

# Core Measure 2.1: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

*Last Updated: March 2024*

The following FAQs provide additional clarification for reporting Core Measure 2.1: *Members with an assessment completed within 90 days of enrollment*. Detailed specifications for this measure can be found in the Medicare-Medicaid Capitated Financial Alignment Model Core Reporting Requirements. The Reporting Requirements are available on the following website:

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare-Medicaid-Coordination/Medicare-and-Medicaid-Coordination/Medicare-Medicaid-Coordination-Office/FinancialAlignmentInitiative/MMPInformationandGuidance/MMPReportingRequirements.html>.

Please note that in addition to the Core Reporting Requirements, for reporting Core Measure 2.1, MMPs should refer to any applicable state-specific guidance outlined in the state-specific reporting appendices. Additionally, MMPs should refer to any applicable guidance in the three-way contract that applies to state-specific assessment requirements.

## Core Measure 2.1 General Information

### 1. What is the intent of Core Measure 2.1?

*The intent of the measure is to capture the number of members who had an initial comprehensive assessment completed within their first 90 days of continuous enrollment. It also captures the number of members who were unwilling to participate in the comprehensive assessment within 90 days of enrollment, or were unable to be reached by the MMP within 90 days of enrollment.*

### 2. What type of assessment meets the requirements of Core Measure 2.1?

*The assessment for this measure should be an initial comprehensive health risk assessment, as applicable per demonstration-specific guidance. The requirements pertaining to the assessment tool and how the tool should be administered (e.g., in-person, phone, etc.) may vary by demonstration. The assessment tool should meet any state-specific criteria and include the appropriate domains. MMPs should refer to their three-way contract for specific requirements.*

*Additional guidance is included in the state-specific reporting appendices. MMPs should refer to their state-specific reporting appendix for information on the type of tool used to conduct the assessment, reporting initial assessments completed by the MMP prior to a member's effective enrollment date, reporting initial assessments for members with a break in coverage, and reporting initial assessments completed previously by the MMP's affiliated product. Note that the applicability of such guidance varies across demonstrations.*

## Identifying Data Element A

### 3. How should MMPs determine if a member's 90th day of enrollment occurred within the reporting period?

*The 90th day of enrollment is based on each member's most recent effective date of Medicare-Medicaid enrollment. For purposes of reporting Core Measure 2.1, 90 days of continuous enrollment is equivalent to three full calendar months, not 90 calendar days. Further, the 90th day of continuous enrollment will always occur on the last day of the 3rd month following a member's most recent effective enrollment date. For example, a member enrolled on January 1, 2023 would reach their 90th day of enrollment on March 31, 2023.*

*When reporting quarterly results for Ongoing reporting periods, MMPs should report all members who reached their 90th day of continuous enrollment at any point during the three months included in the quarter (e.g., members enrolled on May 1, June 1, and July 1 reached their 90th day of enrollment during the third quarter [July – September]; therefore, these members should be included in Ongoing reporting for the third quarter as long as they were still enrolled on the last day of the reporting period).*

### 4. Should a member be continuously enrolled in the MMP from their most recent effective enrollment date through the 90th day of enrollment?

*Yes. In addition to reporting members who are currently enrolled on the last day of the reporting period, the member may have no breaks in enrollment from their most recent effective enrollment date through their 90th day of enrollment. For example, if a member enrolled on April 1, disenrolled on May 1, then re-enrolled on June 1 and remained enrolled on September 30, the most recent effective enrollment date would be June 1, not April 1. Since this member was continuously enrolled from June 30 through 90 days of enrollment and remained enrolled on the last day of the reporting period (i.e., September 30), the member would be included in data element A for the third quarter.*

### 5. Should MMPs include passively enrolled or opt-in only members?

*MMPs should include all Medicare-Medicaid members in data element A regardless of whether the member was enrolled through passive enrollment or opt-in enrollment. Members receiving only Medicaid coverage during the reporting period should not be included in data element A.*

