

Medicaid/CHIP Child Core Set

Title IV of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 ([CHIPRA](#)) focused on strengthening quality of care and health outcomes for children with a number of provisions relating to the development and use of quality measures. Among these provisions was the identification of an "Initial Child Core Set" of quality measures for voluntary use by state Medicaid/CHIP programs with required annual updates. In 2009, the [initial set of 24 measures](#) was released for public comment by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This initial set represented an important starting point, but it did not address all critical gaps in child quality measurement. Annual assessments and updates of Core Set of Children's Health Care Quality Measures for Medicaid and CHIP (Child Core Set) measures are statutorily required and have occurred every year since 2013, with the goal of strengthening the core set and filling measurement gap areas. CMS currently contracts with Mathematica to support their Child and Adult Core Set annual review stakeholder workgroup to review and strengthen the Child and Adult Core Sets and make recommendations for measures to add or retire. As of 2021, the [2021 Child Core Set](#) included 23 measures. CMS provides in-depth [technical support](#) to help states collect, report, and use the Child Core Set measures. States have increased reporting each year since the first report was published in 2010.

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), CHIP provides matching funds to states in order to provide health insurance to children in families whose income is too high to qualify for Medicaid, but too low to afford private insurance. In 2014, 8.1 million children were enrolled in CHIP.

In addition to the Child Core Set, CMS has established a [core set](#) of health care quality measures for adults enrolled in Medicaid (2021 [Adult Core Set](#)). Both the Adult and Child Core Sets include measures on maternal and perinatal health (Overview of Child and Adult Core Set Reporting for [FFY 2019 \(also referred to as the 2020 Core Set\)](#); [2020 Child Chart Pack](#), and [2020 Adult Chart Pack](#)).

2021 Core Set of Children's Health Care Quality Measures for Medicaid and CHIP

Core Set Updates	The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) currently works with Mathematica to review and annually strengthen the Child Core Set.
Funder(s)	N/A
Purpose(s)	To measure the quality of healthcare services delivered to children, financed through the Medicaid and CHIP programs.
Target Populations	Infants, children, adolescents, pregnant women, and children with special health care needs enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP.
Data Sources	The measures rely on various data sources. Some of the measures use "administrative" claims/encounter data. Others may use the "hybrid" method, involving both claims/encounter data and electronic medical records or medical chart review. Other data sources may include vital records, immunization registries, Electronic Health Records (EHRs), or surveys.
Technical Measure Descriptions	The measures are described in the Technical Specifications and Resource Manual , which is updated annually. The specifications define the numerators and denominators and provide links to value sets, where applicable.
Number of Measures	23 measures in the 2021 Child Core Set.
Topics of Measurement	Access to care, primary and preventive care, maternal and perinatal care, behavioral health care, care of acute and chronic conditions, dental and oral health services, and experience of care.
Reporting Requirements	Reporting by states is currently voluntary. However, the Secretary of HHS is required to publish state-specific Core Set data every year. Starting in 2024, states will be required to report annually on all Child Core Set measures, and performance data will be made publicly available as part of the report to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.
Recommended or Required Stratification	Stratification of the Core Set measures is currently optional.
Link to Additional Info	2022 Child and Adult Annual Review Workgroup Resources HHS annual reports: 2010 , 2011 , 2012 , 2013 , 2014 , 2015 , Quality Measures Datasets

[Browse and Search the Measures](#)