2027 CHILD AND ADULT CORE SETS ANNUAL REVIEW:
MEASURE SUBMISSION TIPS AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This document provides general tips and answers frequently asked questions related to preparing measure submission forms during the 2027 Call for Measures. Please see the "Instructions for Suggesting Measures for Addition or Removal" document in the 2027 Call for Measures Materials packet for detailed information on the measure criteria, due dates, and the measure submission process. The 2027 Call for Measures Materials packet is available on the Child and Adult Core Sets Review website, at: https://www.mathematica.org/features/MACCoreSetReview.

General Measure Submission Tips

- Measure submission forms are the foundation for the Measure Information Sheets[1] that Workgroup members review to prepare for the voting meeting.

  - In your measure submission form, explain why the Workgroup should consider recommending a measure for addition to or removal from the Core Sets.

  - Provide evidence to support your measure suggestion, including citations and links where applicable.

  - If the measure has been discussed by the Workgroup previously, consider why the measure was not recommended for addition or removal and include information that justifies discussing the measure again.

  - For measures suggested for addition, be sure to address the minimum technical feasibility and appropriateness criteria. Note that measures that do not meet these criteria will not be discussed by the Workgroup.

- If you are suggesting a new measure to replace a current Core Set measure, remember to submit both an addition form and a removal form.

- Include additional information as an attachment to your measure submission form or email it to MACCoreSetReview@mathematica-mpr.com, if necessary.

Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

1. Where can I find additional materials to support my measure submission?

Materials to support the measure submission process are available in the 2027 Resources section of the Child and Adult Core Sets Review website. The 2027 Call for Measures Materials packet contains the primary resources to support the measure submission process. Additional resources that may be useful include the 2025 Core Sets History Table and the 2023 Medicaid and CHIP Beneficiary Profile. Resources from prior Core

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[1] The Measure Information Sheets contain detailed information on each measure discussed during the voting meeting, including technical details and the reasons for addition or removal. The Measure Information Sheets from the 2026 review cycle are available at https://www.mathematica.org/-/media/internet/features/2024/child-and-adult-core-set/coresetreview-2026-removals-and-additions.pdf.

Sets Review cycles, including measure information sheets and final reports, are also available in the Resources Archive section of the website.

2. **Where can I find more information about the mandatory reporting requirements for the Child and Adult Core Sets?**

Beginning with the 2024 Core Sets, mandatory state reporting goes into effect for all the Child Core Set measures and for the behavioral health measures on the Adult Core Set. Please review the following resources for more information on the mandatory reporting requirements:

- The final rule for Mandatory Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program Core Set Reporting is available at https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2023-18669/mandatory-medicaid-and-childrens-health-insurance-program-core-set-reporting.

- A May 2024 State Health Official (SHO) letter describes updates to the 2025 Child and Adult Core Sets and details the requirements and expectations for mandatory reporting, including stratification requirements. The SHO is available at: https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/sho24001.pdf.

3. **Will all measures submitted be considered by the Workgroup during the voting meeting?**

No. Mathematica will review all measure submission forms and determine which measures meet the criteria for discussion by the Workgroup. One reason why a measure might not be discussed is if the measure submission form is incomplete or questions in the form are not adequately addressed. Another reason why a measure might not be discussed is if it has been previously discussed by the Workgroup and the submitter did not provide strong justification and new evidence explaining why the Workgroup should reconsider the measure. Additional reasons why a measure might not be discussed are described under the Measures for Addition Questions header.

4. **How can I determine whether a measure has been previously discussed by the Workgroup?**

Refer to the list of previously discussed measures (included in the 2027 Call for Measures Materials packet) and the 2025 Core Sets History Table to determine whether the measure has been discussed previously or included in the Core Sets. If the measure has been discussed previously, review the summary of the Workgroup discussion in the Child and Adult Core Sets Annual Review Final Report for that year (the final reports from prior Core Sets Review cycles are available in the Resources Archive section of the Child and Adult Core Sets Review website). Previous Measure Information Sheets are also available in the Resources Archive section of the website.

5. **What are examples of "strong justification and new evidence" that would justify the Workgroup reconsidering a measure that has been discussed in the past?**

Examples of strong justification and new evidence that would justify the Workgroup reconsidering a measure could include the following:

- A substantive change to the measure's technical specifications (e.g., a change to the data collection method or required code sets) that impacts how feasible it is for states to report the measure.

