

All-Cause Emergency Department (ED) Utilization for Medicaid Beneficiaries

Public Comment Framing Document

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) seeks stakeholder comments on the following measure under development:

TITLE:

All-Cause ED Utilization for Medicaid Beneficiaries

DESCRIPTION:

The measure is defined as the number of all-cause ED visits per 1,000 beneficiary months among Medicaid beneficiaries aged 18 years and older with at least 10 months of enrollment.

NOTE: This document provides a draft description of the measure. We seek comments from the public about the measure specification and specific questions outlined in the [Feedback](#) section of this document. See the narrative measure specifications (Attachment A) for more details.

MEASURE RATIONALE:

Findings from the *All-Cause ED Utilization for Medicaid Beneficiaries* measure's environmental scan/literature review suggest that quality of preventive and emergency healthcare services may influence ED utilization within the Medicaid population over time. Understanding baseline ED utilization among Medicaid beneficiaries at the state level may reveal disparities and vulnerabilities within and across vulnerable Medicaid populations; this hypothesis will be assessed during beta testing.

MEASURE INTENT:

The *All-Cause ED Utilization for Medicaid Beneficiaries* measure focuses on capturing trends in all-cause ED utilization within the Medicaid population over time. This measure will be calculated using claims data and will be reported at the state level. Implementation of an all-cause ED utilization measure has the potential to monitor changes in ED utilization over time, which may result from coordination of care and improvement in quality of services provided.

NEXT STEPS FOR MEASURE SPECIFICATION:

Following the close of the public comment period, Lewin will review stakeholders' comments and determine if revisions to the measure specifications are needed. Lewin will then begin beta testing of the draft technical specifications, results of which will be published on CMS's *Blueprint for the Measures Management System (MMS)* website at a future date.

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FEEDBACK:

CMS is seeking feedback on all components of the measure, including the following topics:

- The importance, reliability, validity, feasibility, and usability of the *All-Cause ED Utilization for Medicaid Beneficiaries* measure, which aims to assess and improve the quality of care for Medicaid beneficiaries; and
- The potential unintended consequences of the measure topic and/or implementation of the measure.