### 6. Should MMPs include members who were disenrolled as of the end of the reporting period?

*MMPs should not report members in data element A who are no longer enrolled on the last day of the reporting period. The last day of the reporting period is the anchor date, or the date on which all reported members must be enrolled in the MMP. For example, if a member enrolled in the MMP on February 1 and disenrolled on June 1, they would not be reported in data element A for the second quarter reporting, because the member was not enrolled on the last day of the reporting period (i.e., June 30).*

**7. Should MMPs include deceased members?**

*MMPs should include deceased members whose 90th day of enrollment occurred within the reporting period and who were enrolled through the end of the reporting period. If the member's 90th day of enrollment occurred within the reporting period and the member was disenrolled due to death before the end of the reporting period, the member would not be included in data element A.*

**8. Should MMPs include incarcerated members?**

*MMPs should include incarcerated members whose 90th day of enrollment occurred within the reporting period and who were enrolled through the end of the reporting period. If the member's 90th day of enrollment occurred within the reporting period and the member was disenrolled due to incarceration before the end of the reporting period, the member should not be included in data element A.*

**9. If an MMP is informed of a member's retro-disenrollment subsequent to a reporting deadline, should the MMP resubmit corrected data to remove the member from data element A?**

*No. MMPs should report on all members enrolled in the demonstration who meet the definition of data element A at the time of the reporting deadline, regardless of whether a member was disenrolled or retro-disenrolled from the MMP subsequent to a reporting deadline.*

## **Identifying Data Element B**

**10. Should MMPs include indirect refusals when reporting members as unwilling to participate in the assessment within 90 days of enrollment?**

*Any of the following scenarios would indicate that a member (or the member's authorized representative) was unwilling to participate in the assessment. The MMP must be able to demonstrate during performance measure validation that information from the following scenarios was clearly documented. Please reference FAQ #11 for clarification on what constitutes as documented declination in these scenarios.*

- 1. Affirmatively declines to participate in the assessment, affirmatively declines care management activities overall, or refuses any contact with the MMP. The member may communicate the declination or refusal by phone, mail, fax, or in person. The declination or refusal for the assessment must be documented by the MMP.*
- 2. Expresses willingness to complete the assessment but asks for it to be conducted after 90 days (despite being offered a reasonable opportunity to complete the assessment within 90 days). Discussions with the member must be documented by the MMP.*
- 3. Schedules an appointment to complete the assessment, but cancels or is a no-show and then is subsequently non-responsive to additional outreach attempts by the MMP within 90 days of enrollment. All attempts to contact the member must be documented by the MMP.*
- 4. Initially agrees to complete the assessment, but then declines to answer a sufficient number of questions in the assessment, as determined by the MMP. The declination must be documented by the MMP.*

**11. How should the MMP document the declination by the member to participate in the assessment?**

*The MMP must clearly document why a member was unwilling to participate (i.e., document notes from the encounter with the member explaining the reason the member declined participation). Simply checking a box or selecting a drop-down menu item that the member refused or was unwilling to participate, without accompanying narrative (i.e., free text notes) does not constitute documented declination. Note that text that is automatically populated based on system field selections is not considered accompanying narrative.*

**12. Upon reaching out to a member to complete the assessment or during an inbound call from the member, if a member declines care management services or unsubscribes from all communication from the MMP, can the member be categorized as unwilling to participate in the assessment within 90 days of enrollment?**

*Yes. The MMP must clearly document why a member was unwilling to participate.*

**13. If a member is disgruntled, hangs up on the MMP, or states they do not want to speak with the MMP “at this time” during an outreach attempt, can the member be categorized as unwilling to participate in the assessment within 90 days of enrollment?**

*No. The MMP must continue to conduct outreach to the member within 90 days of enrollment until the member meets the criteria for refusing to participate in the assessment as outlined in FAQ #10.*