- Evidence that the measure has been widely adopted by states since the last time it was considered.

- A change in the relevant clinical guidelines, population health conditions, and/or CMS's strategic priorities.

6. **What should I do if I don't know the answer to one of the questions on the measure submission form?**

You are responsible for obtaining the information needed to complete the form. This document and the 2027 Resources section of the Child and Adult Core Sets Review website contain links to many resources that may help you locate the information that you need. Note that your submission must include a response to all questions marked with an asterisk (*) in the form; if you skip any of the required questions the system will not allow you to submit. Questions that are not marked with an asterisk are optional; you may skip these questions if they are not applicable or you do not know the answer.

Note that if you include only a general response to key questions – such as "N/A" or "Don't know," – Mathematica may determine that your submission is incomplete.

7. **Will someone review and verify the information I include in my measure submission form?**

Yes, Mathematica will closely review the measure's technical specifications and verify all technical details with the measure steward prior to the Workgroup voting meeting. Mathematica will also review any references that you provide to publicly available sources (such as data, clinical guidelines, or literature) to ensure their accuracy and relevance. Mathematica will review but cannot verify the accuracy of any non-public data or evidence that you provide. Mathematica also cannot verify any statements of opinion that you include in your submission. Statements of opinion will be presented as such in the measure information sheets that Mathematica prepares to orient Workgroup members to the suggested measures.

8. **Will I be expected to present information about the measure during the voting meeting?**

No, you are not expected to present information about the measure(s) you suggest for addition or removal. If you are a Workgroup member, we encourage you to contribute to the discussion during the voting meeting as appropriate. If you are the measure steward for the measure, we request that you attend the voting meeting and be available to answer technical questions from Workgroup members as needed. Other members of the public are not required to participate in the voting meeting.

If you would like to attend the voting meeting to speak in support of your measure submission(s), and you are not a member of the Workgroup, you will have an opportunity to do so during one of the designated public comment periods. A detailed agenda, including the approximate start time for each measure discussion and associated public comment period, will be available on the Child and Adult Core Sets Review website approximately one week prior to the meeting. If you plan to attend the voting meeting, we encourage you to register in advance to avoid delays connecting to the webinar. Registration links for all 2027 meetings are available on our website.

9. **Can I suggest multiple measures for addition and/or removal from the Core Sets?**

Yes, you may suggest multiple measures for addition and/or removal, but please ensure that all measures meet the criteria for suggesting a measure (available in the 2027 Call for Measures Materials packet on the Child and Adult Core Sets Review website). Note that you must submit a separate form for each measure.

10. Does CMCS have a specific target for the number of measures that will be included in the 2027 Child and Adult Core Sets?

No, CMCS does not have a target for the total number of measures for each Core Set or a specific number of measures for addition to or removal from the Core Sets for 2027. Measures will be recommended for addition to or removal from each Core Set based on Workgroup input and consideration of factors such as the feasibility, actionability, alignment, and clinical relevance of each measure.

11. What is the role of the new Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Quality Measure Set Review Workgroup? Does this Workgroup overlap with the Child and Adult Core Sets Review Workgroup?

On behalf of CMS, Mathematica will convene a new HCBS Quality Measure Set Review Workgroup starting in October 2024. The Workgroup will be comprised of subject matter experts with knowledge of the opportunities and challenges for collecting, reporting, and using the quality measures to improve the quality of care in Medicaid HCBS programs. Individual Workgroup members may serve on both the HCBS Quality Measure Set Review Workgroup and the Child and Adult Core Sets Review Workgroup, however the two workgroups will be convened separately and will have different charges. The HCBS Quality Measure Set Review Workgroup will make recommendations to CMS for updating and maintaining the HCBS Quality Measure Set, including measures to add or remove from the HCBS Quality Measure Set and measures to stratify by demographic or other factors to assess disparities. The Child and Adult Core Sets Review Workgroup is charged with assessing the existing Core Sets and recommending measures for addition or removal in order to strengthen and improve the Core Sets for Medicaid and CHIP. More information on the HCBS Quality Measure Set and review process is available at: https://mathematica.org/features/hcbsqmsreview.

12. What should I do if I have other questions about the Call for Measures process or technical difficulties with the forms (that aren't addressed below)?

Please email the Mathematica Core Sets Review team at MACCoreSetReview@mathematica-mpr.com and use the subject line "Public Call for Measures."

Technical Questions

13. I started filling out a form but am unable to complete it. Can I save my work and complete the rest of the form later?

