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Department of Employee Trust Funds

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Correspondence Memorandum

Date: July 1, 2021
To: Group Insurance Board
From: Brian Stamm, Deputy Director
Office of Strategic Health Policy
Subject: 2022 Plan Year Quality Credit

This memo is for informational purposes. No Board action is required.

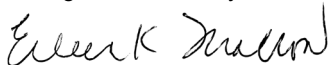
Background

As part of the annual health plan rate setting process, the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) develops a quality credit rate adjustment that is applied to individual health plans' final rates, if earned. This memo serves to provide an update to the Group Insurance Board (Board) on the status of the quality credits earned for the 2022 plan year. Health plan names have been de-identified and randomized within this memo. However, a key to allow for identification has been provided to the Board should a member wish to know the health plan names. While the aggregate level Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) and Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) quality scores are publicly available, the individual measurement values are not. ETF has, therefore, de-identified the health plan names to maintain their confidentiality.

Changes in 2021

The quality credit is a calculation comprised of data collected from each health plan. The data collected consists of Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) data as well as the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) data. These are industry standard, validated, and independently verified data sources that provide a quantitative analysis of quality of healthcare and services provided by a health plan.

As described in the [2021 Plan Year Quality Credit](#) memo to the Board, the second of a two-phase approach to expanding the measures utilized for the quality credit was implemented this year. In this expansion five new measures were introduced to the quality credit calculation.

Reviewed and approved by Eileen K Mallow, Director, Office of Strategic Health Policy
 Electronically Signed 08.09.21

Board	Mtg Date	Item #
GIB	8.18.21	4B

Phase 2 Measures Added:

- Follow-up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness: Total 30-day Follow-up (FUH – from HEDIS)
- Follow-up After Emergency Department Visit for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence: 30-day Follow-up Total (FUA – from HEDIS)
- Initiation and Engagement of AOD Abuse or Dependence Treatment Total: Engagement of AOD Treatment Total (IET – from HEDIS)
- Prenatal and Postpartum Care: Timeliness of Prenatal Care (PPC – from HEDIS)
- Prenatal and Postpartum Care: Postpartum Care (PPC – from HEDIS)

The addition of these final five measures completes the quality credit expansion. Measures may be added in the future, but for now it is the opinion of ETF staff to allow the US healthcare system to settle into a “new normal” before making any substantial changes to the quality credit calculation.

Unbeknownst to ETF staff, the Medication Management for People with Asthma (MMA) measure was eliminated as a HEDIS measure this year. This measure was a measure ETF had been tracking as part of the quality credit calculation. All points that were assigned to this measure were equally re-distributed to the remaining measurements as not to impact any of the health plans’ scores negatively. ETF staff plan to replace the MMA measure with the Asthma Medication Ratio (AMR) measure for the 2023 quality credit calculation. The AMR measure mimics the MMA measure closely, and it is a measure that all health plans should be familiar with making for an easy transition.

It is worth noting two aspects of the calculation for full transparency. First, the point values allocated to each measurement are borrowed from NCQA’s quality calculation, and have, therefore been vetted and validated. ETF did not assign point values at random or with bias.

Secondly, there are cases in which measurements cannot be calculated with statistical significance due to low denominators, in which case the health plan’s HEDIS report would list the result as “Not Reported – Low Denominator.” In this case, the point value assigned to a measure that is not reported is spread evenly throughout the remaining measurements as not to impact the health plan negatively for only insuring fewer members than other plans insure.

Changes Due to COVID-19 Impact

Due to the impact COVID-19 has had on the US healthcare system, a plan proposed by ETF to integrate an adjustment to the quality credit calculation for year-over-year measurement score improvement/deterioration has been delayed until further notice. More than likely, the proposed change will not occur until the calculation for plan year 2025, which will utilize data from calendar year 2023.

Results

The calculation showed a slight overall year-over-year decrease in quality scores for health plans as noted by Chart 2 in the appendix. The scores ranged from 5.13% decrease, to 2.24% improvement. The overall downward trend was expected from ETF staff as the calculation is based off medical interactions that occurred in 2020.

Considering the dramatic impact of COVID-19 on healthcare utilization, it is impressive to see that the decline in scores was not steeper.

