

Hospital Equity Reporting Program

Assembly Bill 1204 (Chapter 751, Statutes of 2021) requires the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) to develop and administer a hospital equity report program to collect and post hospital equity reports. These annual reports are required to include measures on patient access, quality, and outcomes by race, ethnicity, language, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and payor as recommended by the newly created Health Care Equity Measures Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee). The reports are also required to include a plan to prioritize and address disparities for vulnerable populations identified in the data and as specified by the Advisory Committee.¹

The Advisory Committee will be comprised of health care stakeholder experts, including a health care quality and measurement expert, to assist and advise the HCAI director on:

1. Reviewing and amending the appropriate measures that align with the health equity measures developed by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) at the hospital-, hospital system-, and integrated system-level related to access, quality, and outcomes—including any relevant Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality’s Quality Indicators—that hospitals are required to report in their annual equity reports
2. Reviewing, amending, and evaluating, as necessary, the appropriate disparities and performance areas to be addressed in the health equity plan hospitals are required to include in their annual equity reports

The first set of recommendations regarding appropriate measures will need to be developed by the Advisory Committee no later than December 31, 2022, or 120 days after the release of the CMS health equity measures, whichever occurs later. These recommendations will be published on the department’s website.

Licensed general acute care hospitals, acute psychiatric hospitals, specialty hospitals, and hospital systems with at least two general acute care hospitals in California are required to prepare and file with HCAI an equity report analyzing patient equity data and providing plans to address identified inequities. HCAI estimates there are approximately 450 hospitals and 30 hospital systems that meet these requirements.

The first annual submission of equity reports is due by September 30, 2025, but not until 12 months after the release of the CMS health equity quality measures.

The list of upcoming activities below include program activities through September 2025. Per the requirements stated in the statute, HCAI will work with stakeholders to develop regulations to further specify reporting requirements.

¹ Assembly Bill 1204 also revises the definition of “vulnerable populations” in Health & Safety Code §127345 for the purposes of not-for-profit hospital community benefit planning.

| Projected Time | Period Program Activities |
|-------------------------------|---|
| January 2022 to June 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin program planning • Convene Health Care Equity Measures Advisory Committee |
| July 2022 to December 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct meetings with Health Care Equity Measures Advisory Committee • Develop and publish first set of committee recommendations* |
| January 2023 to December 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin rulemaking process² • Continue meeting with Health Care Equity Measures Advisory Committee |
| January 2024 to December 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete rulemaking process to establish regulations to specify reporting requirements* • Begin outreach to hospitals to prepare for first annual submission • Continue meeting with Health Care Equity Measures Advisory Committee |
| January 2025 to October 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance to hospitals in the development of first annual hospital equity reports • Submission of first equity reports by hospitals due September 30, 2025* • Continue meeting with Health Care Equity Measures Advisory Committee |

**Note: Dates may be extended per the development and release of the CMS Health Equity Measures.*

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² HCAI will engage in a separate rulemaking process to implement the revisions to the definition of “vulnerable populations” as it relates to the community benefit planning program.