

# **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.

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| **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 |
| 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 |
| 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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