

About the Technical Assistance and Analytic Support Program

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to supporting States' efforts to measure and improve the quality of health care for children. To increase the number of States consistently collecting, reporting, and using the initial core set of children's health care quality measures, CMS established the **Technical Assistance and Analytic Support (TA/AS) Program**. Activities include responding to individual State requests for TA with the initial core set measures, helping to plan and implement CMS' annual Medicaid/CHIP Quality Conferences, and creating TA briefs and tool kits to provide States with information on specific topics.

Technical Assistance and Analytic Support Topics

TA/AS for the initial core set measures are driven by States' needs and cover a wide range of topics, including clarification of measure specifications and reporting procedures; adaptation of measure specifications to various delivery systems, data sources, and data collection approaches; and development of tools for using the measures to promote quality improvement.

Technical Assistance and Analytic Support Vehicles

TA/AS are provided through many vehicles. The most widely used vehicle is CMS' **TA mailbox**. The TA/AS team responds to questions submitted by States about collecting, reporting, and using the measures. To date, we have responded to nearly 250 requests through the mailbox. Issues raised by States inform updates to the technical specifications and resource manual and suggest topics for cross-cutting TA.

The TA/AS team is developing a series of **TA methods briefs** that address States' needs on selected high-priority topics. Recent TA briefs provide guidance for reporting the two initial core set dental measures and methods for calculating a State-level rate across multiple reporting units. Future TA briefs will cover the following topics:

- Approaches to collecting Consumer Assessment of Health-care Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) data
- Strategies for obtaining and using vital statistics data
- Methods of sampling for hybrid measures

In addition, tool kits are being developed to assist States with using the core set measures to set priorities for their quality

How to Obtain Technical Assistance and Analytic Support

States may submit requests for technical assistance and analytic support to CHIPRAQualityTA@cms.hhs.gov.

Updated measure specifications and other technical assistance resources are available at www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Quality-of-Care/CHIPRA-Initial-Core-Set-of-Childrens-Health-Care-Quality-Measures.html.

improvement efforts and to improve the quality of children's oral health services.

Webinars will provide an interactive venue for presenting and sharing best practices in quality measurement and quality improvement. In addition to an annual webinar to kick off the new reporting cycle and provide guidance to States on submitting data to CMS, webinars will be planned on special topics. Upcoming topics include CAHPS® data collection and reporting for Medicaid/CHIP programs, and methods for aggregating separate rates across multiple reporting units (such as health plans or programs).

TA is also provided at CMS' **Annual Medicaid/CHIP Quality Conference**. Sessions are designed to provide States with hands-on information to support their quality measurement and quality improvement efforts. The conference provides an opportunity for one-on-one TA related to State-specific issues, as well as group sessions that address cross-cutting issues. Networking opportunities also facilitate sharing of lessons learned across States.

The Technical Assistance and Analytic Support Team

The TA/AS team is led by Mathematica Policy Research in collaboration with the National Committee for Quality Assurance, Center for Health Care Strategies, and National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality. The TA/AS team welcomes suggestions for resources that would assist States in collecting, reporting, and using the initial core set of measures to drive quality improvement. To contact the TA/AS team, email us at CHIPRAQualityTA@cms.hhs.gov.