Before accessing the online forms, we recommend reviewing the Word previews of the forms (available in the 2027 Resources section of the Child and Adult Core Sets Review website) to ensure that you have all the required information.

If you need to exit out of a form before you have completed it, you have an option to save your work. To access this feature, click on the blue "Save & Continue Later" text at the bottom of the screen. When prompted, enter your email address and click on the "Email me the link" button. You will then receive an email from MACCoreSetReview@mathematica-mpr.com with a link you can use to access and continue working on your partially completed form later.

Please note that you must complete all required questions on a given page before you can access the "Save & Continue Later" feature. If you are unable to complete every question on the page and wish to exit and continue later, you will need to go back to the last page you completed and access "Save & Continue Later" from there. Please also note, if you decide to use the "Save & Continue Later" feature multiple times while

filling out the form, you will receive a new email (containing a new link) each time. You must use the most recent link you received to return to where you left off.

14. Why do some questions (and question numbers) that appear in the Word preview of the form not appear in the online form?

The Word preview of each form contains a comprehensive list of each question you may be asked when completing the online form. However, some questions may not be applicable to your submission. The online forms incorporate skip logic, meaning that the forms will automatically skip past questions that are not applicable based on your responses to earlier questions. For example, if you indicate that the measure you are suggesting has not been previously discussed by the Workgroup, you do not need to answer the next question asking you to explain why you suggest the Workgroup discuss the measure again.

15. I am trying to paste my answer into the form, but it is getting cut off. What do I do?

Note that many of the questions have character limits; if your response exceeds the character limit, the system will not allow you to paste it in. All character limits are indicated both in the Word previews of the forms (available in the 2027 Resources section of the [Child and Adult Core Sets Review website](#)) and in the online forms. Please be concise but specific in your responses and include links to supporting documentation where appropriate. If links are not available, you may also submit supporting documentation as an attachment at the end of the form or email it directly to [MACCoreSetReview@mathematica-mpr.com](#).

16. How do I add attachments to support my submission?

Both forms include a prompt to upload attachments at the end of the form, after you have responded to all required questions. When uploading attachments, please indicate the related question number in the attachment file name(s). Note that you may upload up to 10 attachments and that the maximum file size is 50 mb. You can also email supporting documentation to [MACCoreSetReview@mathematica-mpr.com](#) with the subject line "Public Call for Measures."

17. How can I tell whether Mathematica has received my form?

After submitting a form, you will receive a confirmation email with your recorded responses from [MACCoreSetReview@mathematica-mpr.com](#). If you cannot locate this email, please contact Mathematica to confirm your submission was received.

18. What should I do if I need to make changes to my form after I submit it?

The system will not allow you to edit your form after you submit it. If you need to make changes, please email us at [MACCoreSetReview@mathematica-mpr.com](#) with the details. If the changes are significant, we may ask you to submit a new form.

Measures for Addition Questions

19. What should I do if I need more information about a measure while preparing my measure submission form?

As a first step, we encourage you to visit the CMS Measures Inventory Tool (CMIT) at: https://cmit.cms.gov/cmit/#/. CMIT is the repository of record for information about the measures used in CMS programs and contains information about the measure's properties (e.g., description, numerator, denominator), characteristics (e.g., measure type, data sources), programs, and reporting status. CMIT also contains the name of the measure steward and contact information for the measure steward, if available. If you need

additional information that is not available in CMIT, we encourage you to reach out to the measure steward directly.

20. Where can I find Medicaid-specific prevalence estimates to support my measure submission?

The [2023 Medicaid and CHIP Beneficiary Profile](#) contains prevalence estimates for some conditions. Other Medicaid-specific data resources that may be helpful include:

- CMS's Medicaid & CHIP Data Products page: https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/medicaid-chip-data-products/index.html

- The Research Products section of CMS's Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System (T-MSIS) Analytic Files (TAF) page: https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/data-systems/macbis/medicaid-chip-research-files/transformed-medicaid-statistical-information-system-t-msis-analytic-files-taf/index.html

- The Medicaid and CHIP Scorecard page: https://www.medicaid.gov/state-overviews/scorecard/welcome

21. Where can I find a list of gap areas in the Core Sets?

A list of previously identified gap areas is included in the 2027 Call for Measures Materials packet available on [Child and Adult Core Sets Review website](#). A discussion of priority gap areas in the Core Sets can also be found in the final report for each prior Core Sets Review cycle. The final reports from prior Core Sets Review cycles are available in the Resources Archive section of the website.