The highest quality credit was earned by Health Plan #3 followed respectively by Health Plan #1, Health Plan #5, Health Plan #7, and Health Plan #8. The remaining health plans scored below the quality credit cutoff, and therefore did not receive a quality credit. ETF staff notified all health plans of their earned quality credit during health plan negotiations. All plans are welcome to discuss their individual scores with ETF staff in a private meeting to help develop a plan for improvement.

Staff will be available at the Board meeting to answer any questions.

Appendix

2022 Quality Credit Outcomes

Chart 1 – Final Results

Health Plan	Rating of Health Plan (9 + 10)	Coordination of Care (Always + Usually)	Flu Vaccination	Childhood Immunization Status (CIS) Combination #3	Childhood Immunization Status (CIS) Combination #10	Immunizations for Adolescents (IMA) Combination #2	Breast Cancer Screening (BCS)	Cervical Cancer Screening (CCS)	Colorectal Cancer Screening (COL)	Appropriate Testing for Children with Pharyngitis (cwp)	Controlling High Blood Pressure (cbp)	Comprehensive Diabetes Care (CDC) HbA1c Control (<8.0%)	Comprehensive Diabetes Care (cdc) Blood Pressure Control (<140/90 mm Hg)	Antidepressant Medication Management (amm) Effective Continuation Phase Treatment	Follow-up After Hospitalization For Mental Illness (FUH) Total - 30-day Follow-up	Follow-up After Emergency Department Visit for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence (FUA) 30-Day Follow-up: Total	Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment in Adults with Acute Bronchitis (AAB) Total	Initiation and Engagement of AOD Abuse or Dependence Treatment (IET) Total: Engagement of AOD Treatment: Total	Prenatal and Postpartum Care (PPC) Timeliness of Prenatal Care	Prenatal and Postpartum Care (PPC) Postpartum Care
Possible Points	1.5	1.5	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Health Plan #1	0.6761	1.3832	0.6404	2.5518	0.7500	1.2483	0.7174	0.8040	0.7917	0.8548	2.2701	1.8954	2.2500	0.6513	0.8179	0.2839	0.4156	0.1312	0.9343	0.9100
Health Plan #2	0.7245	1.3091	0.6369	2.5713	0.7755	1.5246	0.8286	0.7543	0.7591	0.6957	1.9524	1.6785	2.1786	0.6774	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	0.5091	0.0714	0.6731	0.8077
Health Plan #3	0.7949	1.3787	0.7411	2.6568	0.7810	1.6788	0.7122	0.8127	0.7372	0.9107	1.9782	1.7079	1.9782	0.6739	0.8741	0.2239	0.7565	0.1476	0.9732	0.9343
Health Plan #4	0.6332	1.2483	0.6442	2.5614	0.7339	1.1532	0.7705	0.7370	0.7432	0.8882	1.9563	1.9638	2.0568	0.6440	0.7906	0.1799	0.6469	0.1438	0.9538	0.9270
Health Plan #5	0.8042	1.2974	0.5937	2.5056	0.6703	0.8661	0.8085	0.8078	0.7421	0.7779	2.3505	1.8759	2.4600	0.5647	0.8857	#VALUE!	0.2247	0.1111	0.9662	0.9367
Health Plan #6	0.5387	#VALUE!	0.7278	2.4675	0.6095	1.2057	0.7627	0.7704	0.6829	0.8422	2.2848	1.8978	2.3067	0.5985	0.8250	#VALUE!	0.5246	0.0647	0.9617	0.9290
Health Plan #7	0.6602	1.2941	0.6211	2.5938	0.7015	1.0950	0.7839	0.7960	0.7778	0.7802	2.2482	1.9926	2.3796	0.6489	0.7788	0.3125	0.4260	0.1261	0.9499	0.9471
Health Plan #8	0.7379	1.3140	0.7235	2.5329	0.7397	1.4961	0.7553	0.7786	0.7786	0.8448	2.0001	1.7955	2.0730	0.6323	0.7681	0.2905	0.5367	0.1631	0.9319	0.9246
Health Plan #9	0.6194	1.3398	0.6816	2.3724	0.6667	0.9561	0.8004	0.8037	0.6322	0.8251	1.7883	1.4016	1.8393	0.5869	0.6937	0.2615	0.6231	0.1299	0.7470	0.8102

Key for highlighted cells above ↑:

- Cells highlighted in Orange: Lowest score within the measurement category
- Cells highlighted in Blue: Highest score within the measurement category
- Cells highlighted in Salmon: No score due to low denominator/not reported

Key for highlighted cells below ↓:

