

## How to Build a Family of Measures for Improving Well-child Visits from 0-15 Months

Measuring progress is essential to successful quality improvement (QI) initiatives. There are three types of measures in quality improvement QI: outcome measures, process measures, and balancing measures. Taken together, these three measure types make up a family of measures. Below are suggestions for how to build a family of measures for a quality improvement project to improve well-child visits from 0-15 months.

- Review the measures in the tables below for outcome, process, and balancing measures that may be used in your QI initiatives. Adapt the measures as needed for your project. You may want to use additional measures that you are currently collecting or develop your own new measures.
- A manageable family of measures includes no more than seven measures. Consider starting with one measure in each category and adding additional measures over time.
- **Outcome measures:** Outcome measures capture what you are trying to accomplish and how you will know you've achieved improvement. *Recommendation: 1-2 measures.*
- **Process measures:** Process measures capture the incremental changes you are testing that will collectively improve your outcome measure(s). Your process measures should relate to your outcome and be calculated frequently (for example, monthly). *Recommendation: 3-4 measures.*
- **Balancing measures:** Balancing measures capture other consequences, both intended and unintended, that might result as part of your project. *Recommendation: 1 measure.*
- **A note about claims lag:** Claims lag can be a concern when using data for improvement. It is acceptable to look at your quality measures before all the claims have been submitted; 1-2 months runout may be sufficient. For QI projects, you are looking for signs of progress, not perfection. You may test the impact of shorter claims run out by calculating the measure with 1-month runout, 2 months, 3 months, etc. This will help you better understand the impact of claims lag on your QI project measures. Note that measures for accountability, such as those needed to assess contract performance or for incentive payments, require more analytic rigor and longer claims run out.

## Improving Well-child Visits, 0-15 months: Suggested Measures

Outcome Measure Examples (Recommendation: 1-2 measures)			
Measure Name	Brief Measure Specifications	Data Source	Notes
<p><b>Well-Child Visits in the first 15 months of Life</b></p> <p>Percent of children with 6 or more well-child visits in first 15 months</p>	<p><b>Numerator:</b> Six or more well-child visits on different dates of service on or before the 15-month birthday.</p> <p><b>Denominator:</b> Children who turn age 15 months during the measurement year. Calculate the 15-month birthday as the child's first birthday plus 90 days.</p> <p>Note: Include only children continuously enrolled from 31 days to 15 months with no more than 45 days of enrollment gap.</p>	Administrative	<p>The measure is included in the <a href="#">Child Core Set as WCH-30, Part 1</a>.</p> <p>The well-child visit must occur with a primary care physician (PCP), but the PCP does not have to be the practitioner assigned to the child.</p> <p>The measure steward for this measure is NCQA (HEDIS).</p>

Process Measure Examples (Recommendation: 3-4 measures)			
Measure Name	Brief Measure Specifications	Data Source	Notes
<p><b>Rolling Monthly Number of Well-Child Visits in the first 15 months of Life</b></p> <p>Rolling calculation for the percent of children with 6 or more well-child visits in first 15 months</p>	<p><b>Numerator:</b> Number of well-child visits on different dates of service on or before the 15-month birthday.</p> <p><b>Denominator:</b> Number of children who turn age 15 months during the measurement year. Calculate the 15-month birthday as the child's first birthday plus 90 days.</p> <p>Note: Include only children continuously enrolled from 31 days to 15 months with no more than 45 days of enrollment gap OR consider relaxing continuous enrollment criteria to include additional children in the denominator.</p>	Administrative	<p>Measure monthly</p> <p>Example: On April 1, run rates for all children who turned 15 months in January. On May 1, run rates for all children who turned 15 months in February.</p>
<p><b>Completed Outreach Calls</b></p> <p>The proportion of children who were behind on well-child visits and whose families had a completed outreach call</p>	<p><b>Numerator:</b> Number of children, families, or caregivers who received a completed outreach call</p> <p><b>Denominator:</b> Number of children who were behind on well-child visits</p>	Manual data collection, depending on organization doing outreach	Note that the measure could track outreach calls from MCOs, practices, or any other mechanism the improvement project is focusing on and can obtain data for.

## IMPROVING INFANT WELL-CHILD VISITS FROM 0-15 MONTHS MEASUREMENT STRATEGY

Process Measure Examples (Recommendation: 3-4 measures)			
Measure Name	Brief Measure Specifications	Data Source	Notes
<p><b>Ratio of actual to expected visits</b></p> <p>In a given month, the proportion of expected WCVs that are completed by children ages 0-15 months</p>	<p><b>Numerator:</b> Actual number of completed well-child visits for children ages 0-15 months as of the end of the measurement month</p> <p><b>Denominator:</b> Expected number of completed well-child visits for children ages 0-15 months as of the end of the measurement month</p>	Administrative	Used by South Dakota Medicaid
<p><b>Infant Well-Child Visits in the First Six Months</b></p> <p>The percent of children with at least two well-child visits before their 6-month birthday</p>	<p><b>Numerator:</b> Number of children in denominator with two or more well-child visits by the month they turn 6 months old</p> <p><b>Denominator:</b> Number of children turning 6 months old during the measurement month</p>	Administrative	Used by <a href="#">California Department of Health Care Services and Medi-Cal</a>

Balancing Measure Examples (Recommendation: 1 measure)			
Measure Name	Description	Data Source	Notes
<p><b>Rolling Measure of Developmental Screening in the First Year of Life</b></p> <p>Percentage of children screened for risk of developmental, behavioral, and social delays using a standardized screening tool in the 12 months preceding their first birthday</p>	<p><b>Numerator:</b> Number of children who had a claim with CPT code 96110 in the last 12 months</p> <p><b>Denominator:</b> Number of children who turned 1 year old during the measurement month</p>	Administrative	<p>A rolling measure of developmental screening helps ensure that children receive the care typically provided in infant well-child visits.</p> <p>An annual calculation of this measure is included in the <a href="#">Child Core Set (DEV-CH)</a>.</p>

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Balancing Measure Examples (Recommendation: 1 measure)			
Measure Name	Description	Data Source	Notes
<b>Emergency Department (ED) Visits, modified for 0-15 months</b>	<b>Numerator:</b> Number of ED visits for children 0-15 months  <b>Denominator:</b> Number of children who turned 0-15 months old in beneficiary months	Administrative	This measure could be calculated annually or set up to measure ED visits monthly to provide feedback on the use of the ED in lieu of infant well-child visits.  The measure is included in the <a href="#">Child Core Set (AMB-CH)</a> .

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