**14. If a member mentions during an outreach attempt that they are traveling and are outside of the service area and will not return within 90 days of enrollment, can the member be categorized as unwilling to participate in the assessment within 90 days of enrollment?**

*Yes, if the assessment is required to be completed in person or if the member prefers to complete the assessment in person. However, the MMP should continue to conduct outreach to the member once the member has returned within the service area to complete the assessment.*

**15. If a member asks the MMP to mail a paper version of the assessment and then the member subsequently mails an incomplete paper assessment back to the MMP (i.e., the member did not respond to the MMP’s required number of questions to consider an assessment as complete), can the member be categorized as unwilling to participate in the assessment within 90 days of enrollment?**

*If a member sends back an incomplete assessment, the MMP must conduct additional outreach to the member within 90 days of enrollment following receipt of the incomplete assessment. If the member is non-responsive to the MMP’s additional outreach attempts or refuses to answer additional assessment questions within 90 days of enrollment, then the member should be categorized as unwilling to participate. All attempts to contact the member must be clearly documented by the MMP.*

## Identifying Data Element C

### 16. What types of outreach can be counted in the three documented outreach attempts as part of data element C?

*MMPs are encouraged to attempt to reach members via multiple modes (e.g., phone, mail, email, or in-person visits) and over various times and days of the week during the course of the member's first 90 days of enrollment. MMPs are also encouraged to work with community organizations, network providers, and other available resources to help determine accurate contact information for its members and promote member engagement through the member's trusted support networks.*

*MMPs should refer to their three-way contract or other demonstration-specific guidance for any requirements pertaining to the method of outreach to members. MMPs must document each attempt to reach the member, including the method of the attempt (e.g., phone, mail, email, or in-person). If less than three outreach attempts are made to the member within 90 days of enrollment, then the member should not be included in data element C.*

### 17. What is considered an unsuccessful outreach attempt?

*In order to consider an outreach attempt as unsuccessful towards three documented outreach attempts for data element C, the MMP must have been unable to reach the member during the outreach attempt. For example, if the MMP conducted telephonic outreach to the member but did not speak with the member and left a voicemail for the member, that would be considered an unsuccessful outreach attempt. Conversely, if the MMP spoke with the member during the outreach attempt but did not complete an assessment (e.g., the member said they were busy at the moment, the member requested a callback at a later time, the member scheduled an appointment for an assessment, etc.), this would not be considered an unsuccessful outreach attempt, as the MMP successfully reached/spoke with the member during the outreach attempt.*

### 18. Can MMPs include multiple modes of outreach when reporting three attempts for a single member (e.g., two unsuccessful telephonic attempts and one attempt via postal mail), or do all three attempts need to be the same mode of outreach (e.g., three unsuccessful telephonic attempts)?

*MMPs should count the first three outreach attempts made to complete the assessment, regardless of the outreach method. For example, if an unsuccessful call attempt to the member was made on day 3 after the most recent effective enrollment date, an unable-to-reach letter was mailed on day 21, and another unsuccessful call attempt to the member was made on day 40, the MMP can count these three individual attempts for data element C as long as the attempts were completed within 90 days of enrollment. All three outreach attempts must be clearly documented.*

### 19. Can MMPs count all outreach attempts made using the same mode of outreach that occur on the same day?

*No. For example, if two unsuccessful call attempts were made to a member on day 6 and an unable-to-reach letter was mailed on the same day, the MMP can only count the first phone call and the mail attempt for data element C. Outreach attempts made using the same mode of outreach must be conducted on different days of the week in order to count each outreach*

*attempt. MMPs should refer to their three-way contract or other demonstration-specific guidance for any requirements pertaining to the method of outreach to members.*

## **Additional Information – Scenario Examples**

- 20. If a member is enrolled from November 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023, then disenrolls as of February 1, 2023 and re-enrolls March 1, 2023, should the member be included in data element A reporting for the first quarter?**