- Cells highlighted in Orange: Largest decrease in percent change within the measurement category
- Cells highlighted in Blue: Largest increase in percent change within the measurement category
- Cells highlighted in Salmon: No value due to low denominator/not reported

Chart 2 – Year-Over-Year Differences

Health Plan	Rating of Health Plan (9 + 10)	Coordination of Care (Always + Usually)	Flu Vaccination	Childhood Immunization Status (CIS) Combination #3	Childhood Immunization Status (CIS) Combination #10	Immunizations for Adolescents (IMA) Combination #2	Breast Cancer Screening (BCS)	Cervical Cancer Screening (CCS)	Colorectal Cancer Screening (COL)	Appropriate Testing for Children with Pharyngitis (cwp)	Controlling High Blood Pressure (cbp)	Comprehensive Diabetes Care (CDC) HbA1c Control (<8.0%)	Comprehensive Diabetes Care (cdc) Blood Pressure Control (<140/90 mm Hg)	Antidepressant Medication Management (amm) Effective Continuation Phase Treatment	Follow-up After Hospitalization For Mental Illness (FUH) Total - 30-day Follow-up	Follow-up After Emergency Department Visit for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence (FUA) 30-Day Follow-up: Total	Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment in Adults with Acute Bronchitis (AAB) Total	Initiation and Engagement of AOD Abuse or Dependence Treatment (IET) Total: Engagement of AOD Treatment: Total	Prenatal and Postpartum Care (PPC) Timeliness of Prenatal Care	Prenatal and Postpartum Care (PPC) Postpartum Care	Overall % Change Year to Year
Health Plan #1	-6.42%	4.13%	9.73%	-2.87%	1.99%	13.78%	-6.89%	-2.83%	1.32%	-0.72%	-8.80%	-0.50%	-13.65%	1.20%	5.01%	-6.58%	11.00%	21.37%	-3.37%	-3.76%	-1.75%
Health Plan #2	2.61%	-0.78%	7.46%	-6.95%	-1.77%	70.42%	-0.74%	-4.62%	6.48%	-4.41%	-9.18%	4.27%	4.47%	-7.82%	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	-2.81%	2.29%	-23.22%	-15.77%	0.19%
Health Plan #3	-12.30%	0.01%	5.77%	-1.09%	-4.18%	6.49%	-7.37%	-6.69%	-4.72%	-5.06%	-15.05%	-4.59%	-18.98%	-1.61%	-5.63%	-17.32%	-5.66%	-22.96%	-0.50%	-1.29%	-5.13%
Health Plan #4	-1.40%	-4.59%	-4.89%	-1.55%	2.86%	5.32%	-2.41%	-8.46%	-4.68%	-2.90%	-10.07%	0.20%	-12.42%	3.57%	-1.98%	-25.14%	4.49%	2.28%	1.04%	2.42%	-2.85%
Health Plan #5	4.77%	0.73%	0.30%	6.00%	20.21%	22.02%	-2.13%	-0.90%	1.32%	3.76%	-4.16%	-9.59%	0.09%	-6.48%	4.20%	#VALUE!	-13.24%	18.82%	1.35%	0.73%	2.08%
Health Plan #6	19.14%	#VALUE!	-2.78%	1.56%	6.85%	13.28%	-0.73%	-3.76%	-7.06%	1.68%	1.14%	-0.96%	3.01%	0.83%	18.18%	#VALUE!	6.97%	-66.65%	-1.99%	-3.94%	0.36%
Health Plan #7	2.16%	-0.76%	11.73%	-1.65%	1.73%	-1.96%	-0.80%	-3.66%	-2.41%	-1.51%	-0.28%	-1.63%	-1.21%	10.17%	66.45%	82.32%	-4.29%	9.18%	-3.33%	3.10%	2.24%
Health Plan #8	-0.26%	-2.09%	12.40%	-6.21%	-7.32%	-2.31%	-5.85%	-7.24%	2.23%	-3.53%	-9.87%	-2.38%	-15.47%	1.49%	1.79%	4.38%	-6.30%	20.55%	-1.54%	-3.80%	-3.85%
Health Plan #9	-13.11%	1.38%	16.55%	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	-3.89%	0.40%	-9.76%	0.38%	-8.43%	-16.51%	-15.15%	9.19%	-5.02%	-11.08%	10.79%	3.92%	#VALUE!	#VALUE!	-4.12%