

Ohio Medicaid Revamps Quality Strategy

Ohio Medicaid's Quality Strategy creates a practical framework to ensure that consumers receive high quality health care services.

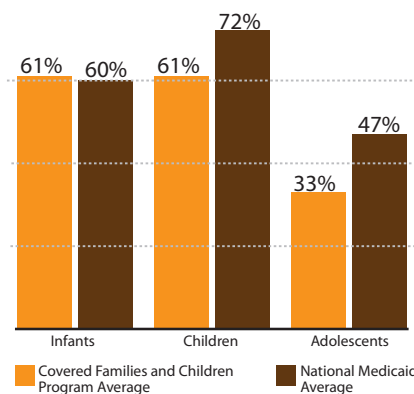
In 2011, Ohio Medicaid revamped its Quality Strategy to expand efforts aimed at providing better care, to improve the health of the Ohio Medicaid population, and to promote the practice of best-evidence medicine. Ohio Medicaid developed these changes by adopting objectives from two initiatives – the Governor's Office of Health Transformation and the National Strategy for Quality Improvement in Health Care.

The goals from both initiatives provide clear direction for Ohio Medicaid to set a steady course for its Quality Strategy measures. In particular, the Office of Health Transformation's goals are aimed at keeping Ohioans healthy longer with a focus on prevention, reduction of chronic care costs, best-evidence medicine and efficient administration. The national objectives are aimed at improving overall health care quality with a focus on reliable, patient-centered care, proven interventions to treat manageable conditions and reduction of the cost of quality health care for everyone.

In developing this strategy, Ohio Medicaid identified six clinical areas which offer the greatest opportunity to improve health outcomes and to provide cost effective, appropriate patient care. The strategy's focus will be directed at high-risk pregnancy/premature births, behavioral health, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, asthma and upper respiratory infections. Ohio Medicaid aligned quality performance measures with the six clinical focus areas to hold health plans accountable for improving performance. For health plans that excel, the State will issue rewards, such as pay for performance incentives. The State, however, will use sanctions, such as fines, to penalize plans that fail to meet standards.

Preventive Care Helps Ensure Children's Health

Preventive child care checkups are important because they lay the groundwork for a healthy life. Young children need regular checkups for measuring their growth and development and to ensure they receive appropriate immunizations. Preventive care visits for adolescents provide an important opportunity for physicians to gauge health over time, monitor development and identify any potential health and/or behavioral problems.



- More than **60 percent** of infants in Ohio's Medicaid program receive the number of preventive child care checkups recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, which tops the national Medicaid average.
- Children's and adolescents' rates fell **below** the national Medicaid average.

Healthchek Collaborative Educates and Motivates

To increase awareness about preventive health care services for children, Ohio Medicaid formed the Healthchek Collaborative. This statewide quality improvement initiative strives to improve preventive and developmental screenings and follow-up care by educating providers. The Healthchek Collaborative also educates parents/caregivers about the importance of preventive services, with the goal of motivating them to take their children for regular checkups. Ohio Medicaid's vision for this unique collaborative effort is to build relationships between health professionals, parents/caregivers and the community to improve the health of children served by Medicaid.

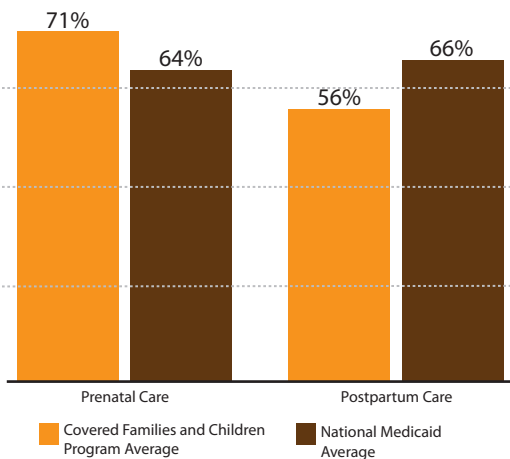
Quality Care Quarterly

QUALITY OF CARE

Each quarter, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services will issue a report covering different elements of the Medicaid Quality Strategy, a framework for monitoring and improving health care services for Medicaid members. This issue covers Quality of Care.

