

**MEDICARE-MEDICAID  
CAPITATED FINANCIAL ALIGNMENT MODEL  
QUALITY WITHHOLD TECHNICAL NOTES (DY 2 – 8):  
CALIFORNIA-SPECIFIC MEASURES**

Effective as of January 1, 2016; Issued March 16, 2018;  
Updated April 14, 2022

**Attachment D**  
**California Quality Withhold Measure Technical Notes: Demonstration Years 2 through 8**

**Introduction**

The measures in this attachment are quality withhold measures for all Medicare-Medicaid Plans (MMPs) in the California Cal MediConnect Demonstration for Demonstration Years (DY) 2 through 8. These state-specific measures directly supplement the [Medicare-Medicaid Capitated Financial Alignment Model CMS Core Quality Withhold Technical Notes for DY 2 through 9](#).

DY 2 through 8 in the California Cal MediConnect Demonstration are defined as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Dates Covered</b>
DY 2	January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016
DY 3	January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017
DY 4	January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018
DY 5	January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019
DY 6	January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020
DY 7	January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021
DY 8	January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

Information about the applicable demonstration years for each state-specific measure, as well as benchmarks and other details, can be found in the measure descriptions below. Note that CMS and the State may elect to adjust the benchmarks or other details based on additional analysis or changes in specifications. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on any substantive changes prior to finalization.

***Variations from the CMS Core Quality Withhold Technical Notes***

CMS core quality withhold measure CW13 evaluates both the frequency of encounter submissions (i.e., at least monthly) and timeliness of encounter submissions (i.e., within 180 days of the ending date of service). For California MMPs, the CW13 analysis was modified as follows:

- For DY 2, California MMPs were evaluated only on the frequency of Medicare encounter submissions starting with September 2016.
- For DY 3, California MMPs were evaluated on the frequency and timeliness of Medicare encounter submissions for the full calendar year. California MMPs were also evaluated on the frequency of Medicaid encounter submissions starting with June 2017.

California MMPs will be evaluated according to the full CW13 criteria for DY 4 through DY 8.

***Applicability of the Gap Closure Target to the State-Specific Quality Withhold Measures***

The gap closure target methodology as described in the CMS Core Quality Withhold Technical Notes for DY 2 through 9 **will** apply to the state-specific measures contained in this attachment, unless otherwise noted in the measure descriptions below.

**California-Specific Measures: Demonstration Years 2 through 8**

**Measure: CAW6 – Behavioral Health Shared Accountability Process Measure**

Description:	Percent of members receiving Medi-Cal specialty mental health services that received care coordination with the primary mental health provider
Metric:	Measure CA1.7 of Medicare-Medicaid Capitated Financial Alignment Model Reporting Requirements: California-Specific Reporting Requirements
Measure Steward/ Data Source:	State-defined measure
NQF #:	N/A
Applicable Year:	DY 3
Utilizes Gap Closure:	No
Benchmark:	Performance rate achieved by the highest scoring MMP minus ten percentage points
Notes:	<p>For quality withhold purposes, this measure is calculated as follows:</p> <p>Denominator: Two times the total number of members receiving Medi-Cal specialty mental health services, excluding the total number of members for whom the MMP was unable to reach the member’s county mental health provider/county clinic for the purpose of care coordination of the member’s mental health needs and the total number of members the MMP was unable to reach for the purpose of care coordination of the member’s mental health needs ([Data Element A x 2] – Data Element B – Data Element D).</p> <p>Numerator: The total number of members for whom the MMP successfully contacted the member’s county mental health provider/county clinic for the purpose of care coordination of the member’s mental health needs plus the total number of members the MMP successfully contacted for the purpose of care coordination of the member’s mental health needs (Data Element C + Data Element E).</p>