*No, the member should not be reported in data element A for the first quarter, as they were not continuously enrolled through the last day of the reporting period (i.e., March 31, 2023). However, upon re-enrollment in March 2023, if the member remained enrolled for 90 days and was still currently enrolled on the last day of the reporting period for the second quarter (i.e., June 30, 2023), they should be reported in data element A for the second quarter.*

- 21. If a member was documented as unwilling to participate in the assessment and then subsequently completed an assessment within the first 90 days of enrollment, in what data element should the member be reported?**

*If a member was documented as unwilling to participate in the assessment and also had an assessment completed within 90 days of enrollment, the member should be reported in data element D, not data element B.*

- 22. If a member was documented as unable to be reached to have an assessment completed and then subsequently completed an assessment within the first 90 days of enrollment, in what data element should the member be reported?**

*If a member was documented as unable to be reached to have an assessment completed and also had an assessment completed within 90 days of enrollment, the member should be reported in data element D, not data element C.*

- 23. If a member asks the MMP to mail them a paper version of the assessment to complete but does not mail back the paper assessment to the MMP, and no additional documented evidence of a refusal exists or additional outreach attempts to the member were made by the MMP within 90 days of enrollment, can this member be reported in data element B?**

*No. This member cannot be reported in data element B as there was no documented refusal to participate in the assessment. The MMP must follow up with the member every time a mailed assessment is requested but not returned by the member, and the additional outreach attempts must be clearly documented. If additional outreach attempts are unsuccessful and the MMP made at least three documented unsuccessful outreach attempts in total within 90 days of enrollment, the member should be reported in data element C.*

- 24. If a member tells the MMP that they want to disenroll from the MMP during an outreach attempt, can this member be reported in data element B?**

*No. This member cannot be reported in data element B as there was no documented refusal to participate in the assessment. For inclusion in data element B, the member must meet the criteria for refusing to participate in the assessment as outlined in FAQ #10.*

**25. If a member insists during an outreach attempt that they are not enrolled in the MMP, can the member be reported in data element B?**

*No. This member cannot be reported in data element B as there was no documented refusal to participate in the assessment. For inclusion in data element B, the member must meet the criteria for refusing to participate in the assessment as outlined in FAQ #10.*

**26. If a member was contacted by phone and the phone number was invalid or disconnected, the member was sent an assessment letter in the mail, and no additional outreach attempts were made within 90 days of enrollment, can this member be reported in data element C?**

*No. This member cannot be reported in data element C as there were only two unsuccessful outreach attempts documented. The MMP should make all efforts to obtain updated contact information for the member, which may include contacting the member's primary care provider (or other recently utilized providers/pharmacies) for updated contact information or attempting an unscheduled visit to the member in person. Even if there are no additional methods for contacting the member, they should not be reported in data element C as the MMP did not conduct and document three unsuccessful outreach attempts to reach the member.*

**27. If a member calls the MMP (e.g., to request information regarding the demonstration), can this inbound call be counted as one of the three documented outreach attempts for data element C?**

*No. Any inbound calls by the member to the MMP cannot be counted as part of the three required outreach attempts. All outreach attempts must be outbound attempts by the MMP to be counted in data element C. If the member calls the MMP and the assessment is completed during the same telephone call, the member would be included in data element D. Similarly, if the member calls the MMP and refuses to complete the assessment during the same telephone call, the member would be included in data element B.*

**28. If a member's assessment is in progress, but is not completed within 90 days of enrollment, should the assessment be considered complete?**

*No. Since the assessment was not completed within 90 days of enrollment, the assessment cannot be considered complete, and therefore, the member cannot be counted in data element D.*

**29. If the MMP is confident that a member's contact information is correct, yet the member is not responsive to the MMP's outreach efforts, can this member be reported in data element C?**

*Yes. So long as the MMP follows the guidance regarding outreach attempts, these members may be included in the count for data element C.*

