2028 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 2028 Call for Measures. Please see the "Instructions for Suggesting Measures for Addition or Removal" document in the 2028 Call for Measures Materials packet for detailed information on the measure criteria, due dates, and the measure submission process. The 2028 Call for Measures Materials packet is available on the Child and Adult Core Sets Review website, at: https://mathematica.org/-/media/internet/features/2025/child-and-adult-core-set/call-for-measures-materials-packet.pdf.

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.

- When suggesting a new measure to replace a current Core Set measure, submit your rationale for the replacement using an **additions** form only. You do not need to submit the removals form.

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

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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 2027 review cycle are available at https://mathematica.org/-/media/internet/features/2025/child-and-adult-core-set/coresetreview-2027-additions.pdf and https://mathematica.org/-/media/internet/features/2025/child-and-adult-core-set/coresetreview-2027removals.pdf.

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 2028 Resources section of the [Child and Adult Core Sets Review website](#). The 2028 Call for Measures Materials packet contains the primary resources to support the measure submission process. Additional resources that may be useful include the [2026 Core Sets History Table](#) and the [2023 Medicaid and CHIP Beneficiary Profile](#). Resources from prior Core 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?

Mandatory state reporting for all the Child Core Set measures and for the behavioral health measures on the Adult Core Set went into effect beginning with the 2024 Core Sets. 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 December 2024 State Health Official (SHO) letter describes updates to the 2026 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/sho24007.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 Workgroup discussion. Measures may not be discussed by the Workgroup if the submission form is incomplete, lacks sufficient detail, or if the measure was previously reviewed without new justification or evidence to support reconsideration. 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 2028 Call for Measures Materials packet) and the [2026 Core Sets History Table](#) to determine whether the measure has been discussed previously or included on the Core Sets. If the measure has been discussed previously, review the Workgroup discussion summary in that year's Annual Review Final Report, available—along with previous Measure Information Sheets—in the Resources Archive section of the [Child and Adult Core Sets Review 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 may justify the Workgroup reconsidering a measure could include:

- A substantive change to the measure's technical specifications (for example, a change to the data collection method or required code sets) that affects feasibility for state reporting.

- A change in the relevant clinical guidelines and/or population health conditions.

- In the case of a measure previously considered for addition: evidence of widespread state adoption of the measure since the last time it was considered

- In the case of a measure previously considered for removal: the suggestion of a new replacement measure that has undergone Medicaid and CHIP-specific measure testing.

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

Submitters are responsible for obtaining the information needed to complete the form. This document and the 2028 Resources section of the Child and Adult Core Sets Review website contain links helpful resources. All questions marked with an asterisk (*) are required; the system will not allow submission if any of these questions are left blank. Questions without an asterisk are optional and may be skipped if not applicable or unknown.

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 voting meeting discussion. 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. Members of the public are not required to participate in the voting meeting but can attend and share remarks about the measure during designated public comment periods.

If you are not a Workgroup member but wish to speak in support of your submission, you may do so during designated public comment periods. A detailed agenda—including estimated discussion times and public comment periods—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 2028 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 2028 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, with one exception: if you are suggesting a new measure to replace an existing measure, you do not need to submit a separate measure removal form. Submit your rationale for the substitution using the additions form.

10. Does CMS have a specific target for the number of measures that will be included in the 2028 Child and Adult Core Sets?

No, CMS 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 2028. 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 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

12. 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 2028 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 the form before completing it, use the "Save & Continue Later" option at the bottom of the page. When prompted, enter your email address and click "Email me the link" to receive a message from MACCoreSetReview@mathematica-mpr.com with a personalized link to resume your form.

Important notes:

- You must complete all required questions on the current page to access the "Save & Continue Later" feature.

- If you cannot finish the page, return to the last completed page to save your progress.

- Each time you use the feature, you'll receive a new link—be sure to use the most recent link to continue where you left off.

13. 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 includes all potential questions you may encounter in 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 the measure has not been previously discussed by the Workgroup, you will not be prompted to explain why it should be reconsidered.

14. 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 2028 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.

15. 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."

16. 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.

17. 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

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

We recommend starting with the CMS Measures Inventory Tool (CMIT) at: https://cmit.cms.gov/cmit/#/. CMIT is the official repository for measures used in CMS programs and contains information about measure properties (e.g., description, numerator, denominator), characteristics (e.g., measure type, data sources), programs that use the measure, reporting status and—when available—measure steward contact information. If you need additional information that is not available in CMIT, we encourage you to reach out to the measure steward directly.

19. 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

- The Core Set Data Dashboard: https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/core-set-data-dashboard/main

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

A list of previously identified priority gap areas is included in the 2028 Call for Measures Materials packet available on Child and Adult Core Sets Review website. Additional discussion of gap areas can be found in the final reports from past review cycles, available in the Resources Archive section of the website.

21. 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 2028 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. In past cycles, the most common reason a measure was excluded from discussion was lack of testing in Medicaid or CHIP and absence of use by at least one state program.

22. 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.

23. 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. Meaningful adaptations to the specifications—such as changes to data sources or codes—do not qualify as use. If you indicate that a state uses the measure, Mathematica will confirm its use with that state *according to technical specifications*. Use of the measure for a subset of the Medicaid or CHIP population (e.g., managed care enrollees) is acceptable for submission. 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).

24. 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 the measure does not meet the minimum criteria—for example if you know the measure has not been tested or implemented in Medicaid and CHIP—please do not submit it. However, if you are unsure of whether all criteria have been met, you may submit the measure for Mathematica to review. For example, if most of the minimum criteria have been met but you are unsure of whether any states use the measure as specified, please submit the measure and note this in your form. Mathematica will verify the information with the measure steward and/or relevant state programs as needed.

25. How should I assess whether any of the measures on the Core Sets are "similar to" the measure I am suggesting for addition?

We encourage you to review the 2026 Core Set measure lists (linked below) and to consider whether there are any measures that assess similar health care delivery topics or outcomes or that target the same health conditions, particularly those that may overlap with the suggested measure in scope or intent. For example, if you are suggesting a measure of receipt of recommended health care for adults with diabetes, review the existing Adult Core Set measures with "diabetes" in the measure name for overlap.

- 2026 Child Core Set: https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/downloads/2026-child-core-set.pdf

- 2026 Adult Core Set: https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/downloads/2026-adult-core-set.pdf

If you identify similar measures on the Core Sets, consider suggesting an existing measure for removal. If you decide not to suggest a measure for removal, clearly explain in your submission form how the new measure adds value compared to the similar existing measures.

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 on the Child and Adult Core Sets?

The key sources of information for measures that are currently on the Core Sets are the 2025 Core Set Technical Specifications and Resource Manuals and the 2023 measure performance results. Links to these and other Core Set 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?

If you are not the measure steward, do not submit a measure removal form for a measure that is being retired by the measure steward. CMS coordinates directly with measure stewards in the case of measures no longer being updated or maintained, and for which no suitable replacement measure has been developed that meets Core Set criteria.