

Medical Management

HEDIS® Spotlight: Care for Older Adults

Care for Older Adults: Medication Review & Functional Status, the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) Measure

Why This Matters

Older adults face increased risks related to functional decline and concurrent use of multiple medications. Completing both a medication review and functional status assessment helps reduce medication errors, identify limitations early, support independence and improve quality outcomes.

Measure Overview

This HEDIS measure evaluates the percentage of adults age 66 and older who received both a medication review and a functional status assessment during the measurement year.

Medication Review

A comprehensive review of all medications including prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs and supplements. A medication list must be present and documented. It must be completed by a prescribing provider or clinical pharmacist. Transitional care visits count. Reviewing one medication alone does not meet criteria.

Functional Status Assessment

Evaluate the patient's ability to perform daily activities. You must document at least five Activities of Daily Living (ADLs), such as bathing, dressing, eating, getting on or off a toilet or walking. Or four Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs), such as shopping, cooking, taking medications, managing finances or transportation. You may also use a standardized clinical assessment tool such as Katz ADL or Lawton IADL.

Eligible Population

Patients aged 66 or older by Dec. 31 that are enrolled in a Medicare Special Needs Plan (SNP).

Exclusions

Patients in hospice at any time during the year, or who died during the measurement year.

Documentation Tips

Ensure a patient's medication list is current, signed and dated. Clearly document medication review and functional assessment details. Avoid inpatient documentation, as it does not count towards the measure.

Quick Checklist

- Medication list documented
- Medication review complete
- Functional assessment done
- Eligibility confirmed
- Verify whether any exclusions apply