22. Why might a measure suggested for addition to the Core Sets not be considered by the Workgroup?

Measures that do not meet the minimum technical feasibility and appropriateness criteria will not be considered by the Workgroup. These criteria can be found in the 2027 Call for Measures Materials packet available on the [Child and Adult Core Sets Review website](#). Mathematica will determine which measures suggested for addition meet the criteria by reviewing all measure submission forms and conferring with measure stewards as needed. During past review cycles, the most common reason why a suggested measure has not been discussed by the Workgroup has been because it has not been tested in Medicaid or CHIP and is not in use by at least one state Medicaid or CHIP program.

23. What do you mean by "testing in state Medicaid and/or CHIP programs"?

To meet minimum technical feasibility and appropriateness requirements, measures must have been field tested in or be currently in use by state Medicaid and CHIP programs. This is to ensure that the specifications can be implemented using state Medicaid and CHIP data for state-level Core Set reporting. Field testing, sometimes referred to as beta testing occurs after the development of complete specifications to assess the scientific acceptability and usability of a measure. Field testing is designed to test implementation and usability in the target population, in this case, state Medicaid and CHIP programs.

Alpha testing—or formative testing—occurs concurrently to developing detailed technical specifications and provides initial information about the feasibility of collecting required data to calculate and report a measure. Alpha testing, on its own, does not satisfy the testing requirement for the Core Sets.

For more information on the recommended measure testing process for CMS quality measures, see: https://mmshub.cms.gov/measure-lifecycle/measure-testing/process/overview.

24. What qualifies as "state use" of a measure?

The measure must be in current use, *according to technical specifications*, by at least one state Medicaid or CHIP program. If a state has made meaningful adaptations to an existing quality measure's specifications—for example by changing the data sources and/or codes used—this does NOT qualify as state use of the measure. If you indicate that one or more states is using the measure in your measure submission form, Mathematica will follow up with the Medicaid and CHIP programs in those states to confirm that the measure is in use *according to technical specifications*. Note that it is acceptable if the measure is currently in use for a subset of the state's Medicaid and CHIP population (e.g., only for managed care enrollees). However, if the measure is added to the Core Sets, states will be expected to calculate and report results for *all* Medicaid and CHIP populations (e.g., all age groups, eligibility categories, and delivery systems).

25. I am not sure whether the measure I am suggesting meets the minimum technical feasibility and appropriateness criteria. Should I submit it anyway?

If you are confident that the measure you are suggesting does not meet the minimum criteria—for example if you know the measure has not been tested or implemented in Medicaid and CHIP—you should not submit it. If you are unsure of whether all criteria have been met, you may submit the measure so that Mathematica can make the final determination. For example, if you are confident that most of the minimum criteria have been met but are unsure of whether any states are using the measure according to technical specifications, please submit the measure and note this in your form. Mathematica will review your materials and follow-up with the measure steward and/or state Medicaid programs as needed, to verify information about state testing and use of the measure.

26. How can I find out if the measure is used by other CMS programs?

Information on the use of measures in other CMS quality measurement programs can be found in the CMS Measures Inventory Tool (CMIT), available at: https://cmit.cms.gov/cmit/#/.

27. I previously submitted a measure to CMS for inclusion on the Measures Under Consideration (MUC) List. Do I need to re-submit my measure here if I would like CMS to consider adding it to the Core Sets?

Yes. The MUC List identifies the quality and efficiency measure under consideration by CMS for use in certain *Medicare* quality programs; Medicaid and CHIP quality programs are not included. The Core Sets are updated through a separate, statutorily mandated process; more information on that process is available at: https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/downloads/annual-core-set-review-11102022.pdf.

Measures for Removal Questions

28. Where can I find more information about the measures that are already in the Child and Adult Core Sets?

The key sources of information for measures that are currently in the Core Sets are the 2024 Core Set Technical Specifications and Resource Manuals and the 2022 measure performance results. Links to these and other Core Sets resources are provided in the Background Resources document that is available on our website.

29. The measure steward has announced that they plan to retire a current Core Set measure; should I suggest this measure for removal from the Core Sets?

No, it is not necessary to submit a measure removal form if the measure is being retired by the measure steward. Once the measure steward confirms that they will no longer update or maintain the measure, CMS will remove the measure from the Core Sets.