

# m e m o

DATE: December 29, 2025

SUBJECT: Statewide Quality Reporting and Measurement System Technical Update—2026 Reporting Year

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has updated the Minnesota Statewide Quality Reporting and Measurement System (SQRMS), a system for physician clinic and hospital quality measurement. MDH continuously works with providers, measurement organizations, and other stakeholders to create an evolving set of standard health care quality measures that are rooted in evidence and informed by national discussions on measurement progress. MDH publishes changes to the measurement set annually.

Without changing any part of Minnesota Rules, chapter 4654, MDH only updated measure specifications to maintain alignment with state and federal programs. Accordingly, and to ease administrative burdens, in place of annual rulemaking, MDH is issuing technical guidance about the updates.<sup>1</sup>

A list of SQRMS measures, measure specifications, and other information is available online at the [Quality Measures, 2026 Report Year](https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/hcquality/measures/index.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/hcquality/measures/index.html>) webpage.

## Physician clinic quality measures

### Modifications

MN Community Measurement (MNCM), the commissioner's designee for public reporting, updated specifications for the Depression Remission at Six Months and Adolescent Mental Health and/or Depression Screening and Depression Remission at Six Months measures.

- To align with reporting guidance, MNCM updated measure specifications by removing language regarding exclusion of permanent nursing home residents from the Depression Remission at Six Months measure.

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<sup>1</sup> Quality Rule Appendices A, B, and E indicate that quality measures are required for reporting in 2018 and every year thereafter.

## STATEWIDE QUALITY REPORTING AND MEASUREMENT SYSTEM

- MNMCM expanded language in the Adolescent Mental Health and/or Depression Screening and Depression Remission at Six Months measures specifications to address the multiple possible labels for the PHQ-9 Modified for Teens/Adolescents assessment tool (PHQ-9M, PHQ-9A, PHQ-A).

## Hospital quality measures

### Prospective payment system hospital measure modification

Starting in October 2026, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) – the measure steward – is changing the Hospital Readmission Reduction Program Excess Readmission Ratio measure specifications performance period from three to two years.

## Supplemental information

### Measurement framework

MDH continues to pilot test a new measurement framework—the Measurement Framework for Health and Equity Measurement and Improvement—with local partners. This framework, developed from 2018-2020, offers a meaningful way to measure and improve health and equity through partnership, accountability, action, and learning. Among other things, the framework seeks to spur action by examining clinical care measures within a broader context of upstream factors that influence the public's health. MDH expects the pilots to conclude in 2026 and their results to inform future statewide framework implementation and SQRMS updates, as well as the general approach to assessing and reporting on clinical care quality. See [Measurement Framework \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/hcquality/measfrmwk.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/hcquality/measfrmwk.html) for more information.

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