**30. There may be certain circumstances that make it impossible or inappropriate to complete an assessment within the required timeframes. For example, a member may be medically unable to respond and have no authorized representative to do so on their behalf, or a member may be experiencing an acute medical or behavioral health crisis that requires immediate attention and outweighs the need for an assessment. In these cases, should members be counted in data elements B or C?**

*No. MMPs should not include such members in the counts for data elements B or C.*

- 31. If the MMP contacts the member’s pharmacy, primary care physician, or other provider to obtain updated contact information for the member, can this call be counted as one of the three documented outreach attempts for data element C?**

*No. Any calls to the member’s pharmacy, primary care physician, or other provider cannot be counted as part of the three required outreach attempts. Only outreach attempts made to the member or the member’s authorized representative can be counted as an outreach attempt for data element C.*

- 32. If the MMP reviews a member’s file/record in its care management system and discovers there is no phone information available for the member, can this member be reported in data element C?**

*No. MMPs should not include such members in the counts for data element C. MMPs should make all efforts to obtain updated contact information for members, attempt to visit the members in person, or mail letters to the members. Even if there are no additional methods for contacting the members, they should not be reported in data element C as the MMP did not conduct and document three unsuccessful outreach attempts to reach the members. Note that conducting outreach to other entities to obtain updated contact information for a member is not considered an outreach attempt toward data element C.*

- 33. If the MMP reaches the member (or the member’s authorized representative) and the member asks for a callback and then is subsequently non-responsive following additional outreach attempts by the MMP within 90 days of enrollment, can this member be counted in data element C?**

*Yes, as long as there are at least three clearly documented unsuccessful outreach attempts within 90 days of enrollment. Please note, MMPs are expected to conduct additional outreach following a request for a callback from a member or the member’s authorized representative, even if the request for a callback is made during the third outreach attempt.*

- 34. If a member is in a nursing facility or an assisted living facility and does not have an authorized representative (or the authorized representative is not present), can the facility complete the assessment on behalf of the member?**

*No. If the facility completes the assessment, there must be documentation that demonstrates that the member (or the member’s authorized representative, if applicable) participated in development of the assessment in order to be included in data element D.*

## **Validation Checks**

- 35. What validation checks should MMPs perform internally to help ensure that reported data are valid prior to submitting data element values to the Health Plan Management System (HPMS)?**

*MMPs should ensure members reported in data elements B, C, and D are also reported in data element A since these data elements are subsets of data element A. The sum of data elements B, C, and D should be less than or equal to data element A. Additionally, data elements B, C, and D should be mutually exclusive (e.g., a member reported in data element B or C should not also be reported in data element D).*

*For data element A: MMPs should validate that members included in data element A were continuously enrolled for at least 90 days, and the 90th day of enrollment occurred within the reporting period. Note that for purposes of reporting this measure, 90 days of continuous enrollment is equivalent to three full calendar months (see FAQ #3 for more information). All members in data element A must be enrolled as of the last day of the reporting period. MMPs should also perform cross-measure comparisons, where applicable. For instance, MMPs should compare Core Measure 2.1 data element A to Core Measure 3.2 data element A, as the definitions of these data elements are identical.*

*For data element B: MMPs should validate that members included in data element B were included in data element A, but were not reported in data elements C or D. MMPs should validate that members reported in data element B were clearly documented as unwilling to participate in the assessment within 90 days of enrollment and never had an assessment completed within 90 days of enrollment.*

*For data element C: MMPs should validate that members included in data element C were included in data element A, but were not included in data elements B or D. MMPs should validate that members reported in data element C had three unsuccessful outreach attempts clearly documented within 90 days of enrollment and never had an assessment completed within 90 days of enrollment.*

*For data element D: MMPs should validate that members reported in data element D were included in data element A, but were not reported in data elements B or C. MMPs should validate that members reported in data element D had a completed initial assessment clearly documented within 90 days of enrollment.*