

CYE 2026 VBP Benchmarks

Benchmark Setting Methodology

In order to establish the VBP Threshold Benchmark and the High Performing Benchmark, AHCCCS conducted a comparison of the Line of Business/population aggregate performance measure rate with the associated measure's NCQA Quality Compass percentile data. The NCQA Quality Compass percentile data were then utilized to inform the selection of an appropriate benchmark. For the CYE 2026 VBP benchmark selection, AHCCCS utilized the most current data available (e.g., CY 2023 Line of Business/population aggregate rates and the associated measures' 2024 NCQA Quality Compass percentile data) to identify the Medicaid Percentile. AHCCCS then utilized the 2025 NCQA Quality Compass data to determine the CYE 2026 benchmark values (in alignment with the Medicaid Percentiles selected) in order to reflect more current trends in national performance.

Measure Selection Overview

When selecting performance measures for inclusion in the AHCCCS VBP program, AHCCCS considers numerous factors, including the balance of focus areas and populations to promote system improvement. As such, AHCCCS strives to select a diverse measure set that includes behavioral health and physical health measures, as well as measures that focus on adults and children/adolescents.

The AHCCCS Quality Improvement (QI) Team, in collaboration with the Health Care Finance Team and members of AHCCCS leadership, review the ACOM Policy 306 quality measures and associated data annually to identify potential measure changes and to set the benchmarks. The process for measure changes and benchmark setting includes, but is not limited to:

- Review of the most recent MCO and Line of Business/population performance measure data available,
- Comparison of MCO and Line of Business/population performance to national Medicaid data (i.e., NCQA Medicaid percentiles),
- Consideration of measure specification changes, measure retirements, etc., and
- Consideration of MCO feedback.

Measures may also be removed from the AHCCCS VBP program when the most recent MCO and Line of Business/population performance meets or exceeds the NCQA Medicaid 90th percentile. When a measure is removed from either the primary or secondary measure set, AHCCCS generally identifies a replacement measure through consideration of:

- The measure being currently included within the secondary measure set,
- Agency priorities, initiatives, and focus areas, and
- Identified opportunities for improvement based on AHCCCS' review of the most recent MCO and Line of Business/population performance measure data and comparison to the associated national Medicaid percentile data.

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ACC Primary Measures							
Measure Name	Acronym	CY 2026 Calculation Methodology ^{1, 2}	Weighting	Associated Threshold Benchmark		Associated High Performing Benchmark	
				Medicaid Percentile	Benchmark	Medicaid Percentile	Benchmark
Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits – Total	WCV	Admin	15%	50th Percentile	55.4%	66.67th Percentile	58.4%
Well Child Visits in the First 30 Months of Life: First 30 Months (Rate 2)	W30	Admin	20%	25th Percentile	68.4%	33.33th Percentile	70.1%
Prenatal and Postpartum Care: Timeliness of Prenatal Care	PPC	Hybrid	20%	33.33th Percentile	84.0%	66.67th Percentile	88.6%
Adherence to Antipsychotic Medications for Individuals with Schizophrenia	SAA	Admin	15%	33.33th Percentile	63.0%	50th Percentile	66.7%
Cervical Cancer Screening	CCS	ECDS	20%	33.33th Percentile	53.5%	50th Percentile	58.2%
Plan All Cause Readmissions: Observed/ Expected (O/E) Ratio ^{3, 4}	PCR	Admin	10%	50th Percentile	1.146	75th Percentile	1.044

ACC Secondary Measures							
Measure Name	Acronym	CY 2026 Calculation Methodology ^{1, 2}	Weighting	Associated Threshold Benchmark		Associated High Performing Benchmark	
				Medicaid Percentile	Benchmark	Medicaid Percentile	Benchmark
Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Mental Illness - 7 Day (Total)	FUM	Admin	TBD	75th Percentile	50.9%	90th Percentile	62.1%
Childhood Immunization Status: Combo 3	CIS	ECDS	TBD	50th Percentile	61.3%	66.67th Percentile	63.8%



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Weight Assessment and Counseling for Children/Adolescents: Counseling for Nutrition	WCC	Hybrid	TBD	33.33th Percentile	69.3%	50th Percentile	73.5%
Prenatal and Postpartum Care: Postpartum Care	PPC	Hybrid	TBD	25th Percentile	78.0%	50th Percentile	82.5%
Lead Screening in Children	LSC	ECDS	TBD	10th Percentile	39.7%	25th Percentile	61.3%

Footnotes:

¹AHCCCS may require Contractors to calculate measure rates using multiple methodologies to support ongoing calculation of performance improvement. However, the methodology listed within the CYE 2026 Calculation Methodology column reflects the methodology required for the associated Measurement Year and shall serve as the basis to determine performance within the associated Withhold and Quality Measure Performance Incentive calculations.

²AHCCCS determines the Medicaid Percentiles and Benchmarks based on the data available within NCQA Quality Compass®, which may or may not align with that indicated within the CYE 2026 Calculation Methodology column. In cases where NCQA Quality Compass® includes more than one set of Medicaid Percentile and Benchmark data for any given measure, AHCCCS will utilize the data associated with the methodology listed in the CYE 2026 Calculation Methodology column.

³The Performance Improvement Score will not be assessed for this measure.

⁴Lower rate indicates better performance

Notes:

All benchmark values have been rounded.

Performance Measures rates shall be calculated and reported as part of the Performance Measure Validation (PMV) process utilizing NCQA HEDIS® technical specifications for the associated measurement year and in accordance with AHCCCS instructions (measures shall be reflective of NCQA age range reporting, unless otherwise noted). ACC performance measure rates to be limited to the Contractor ACC population only (i.e., not inclusive of the RBHA population for the ACC-RBHA Contractors).

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EPD Primary Measures

Measure Name	Acronym	CY 2026 Calculation Methodology ^{1, 2}	Weighting	Associated Threshold Benchmark		Associated High Performing Benchmark	
				Medicaid Percentile	Benchmark	Medicaid Percentile	Benchmark
Cervical Cancer Screening	CCS	Admin	35%	5th Percentile	37.9%	10th Percentile	45.5%
Breast Cancer Screening	BCS	ECDS	35%	10th Percentile	45.1%	33.33th Percentile	52.2%
Initiation and Engagement of Substance Use Disorder Treatment (Total Engagement)	IET	Admin	30%	33.33th Percentile	11.4%	50th Percentile	14.8%

EPD Secondary Measures

Measure Name	Acronym	CY 2026 Calculation Methodology ^{1,2}	Weighting	Associated Threshold Benchmark		Associated High Performing Benchmark	
				Medicaid Percentile	Benchmark	Medicaid Percentile	Benchmark
Colorectal Cancer Screening	COL	ECDS	TBD	75th Percentile	48.2%	90th Percentile	53.3%

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Notes:

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