**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 Assessment: 3-5	Revised audit language from MassHealth "reserves" the right to "expects" to audit data submitted for Rate 1 and Rate 2	2/21/25

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Measure Name	Page #	Type of Update	Section Header	Update	Update release date
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--Inadequate Housing	Added Z58.6 (Inadequate drinking-water supply) to *Inadequate Housing*	5/19/25

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Measure Name	Page #	Type of Update	Section Header	Update	Update release date
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
RELD SOGI Data Completeness –	5	Technical Correction	Eligible Population—Age	Corrected age of eligible population	9/15/25

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Race Data Completeness					
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 Language Data Completeness	18	Technical Correction	Definitions—Members	Modification on MassHealth member definition to align with the HQEIP Implementation Plan	9/15/25
RELD SOGI Data	27	Technical Correction	Eligible Population—Age	Corrected age of eligible population	9/15/25

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Measure Name	Page #	Type of Update	Section Header	Update	Update release date
Completeness – Disability Data Completeness					
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
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Gender Identity	46	Clarification	Definitions— Hospital File ["Enhanced Demographics Data File"]	Clarification on MassHealth Member ID	9/15/25

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Measure Name	Page #	Type of Update	Section Header	Update	Update release date
Data Completeness					
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
Meaningful Access to Healthcare Services for Individuals with a Preferred	73	Technical Correction	Eligible Population—Component 2	Corrected age of eligible population	9/15/25

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Language Other Than English					
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 Assessment—Measure Requirements	Clarification on submission expectations (e.g., time)	9/15/25
Achievement of External	90	Technical Correction	Measure Requirement and	Corrected deliverable submission date	9/15/25

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Measure Name	Page #	Type of Update	Section Header	Update	Update release date
Standards for Health Equity			Assessment—Measure Requirements		
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
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Sexual Orientation Data Completeness	40	Technical Correction	Eligible Population	Standardized the 'Age' description of under 65	10/17/25

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Measure Name	Page #	Type of Update	Section Header	Update	Update release date
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
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Sexual Orientation Data Completeness	40	Technical Correction	Eligible Population	Corrected members age to 19 and older and below 65 years of age	12/24/25
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Gender Identity Data Completeness	46	Technical Correction	Eligible Population	Corrected members age to 19 and older and below 65 years of age	12/24/25
Health-Related Social Needs	59 & 60	Clarification	Administrative Data Reporting Requirements	Added a note about G0136 code that will no longer be applicable beginning January 1, 2026	12/24/25
Disability Accommodation Needs	83	Clarification	Measure Summary	Clarified rates will be calculated separately for inpatient/observation stays and ambulatory radiology	12/24/25

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Disability Accommodation Needs	84	Clarification	Eligible Population—Event	Included a note about inclusion and exclusion of ambulatory radiology visits	12/24/25
Disability Accommodation Needs	84	Clarification	Eligible Population—Event	Added information on MassHealth ID and use of "999999999999" in the supplemental file that will be excluded from rate calculations	12/24/25
Disability Accommodation Needs	78	Technical Correction	Administrative Specifications—Rate 1: Accommodation Needs Screening and Rate 2: Accommodation Needs Related to a Disability Documented	Corrected both rates to reflect denominator and numerator for each inpatient/observation stays and ambulatory radiology	12/24/25
Achievement of External	91	Clarification	Measure Requirement and Assessment: PY3-5 – Measure Requirements	If applicable, clarified certification and maintenance requirements apply to additional acute care hospital sites operated by hospital	12/24/25
Patient Experience: Communication, Courtesy, and Respect	95	Technical Correction	Measure Requirement and Assessment: PY3-5 – Measure Requirements	Changed reference to PY2 to PY for response rate (#5)	12/24/25
Health-Related Social Needs	59	Clarification	Administrative Specification – Rate 1, Exclusions	Added exclusions of patients leaving against medical advice, eloping, or without being seen	3/6/26
Quality Performance Disparities Reduction	66	Policy Update	Administrative Specification	Removed "and any alternative measures as applicable"	3/6/26
Quality Performance Disparities Reduction	67	Policy Update	Table 1	Removed "Alternative Measures"	3/6/26
Quality Performance	67	Technical Correction	Additional Measure Information	Removed language on race and ethnicity data standards for stratification	3/6/26

