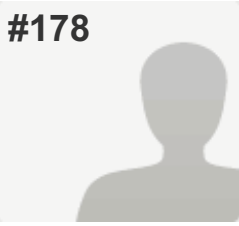


Ending the Epidemic Task Force Recommendation Form

#178



COMPLETE

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Q1: OPTIONAL: This recommendation was submitted by (please provide your first and last name, affiliation, and email address)

First Name	Marc
Last Name	Meachem
Affiliation	ViiV Healthcare
Email Address	Marc.s.meachem@viivhealthcare.com

Q2: Title of your recommendation

Entities providing Medicaid medical services should implement the NQF 2082 HIV Viral Load Suppression quality measure

Q3: Please provide a description of your proposed recommendation

Currently, all Medicaid managed care organizations are required to track how many beneficiaries have had a viral load test. This is a "process" quality measure whereas an "outcomes" quality measure assesses whether HIV treatment is successful. The National Quality Forum (NQF) has endorsed NQF 2082: HIV Viral Load Suppression: Percentage of patients, regardless of age, with a diagnosis of HIV with a HIV viral load less than 200 copies/mL at last HIV viral load test during the measurement year. This measure was created by HRSA and included by CMS in their Core Set of Health Care Quality Measures for Adults Enrolled in Medicaid (Medicaid Adult Core Set), which states can opt to use in their Medicaid programs. It is also included in the Physician Quality Reporting System, established by CMS as a Pay-for-Reporting Medicare quality program. The NQF 2082 quality measure can be found at: <http://hab.hrsa.gov/deliverhivaidscare/coremeasures.pdf>

We recommend that the NQF 2082 HIV Viral Load Suppression be a required outcomes quality measure that is tracked by any contracted entity providing medical services to Medicaid beneficiaries, including Medicaid Managed Care plans, Accountable Care Organizations, Medical Homes and other service delivery models.

Q4: For which goal outlined in the Governor's plan to end the epidemic in New York State does this recommendation apply? (Select all that apply)

Linking and retaining persons diagnosed with HIV to health care and getting them on anti-HIV therapy to maximize HIV virus suppression so they remain healthy and prevent further transmission

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Q5: This recommendation should be considered by the following Ending the Epidemic Task Force Committee (Select all that apply)

Care Committee: Develop recommendations to support access to care and treatment in order to maximize the rate of HIV viral suppression. The Committee will promote linkages and retention in care to achieve viral suppression and promote the highest quality of life while significantly decreasing the risks of HIV transmission. Recommendations will also ensure a person centered approach is taken and that access to culturally and linguistically appropriate prevention and health care services is available.

Data Committee: Develop recommendations for metrics and identify data sources to assess the comprehensive statewide HIV strategy. The Committee will determine metrics that will measure effective community engagement/ ownership, political leadership, and supportive services. It will also determine metrics that will measure quality of care, impact of interventions and outcomes across all populations, particularly identified sub populations such as transgender men and women, women of color, men who have sex with men and youth. In addition, the Committee will evaluate to determine optimal strategies for using data to identify infected persons who have not achieved viral suppression and address their support service, behavioral health, and adherence needs.

Q6: Does this recommendation require a change to an existing policy or program, or the creation of a new policy or program?

New policy

Q7: Would implementation of this recommendation be permitted under current laws or would a statutory change be required?

Permitted under current law

Q8: Is this recommendation something that could feasibly be implemented in the short-term (within the next year) or long-term (within the next three to six years)?

Within the next year

Q9: What are the perceived benefits of implementing this recommendation?

While it is important to make sure that viral load tests are being conducted by Medicaid managed care organizations, it is more important to know that a patient's treatment is successful, as evidenced by reduced or undetectable viral load. The National Quality Forum is emphasizing outcomes measures, rather than process measures, as a way to improve patient care.

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Q10: Are there any concerns with implementing this recommendation that should be considered?

All of the measures in the New York Medicaid Quality Assurance Reporting Requirements (QARR) focus on process, not outcomes. We recognize that implementing an outcomes measure will require plans to change their tracking and reporting mechanisms. Quality measures have been evolving for many years and we hope that New York can take the lead in establishing a robust viral load suppression outcomes quality measure that can be implemented by its contracted partners.

Q11: What is the estimated cost of implementing this recommendation and how was this estimate calculated?

Respondent skipped this question

Q12: What is the estimated return on investment (ROI) for this recommendation and how was the ROI calculated?

Respondent skipped this question

Q13: Who are the key individuals/stakeholders who would benefit from this recommendation?

Medicaid beneficiaries, whose care is managed by organizations that are measured by how well HIV is controlled. This would allow New York State to assess HIV control of contracted organizations that provide medical care to Medicaid beneficiaries and determine which ones are best managing HIV.

Q14: Are there suggested measures to accompany this recommendation that would assist in monitoring its impact?

There are other outcomes quality measures that can track the progress of an individual patient and an organization in moving its population along the HIV care continuum, from testing to viral load suppression. If viral load is suppressed, however, it shows that the support that must be provided along the care continuum has been successful.

Q15: This recommendation was submitted by one of the following

Other (please specify)
Specialist HIV pharmaceutical company