**Measure: CAW7 – Behavioral Health Shared Accountability Outcome Measure**

Description:	Reduction in emergency department use for seriously mentally ill and substance use disorder members
Metric:	Measure CA4.1 of Medicare-Medicaid Capitated Financial Alignment Model Reporting Requirements: California-Specific Reporting Requirements
Measure Steward/ Data Source:	State-defined measure
NQF #:	N/A
Applicable Years:	DY 2 through 8
Utilizes Gap Closure:	Yes
Benchmark:	10% decrease in the performance rate for the measurement year compared to the performance rate for the baseline year

Notes: For DY 2 through 5, Calendar Year (CY) 2015 will serve as the baseline year, except for MMPs that began operating in CY 2015 or added a new service area in CY 2015. For those MMPs, this measure will apply as a quality withhold starting in DY 3, with CY 2016 serving as the baseline year for DY 3 through 5.

For DY 6 through 8, CY 2018 will serve as the baseline year for all MMPs.

For quality withhold purposes, this measure is calculated as follows:

Denominator: The total number of member months for members enrolled for at least five months with an indication of either serious mental illness or substance use disorder (Data Element B).

Numerator: The total number of emergency department visits (Data Element C).

The quotient will be multiplied by 1,000 to determine the rate per 1,000 member months.

**Measure: CAW8 – Documentation of Care Goals**

Description: Percent of members with documented discussions of care goals

Metric: Measure CA1.6 of Medicare-Medicaid Capitated Financial Alignment Model Reporting Requirements: California-Specific Reporting Requirements

Measure Steward/  
Data Source: State-defined measure

NQF #: N/A

Applicable Years: DY 2 through 8

Utilizes Gap Closure: Yes

Benchmarks: DY 2 and 3: 55%  
DY 4: 60%  
DY 5: 65%  
DY 6 through 8: 95%

Notes: For quality withhold purposes, this measure is calculated as follows:

Denominator: The total number of [sampled] members with an initial Individualized Care Plan (ICP) completed during the reporting period plus the total number of [sampled] existing ICPs revised during the reporting period (Data Element B + Data Element E).

Numerator: The total number of members with at least one documented discussion of care goals in the initial ICP plus the total number of revised ICPs with at least one documented discussion of new or existing care goals (Data Element C + Data Element F).

**Measure: CAW9 – Interaction with Care Team**

Description: Percent of members who have a care coordinator and have at least one care team contact during the reporting period

Metric: Measure CA1.12 of Medicare-Medicaid Capitated Financial Alignment Model Reporting Requirements: California-Specific Reporting Requirements

Measure Steward/  
Data Source: State-defined measure

NQF #: N/A

Applicable Years: DY 2 through 8

Utilizes Gap Closure: Yes

Benchmarks: DY 2 and 3: 78%  
DY 4: 83%  
DY 5: 88%  
DY 6 through 8: 95%

Notes: For quality withhold purposes, this measure is calculated as follows:  
  
Denominator: The total number of members who have/had a care coordinator during the reporting period (Data Element A).  
  
Numerator: The total number of members who had at least one care coordinator or other care team contact (Data Element B).

**Measure: CAW10 – Care Plan Completion**

Description: Percent of members with a care plan completed within 90 days of enrollment

Metric: Core Measure 3.2 of Medicare-Medicaid Capitated Financial Alignment Model Reporting Requirements

Measure Steward/  
Data Source: CMS-defined measure

NQF #: N/A

Applicable Years: DY 6 through 8

Utilizes Gap Closure: Yes

Benchmarks: DY 6: 80%  
DY 7 and 8: 85%

Notes: For quality withhold purposes, this measure is calculated as follows:  
  
Denominator: The total number of members whose 90th day of enrollment occurred within the reporting period, excluding the total number of members who were documented as unwilling to complete a care plan within 90 days of enrollment and the total number of members the MMP was unable to reach within 90 days of enrollment (Data Element A – Data Element B – Data Element C) summed over four quarters.  
  
Numerator: The total number of members with a care plan completed within 90 days of enrollment (Data Element D) summed over four quarters.  
  
By summing the quarterly denominators and numerators before calculating the rate, the final calculation is adjusted for volume.