" the right to	2/21/25

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			Assessment: 3-5	"expects" to audit data submitted for Rate 1 and Rate 2	
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Race Data Completeness	5	Clarification	Eligible Population	Removed "pending" and replaced with "*with* permission from NCQA"	5/19/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Hispanic Data Completeness	11	Clarification	Eligible Population	Removed "pending" and replaced with "*with* permission from NCQA"	5/19/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Preferred Language Data Completeness	17	Clarification	Eligible Population	Removed "pending" and replaced with "*with* permission from NCQA"	5/19/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Disability Data Completeness	27	Clarification	Eligible Population	Removed "pending" and replaced with "*with* permission from NCQA"	5/19/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Sexual Orientation Data Completeness	40	Clarification	Eligible Population	Removed "pending" and replaced with "*with* permission from NCQA"	5/19/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Gender Identity Data Completeness	46	Clarification	Eligible Population	Removed "pending" and replaced with "*with* permission from NCQA"	5/19/25
Health-Related Social Needs	54	Clarification	Eligible Population	Removed "pending" and replaced with "*with* permission from NCQA"	5/19/25
Health-Related Social Needs	56	Technical Correction	Administrative Specification— Rate 1	Modified the denominator description, specifying denominators for inpatient/observation stay and emergency department rates	5/19/25
Health-Related Social Needs	58	Clarification	Administrative Specification	Removed "pending" and replaced with "*with* permission from NCQA"	5/19/25
Health-Related Social Needs Screening	61	Technical Correction	Administrative Data Reporting Requirements--	Added Z58.6 (Inadequate drinking-water supply) to *Inadequate Housing*	5/19/25

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			Inadequate Housing		
Quality Performance Disparities Reduction	66	Policy Update	Table 1	Added the following quality measures to the slate: • NCQA: Follow-up After ED Visit for Mental Illness (7 and 30 Day) • SUB-3: Alcohol & Other Drug Use Disorder – Treatment provided/offered at discharge	5/19/25
Meaningful Access to Healthcare Services for Individuals with a Preferred Language other than English	74-75	Clarification	Eligible Population	Removed "pending" and replaced with "*with* permission from NCQA"	5/19/25
Meaningful Access to Healthcare Services for Individuals with a Preferred Language other than English	77	Technical Correction	Administrative Specification—Component 2	Modified the denominator description, specifying denominators for inpatient/observation stay and emergency department rates	5/19/25
Disability Competent Care	82	Clarification	Administrative Specification	Addition of "Other" that provides clarification on MassHealth expectations for hospitals choosing to change their targeted DCC training area and/or targeted patient-facing staff	5/19/25
Disability Accommodation Needs	85-86	Technical Correction	Definition—Patient with Self-reported Disability	Revised ages for each of the six questions to align with the ages listed in the RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Disability Data Completeness measure (under Eligible Population)	5/19/25
Meaningful Access to Healthcare Services for Individuals with a Preferred Language other than English	75 & 77	Clarification	Eligible Population and Administrative Specifications	Addition of "language services documentation system (e.g., vendor logs)" as an acceptable source of documentation	5/19/25

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RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Race Data Completeness	5	Technical Correction	Eligible Population—Age	Corrected age of eligible population	9/15/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Race Data Completeness	5	Clarification	Definitions—Hospital File ["Enhanced Demographics Data File"]	Clarification on MassHealth Member ID	9/15/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Race Data Completeness	6	Technical Correction	Definitions—Members	Modification on MassHealth member definition to align with the HQEIP Implementation Plan	9/15/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Hispanic Data Completeness	10	Technical Correction	Eligible Population—Age	Corrected age of eligible population	9/15/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Hispanic Data Completeness	11	Clarification	Definitions—Hospital File ["Enhanced Demographics Data File"]	Clarification on MassHealth Member ID	9/15/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Hispanic Data Completeness	12	Technical Correction	Definitions—Members	Modification on MassHealth member definition to align with the HQEIP Implementation Plan	9/15/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Preferred Language Data Completeness	17	Technical Correction	Eligible Population—Age	Corrected age of eligible population	9/15/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Preferred Language Data Completeness	18	Clarification	Definitions—Hospital File ["Enhanced Demographics Data File"]	Clarification on MassHealth Member ID	9/15/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Preferred	18	Technical Correction	Definitions—Members	Modification on MassHealth member definition to align with the HQEIP Implementation Plan	9/15/25

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Language Data Completeness					
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Disability Data Completeness	27	Technical Correction	Eligible Population—Age	Corrected age of eligible population	9/15/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Disability Data Completeness	28	Clarification	Definitions—Hospital File ["Enhanced Demographics Data File"]	Clarification on MassHealth Member ID	9/15/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Disability Data Completeness	28	Technical Correction	Definitions—Members	Modification on MassHealth member definition to align with the HQEIP Implementation Plan	9/15/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Disability Data Completeness	29-30	Technical Correction	Administrative Specification—Numerator Set	Revised ages for each of the six questions to align with the ages listed under Eligible Population	9/15/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Sexual Orientation Data Completeness	40	Technical Correction	Eligible Population—Age	Corrected age of eligible population	9/15/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Sexual Orientation Data Completeness	40-41	Clarification	Definitions—Hospital File ["Enhanced Demographics Data File"]	Clarification on MassHealth Member ID	9/15/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Sexual Orientation Data Completeness	41	Technical Correction	Definitions—Members	Modification on MassHealth member definition to align with the HQEIP Implementation Plan	9/15/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Gender Identity Data Completeness	46	Technical Correction	Eligible Population—Age	Corrected age of eligible population	9/15/25

