



Consensus Core Set: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Hepatitis C

The Core Quality Measures Collaborative (CQMC) creates core measure sets (core sets) for use in value-based payment (VBP) programs and to drive improvement in high-priority areas. Payers can use the core sets to holistically assess quality or as a starting point to select measures to meet specific goals. The CQMC develops and maintains the core sets using a multistakeholder, consensus-based process and established [measure-selection principles](#). In the table below, the consensus-based entity (CBE) *Number/Specifications* column links to measure specifications and details, and the *Notes* column includes additional considerations for use.

HIV Measures

The CQMC core set measures focus on ambulatory care measures at the clinician-reporting level. The HIV and Hepatitis C core set contains three HIV-related measures that have been tested for reliability and validity at the clinician (individual and/or group/practice) reporting level. When using measures specified outside the clinician level of analysis, core set users should ensure adequate measure denominator size based on their patient population.

CBE Number/ Specifications	Measure	Steward	Level of Analysis	Notes
Clinical Quality Measure (CQM) Version: 2082/CMS Measures Inventory Tool (CMIT) 325 Electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM) Version: 3210e/eCQM Specifications	HIV Viral Suppression	Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) – HIV/AIDS Bureau	Facility, Clinician: Group/Practice	CQM version: Full Year 2016: Endorsement Removed. Steward no longer seeking to maintain endorsement eCQM version: Spring 2023: Endorsed Spring 2028: Next Maintenance Cycle Telehealth eligible for CMS programs in 2026
3752e/eCQM Specifications/CMIT 323	HIV Annual Retention in Care	HRSA – HIV/AIDS Bureau	Clinician: Individual, Clinician: Group/Practice	Spring 2023: Endorsed Spring 2028: Next Maintenance Cycle Telehealth eligible for CMS programs in 2026

CBE Number/ Specifications	Measure	Steward	Level of Analysis	Notes
3755e/eCQM Specifications/CMIT 327	Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Testing for People with HIV	HRSA – HIV/AIDS Bureau	Clinician: Individual, Clinician: Group/Practice	Spring 2023: Endorsed Spring 2028: Next Maintenance Cycle Telehealth eligible for CMS programs in 2026
eCQM Specifications/CMIT 324	HIV Screening	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	Clinician: Individual, Clinician: Group/Practice	Never submitted for CBE endorsement Telehealth eligible for CMS programs in 2026 The workgroup suggests the steward consider expanding the exclusion criteria to include patient refusals and patients with a limited life expectancy

Hepatitis C Measures

The HIV and Hepatitis C core set contains three measures related to Hepatitis C; all of these measures have been tested for reliability and validity at the clinician (individual or group/practice) reporting level. Additionally, of the three measures, two meet [CMS's dQM definition](#).

CBE Number/ Specifications	Measure	Steward	Level of Analysis	dQM	Notes
Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) 401/CMIT 319	Hepatitis C: Screening for Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) in Patients with Cirrhosis	American Gastroenterological Association (AGA)	Clinician: Group/Practice, Clinician: Individual	Yes	Never submitted for CBE endorsement
CQM Version: MIPS 400 eCQM Version: 3059e	One-Time Screening for Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and Treatment Initiation	AGA	CQM Version: Clinician: Group/Practice eCQM Version: Clinician: Individual	Yes	CQM version: Never submitted for CBE endorsement eCQM version: Spring 2019: Approved for Trial Use Fall 2026: Next Maintenance Cycle
CMIT 1433	Hepatitis C Virus (HCV): Sustained Virological Response (SVR)	AGA	Clinician: Group/Practice, Clinician: Individual	Yes	Never submitted for CBE endorsement

Gap Areas for Future Consideration and Measure Development

HIV

- Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) use in individuals who are at high risk for HIV
- HIV screening for patients with STIs
- HIV and syphilis screening for pregnant patients
- Starting treatment and achieving suppression early
- Measures that reflect HIV as a long-term, chronic condition with comorbidities
- Follow-up for patients diagnosed with HIV and with low viral load
- Quality-of-life measures or stratification of other measures to understand quality of life
- Consider the Pharmacy Quality Alliance's (PQA) *Adherence to Antiretrovirals (PDC-ARV)* measure in the future if tested at the clinician level
- Vaccinations related to HIV prevention
- Monitor emerging pilot measures from the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and Cleveland Clinic, including HIV screening for all patients presenting with an STI and syphilis testing for pregnant patients
- Non-proprietary or low-cost clinician-level measures
- Consideration of military population needs, such as existing military PrEP and STI testing policies

Hepatitis C

- Testing of viral load 12 weeks post-end of treatment (complementary to SVR measure)
- Initiation of antiretroviral treatment for chronic Hepatitis C
- Measures that reflect increased ability to treat Hepatitis C
- Consider adding MIPS 387 Annual Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Screening for Patients who are Active Injection Drug Users

The workgroup expressed interest in measures that can be stratified to understand gaps in care and outcomes for certain patient subpopulations (e.g., obstetric patients who have slightly different HIV screening recommendations than the general population).

The workgroup highlighted the importance of cross-core set coordination to ensure that other CQMC maintenance cycles consider relevant HIV/Hepatitis C measures, when appropriate.

Core Set Updates for 2025

Removed measure CBE #2079/3209e HIV Medical Visit Frequency. The steward noted that they retired the measure from the endorsement process and will not be updating the eCQM specification. The measure steward intends to focus on measures that are meaningful and impactful, align with guidelines, and are implementable. Moving forward, they have decided to maintain one retention measure related to HIV and will focus on CBE #3752e.