



## 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: <a href="#">2082/CMS Measures Inventory Tool (CMIT) 325</a> Electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM) Version: <a href="#">3210e/eCQM Specifications</a>	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
<a href="#">3752e/eCQM Specifications/CMIT 323</a>	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
<a href="#">3755e/eCQM Specifications/CMIT 327</a>	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
<a href="#">eCQM Specifications/CMIT 324</a>	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	Notes
<a href="#">Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) 401/CMIT 319</a>	Hepatitis C: Screening for Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) in Patients with Cirrhosis	American Gastroenterological Association (AGA)	Clinician: Group/Practice, Clinician: Individual	Never submitted for CBE endorsement
CQM Version: <a href="#">MIPS 400/CMIT 476</a> eCQM Version: <a href="#">3059e</a>	One-Time Screening for Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and Treatment Initiation	AGA	CQM Version: Clinician: Group/Practice eCQM Version: Clinician: Individual	CQM version: Never submitted for CBE endorsement eCQM version: Spring 2019: Approved for Trial Use Fall 2026: Next Maintenance Cycle
<a href="#">CMIT 1433</a>	Hepatitis C Virus (HCV): Sustained Virological Response (SVR)	AGA	Clinician: Group/Practice, Clinician: Individual	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.