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RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Gender Identity Data Completeness	46	Clarification	Definitions— Hospital File ["Enhanced Demographics Data File"]	Clarification on MassHealth Member ID	9/15/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Gender Identity Data Completeness	47	Technical Correction	Definitions— Members	Modification on MassHealth member definition to align with the HQEIP Implementation Plan	9/15/25
Health-Related Social Needs	54	Technical Correction	Eligible Population— Age	Corrected age of eligible population	9/15/25
Health-Related Social Needs	55	Technical Correction	Definitions— Members	Modification on MassHealth member definition to align with the HQEIP Implementation Plan	9/15/25
Health-Related Social Needs	63	Clarification	Measure Requirement and Assessment— Measure Requirements	Clarification on submission expectations (e.g., time)	9/15/25
Quality Performance Disparities Reduction	65	Technical Correction	Administrative Specification	Modified description of the PY3 Measure Assessment Report and information on assessment and measure performance in PY4-5; revised measure slate (Table 1)	9/15/25
Quality Performance Disparities Reduction	66-67	Technical Correction	Measure Requirements and Assessment	Updated submission date of PY3 Measure Assessment Report; removed approval of alternative measures for PY3 Performance Assessment	9/15/25
Equity Improvement Interventions	70-71	Technical Correction	Performance Requirements and Assessment	Revised information to reflect only PY3-5 submission requirements and updated submission date for PIP1 Closure Report for PY4	9/15/25
Meaningful Access to Healthcare Services for Individuals with a Preferred Language Other Than English	73	Technical Correction	Eligible Population— Component 2	Modification on MassHealth member definition to align with the HQEIP Implementation Plan	9/15/25

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Meaningful Access to Healthcare Services for Individuals with a Preferred Language Other Than English	73	Technical Correction	Eligible Population—Component 2	Corrected age of eligible population	9/15/25
Meaningful Access to Healthcare Services for Individuals with a Preferred Language Other Than English	73	Technical Correction	Eligible Population—Component 2	Corrected the typo of PY3 measurement period	9/15/25
Meaningful Access to Healthcare Services for Individuals with a Preferred Language Other Than English	74	Technical Correction	Definitions—Members	Modification on MassHealth member definition to align with the HQEIP Implementation Plan	9/15/25
Meaningful Access to Healthcare Services for Individuals with a Preferred Language Other Than English	77-78	Technical Correction & Clarification	Measure Requirement and Assessment—Measure Requirements	Corrected submission date for Component 1 and clarification on submission expectations for Component 2	9/15/25
Disability Competent Care	81	Technical Correction	Measure Requirement and Assessment—Measure Requirements	Modified the deliverable submission date	9/15/25
Disability Accommodation Needs	84	Technical Correction	Eligible Population	Modification on MassHealth member definition to align with the HQEIP Implementation Plan	9/15/25
Disability Accommodation Needs	84	Technical Correction	Eligible Population—Age	Corrected age of eligible population	9/15/25
Disability Accommodation Needs	88	Clarification	Measure Requirement and	Clarification on submission expectations (e.g., time)	9/15/25

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Measure Name	Page #	Type of Update	Section Header	Update	Update release date
			Assessment—Measure Requirements		
Achievement of External Standards for Health Equity	90	Technical Correction	Measure Requirement and Assessment—Measure Requirements	Corrected deliverable submission date	9/15/25
Patient Experience: Communication, Courtesy, and Respect	93	Clarification	Measure Requirement and Assessment—Measure Requirements	Clarified age for "1. Total number of MassHealth *adult (18+)* acute inpatient…"	9/15/25
Collaboration	96	Clarification	Measure Requirement and Assessment—Measure Requirements	Added the deliverable submission date	9/15/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Race Data Completeness	5	Technical Correction	Eligible Population	Standardized the 'Age' description of under 65	10/17/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Hispanic Data Completeness	10	Technical Correction	Eligible Population	Standardized the 'Age' description of under 65	10/17/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Preferred Language Data Completeness	17	Technical Correction	Eligible Population	Standardized the 'Age' description of under 65	10/17/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Disability Data Completeness	27	Technical Correction	Eligible Population	Standardized the 'Age' description of under 65	10/17/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Disability Data Completeness	29-30	Technical Correction	Administrative Specification—Numerator Set	Revised age description for each disability question to align with the standardized 'Age' description	10/17/25

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Measure Name	Page #	Type of Update	Section Header	Update	Update release date
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Sexual Orientation Data Completeness	40	Technical Correction	Eligible Population	Standardized the 'Age' description of under 65	10/17/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Gender Identity Data Completeness	46	Technical Correction	Eligible Population	Standardized the 'Age' description of under 65	10/17/25
Health-Related Social Needs	54	Technical Correction	Eligible Population	Standardized the 'Age' description of under 65	10/17/25
Quality Performance Disparities Reduction	66	Policy Update	Table 1	Removed "SUB-3: Alcohol & Other Drug Use Disorder – Treatment provided/offered at discharge" from the quality measure slate [did not demonstrate significant disparities]	10/17/25
Meaningful Access to Healthcare Services for Individuals with a Preferred Language Other Than English	73	Technical Correction	Eligible Population	Standardized the 'Age' description of under 65	10/17/25
Disability Accommodation Needs	84	Technical Correction	Eligible Population	Standardized the 'Age' description of under 65	10/17/25
Disability Accommodation Needs	86	Technical Correction	Definition—Patient with Self-reported Disability	Revised age description for each disability question to align with the standardized 'Age' description	10/17/25

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