Pregnancy Care Checkups are Critical

Because complications can arise, continued monitoring throughout pregnancy is necessary. Frequent prenatal visits are important to minimize pregnancy problems. After a child's birth, effective postpartum care improves health outcomes.

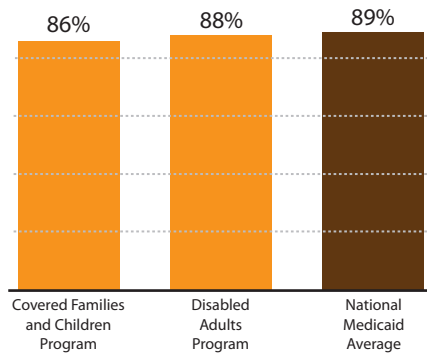


- More than **70 percent** of covered women receive a majority of the expected number of prenatal care visits.
- The rate for prenatal care **exceed** the national Medicaid average.
- The rate for postpartum care are **below** the national Medicaid average.

QUALITY OF CARE

Managing Asthma for Life

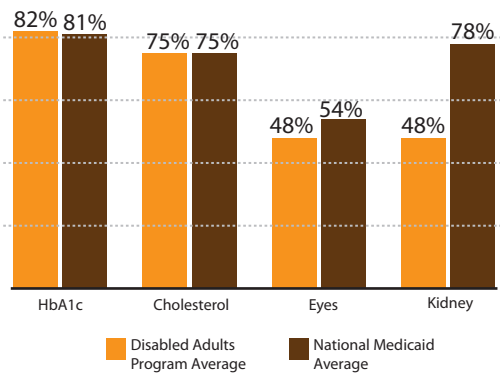
Asthma is a chronic lung disease. Although it has no cure, it can be treated so people with asthma can live normal, healthy lives.



■ Adults and children with asthma are prescribed appropriate medications at rates close to the national Medicaid averages.

Diabetes Monitoring

Diabetes affects several areas of the body. Monitoring long-term sugar metabolism (HbA1c), cholesterol levels, blood vessels in the eyes and kidney function can allow physicians to detect a wide range of potential complications from the disease.

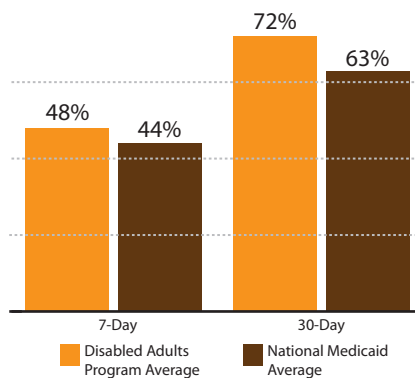


■ Diabetic patients are having their HbA1c, cholesterol, and eyes monitored at about the national Medicaid averages.

■ Rates of kidney function screening in Ohio can be improved.

Follow-Up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness

It is important that patients receive follow-up care after they are hospitalized for mental illness to promote their continued healing and ability to live independently. Follow-up care helps patients get the support and treatment they need, such as medicines and counseling. This may reduce rehospitalization and allow any additional problems to be treated quickly.



■ More than 70 percent of adult members receive follow-up care within a month.

■ Both 7-day and 30-day rates exceed the national Medicaid averages.

Budget Initiatives for System Improvement

The Office of Health Transformation was created to modernize Medicaid's fragmented system in Ohio, to improve the quality of health services available to its members and to provide the best value to taxpayers. The following budget-related proposals will impact Quality of Care.

■ Person-Centered Care Management

While only 7% of the Medicaid population uses long-term care services, they account for 41% of annual Medicaid spending. Separate delivery systems often provide long-term care, behavioral health and physical health services. Ohio Medicaid's vision is to create a person-centered care management approach to achieve better health results and to save money. This will be accomplished by creating a single point of care coordination, promoting health homes and providing accountable care for children.

■ Whole Person Care Perspective

In the past, two separate budgeting systems provided health services to individuals with severe mental illnesses. While Ohio Medicaid managed their physical health benefits, substance abuse/drug systems administered their behavioral health care. Integrating Medicaid behavioral and physical health care will create a whole person care perspective. Both physical and mental health practitioners will actively communicate and work together to treat a patient in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.

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Ohio's Medicaid's Quality, Strategy shows health plan consumers are receiving quality health care services at levels that exceed national Medicaid averages in most areas and identifies areas needing improvement.