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Disparities Reduction					
Quality Performance Disparities Reduction	67	Technical Correction	Measure Requirements and Assessment: PY3-5 – Measure Requirements	Updated the PY3 Measure Assessment Report submission date to December 12, 2025	3/6/26
Meaningful Access to Healthcare Services for Individuals with a Preferred Language Other Than English	73	Technical Correction	Eligible Population – Event/Diagnosis	Corrected the typo of discharges, stays, visits date range (aligns with the Measurement Years defined in row above)	3/6/26
Meaningful Access to Healthcare Services for Individuals with a Preferred Language Other Than English	74	Clarification	Administrative Specification – Component 2, Exclusions	Added exclusions of patients leaving against medical advice, eloping or without being seen	3/6/26
Disability Competent Care	81	Technical Correction	Administrative Specification	Added the DCC Training Rate formula (note: formula is the same as the one included in PY2 HQEIP Technical Specifications)	3/6/26
Disability Accommodation Needs	85	Policy Update	Eligible Population – Event	Added to the "Note" that radiology services included as a part of an inpatient stay is excluded Also, revised Step 2 to reflect the updated approach— hospitals identify patients with a self-reported disability	3/6/26
Disability Accommodation Needs	87	Technical Correction	Definition – Patient with Eligibility for MassHealth on the Basis of a Disability	Definition no longer applicable given the measure's revised approach	3/6/36
Disability Accommodation Needs	89	Technical Correction	Administrative Specification –	Expanded staff/providers who may render screening	3/6/26

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			Rate 1, Numerator		
Achievement of External Standards for Health Equity	91-93	Clarification	Measure Summary – Description; Measure Requirements	Included a footnote on the name change for the HCE Certification	3/6/26
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Race Data Completeness	4	Policy Update	Measure Summary – Description and Numerator	Modified requirement to collect data in the measurement year to collect or verify data within the three past years	5/6/26
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Race Data Completeness	5-6		Definitions – Hospital File ["Enhanced Demographics Data File"]	Added language on CHIA cross-database matching	5/6/26
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Hispanic Data Completeness	10	Policy Update	Measure Summary – Description and Numerator	Modified requirement to collect data in the measurement year to collect or verify data within the three past years	5/6/26
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Hispanic Data Completeness	11-12		Definitions – Hospital File ["Enhanced Demographics Data File"]	Added language on CHIA cross-database matching	5/6/26
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Preferred Language Data Completeness	16	Policy Update	Measure Summary – Description and Numerator	Modified requirement to collect data in the measurement year to collect or verify data within the three past years	5/6/26
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Preferred Language Data Completeness	18		Definitions – Hospital File ["Enhanced Demographics Data File"]	Added language on CHIA cross-database matching	5/6/26
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Preferred Language Data Completeness	22	Policy Update	Additional Measure Information – Completeness Calculations	Modified requirement to collect data in the measurement year to collect or verify data within the three past years	5/6/26
RELD SOGI Data	26	Policy Update	Measure Summary –	Modified requirement to collect data in the measurement year to collect	5/6/26

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Measure Name	Page #	Type of Update	Section Header	Update	Update release date
Completeness – Disability Data Completeness			Description and Numerator	or verify data within the three past years	
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Disability Data Completeness	28		Definitions – Hospital File ["Enhanced Demographics Data File"]	Added language on CHIA cross-database matching	5/6/26
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Sexual Orientation Data Completeness	40	Policy Update	Measure Summary – Description and Numerator	Modified requirement to collect data in the measurement year to collect or verify data within the three past years	5/6/26
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Sexual Orientation Data Completeness	41		Definitions – Hospital File ["Enhanced Demographics Data File"]	Added language on CHIA cross-database matching	5/6/26
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Gender Identity Data Completeness	46	Policy Update	Measure Summary – Description and Numerator	Modified requirement to collect data in the measurement year to collect or verify data within the three past years	5/6/26
RELD SOGI Data Completeness – Gender Identity Data Completeness	47		Definitions – Hospital File ["Enhanced Demographics Data File"]	Added language on CHIA cross-database matching	5/6/26
Equity Improvement Interventions	71	Technical Correction	Measure Requirements and Assessment: PY3-5 – Measure Requirements	Submission date updated to 10/19/2026 (previously dur 10/1/2026) for the PIP2 Remeasurement 1 Report	5/6/26
Disability Accommodation Needs	86	Technical Correction & Clarification	Eligible Population – Event	Step 1: - Added references to Inpatient Stay and Observation Stay Value Sets - Updated guidance on how to identify ambulatory radiology encounter (not limited to Place of Service = 22)	5/6/26

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Measure Name	Page #	Type of Update	Section Header	Update	Update release date
				Step 2: Provided additional guidance on the denominator; inpatient patients with a self-reported disability identified at or prior to visit and radiology and observation stays with a self-reported disability at any time prior to visit/stay	
Disability Accommodation Needs	86-87	Technical Correction	Eligible Population – Exclusions	Added exclusions of patients leaving against medical advice, eloping, or without being seen	5/6/26
Disability Accommodation Needs	87	Technical Correction	Definition – Patient with Self-Reported Disability	Removed reference to timeframe "at any time prior to or during the event"	5/6/26
Achievement of External Standards for Health Equity	92-93	Technical Correction	Measure Requirements and Assessment: PY3-5 – Measure Requirements	Modification for Maintenance of HCE Certification (PY4) and Achievement of HCE Re-Certification (PY5)	5/6/26

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