

Item #3: Hospital Equity Measures Program Updates – Updates on the Hospital Measures Regulations Package

Ying Yang, Research Scientist Supervisor, HCAI

Elizabeth Ballart, Attorney III, HCAI

Alma Lopez, Enterprise Data Operations Branch, HCAI

HEM Regulations Overview

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- 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, Payor as recommended by the Hospital 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
- The regulations became effective upon filing with the Secretary of State on June 4, 2025

Hospital Equity Measures

All hospitals are required to submit an annual report:

1. Equity Report:

- Structure measures
- Core quality measures

2. Equity Plan includes:

- Top 10 disparities
- Plan to address disparities including population impact, measurable objectives, and specific timeframe
- Performance across six priority areas (person-centered care, patient safety, patient social drivers of health, effective treatment, care coordination, and access to care)

3. Hospital and hospital system reports for general acute care, children's, and acute psychiatric hospitals

Hospital Type

- General acute care hospital as defined pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 1250, subdivision (a).
- Acute psychiatric hospital as defined pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 1250, subdivision (b).
- Children's Hospital means a hospital annually identified by HCAI using the following criteria: children's hospitals identified by Welfare and Institutions Code section 10727, or a hospital that has an inpatient population of more than seventy-five percent (75%) of individuals eighteen (18) years of age or younger, as identified by the Department's Patient Discharge Data, using the same data year as the year reported in the hospital equity report.

Hospital System

- Hospital system means an entity or system of entities that includes or owns two or more hospitals within the state, of which at least one is a general acute care hospital. The entity or system of entities that comprise a hospital system also includes a single corporation or entity that controls two or more hospitals and an integrated system as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 127371, subdivision (f).
- Consolidated hospitals should not report as hospital system

Hospital/Hospital System Contact Information and Registration

- Designate primary and secondary contact
- Register via online report submission portal at hdc.hcai.ca.gov
- Update any contact changes within 15 days
- Primary and secondary contact persons may add or remove users

Information Included

Hospital Report:

- Hospital name, HCAI ID, reporting organization, and reporting period
- Web address where the hospital's equity report is published
- Hospital in location with access to clean water and air (Y/N)

Hospital System Report:

- Hospital system name, CEO (or equivalent), system ID, system description, reporting period, HCAI IDs of hospitals included.
- Web address where the system report is published if available.
- Aggregate data grouped by hospital type

Hospital Equity Measures Requirements

- All reports must conform to the requirements of the Measures Submission Guide (MSG)
- Reports shall include the numerator, denominator, and rate of each measure broken down by each stratification category, to the extent the data is available and consistent with the California Health and Human Services Agency's "[Data De-Identification Guidelines \(DDG\)](#)," dated September 23, 2016.

Structure Measures: All Hospitals

- Joint Commission's Health Care Disparities Reduction and Patient-Centered Communication Accreditation Standards:
 - Designate an individual to lead hospital health equity activities
 - Provide documentation of policy prohibiting discrimination
 - Report percentage of patients by preferred language spoken
- CMS Hospital Commitment to Health Equity Structural (HCHE) Measure:
 - CMS HCHE Domain 1: Strategic Planning
 - CMS HCHE Domain 2: Data Collection
 - CMS HCHE Domain 3: Data Analysis
 - CMS HCHE Domain 4: Quality Improvement
 - CMS HCHE Domain 5: Leadership Engagement
- CMS Screening for Social Drivers of Health and CMS Screen Positive Rate for Social Drivers of Health and intervention

Core Quality Measures: General Acute Care Hospitals

1. Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) survey: Would recommend hospital
2. HCAHPS survey: Received information and education
3. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Quality Indicator
Pneumonia Mortality Rate
4. AHRQ Patient Safety Indicator Death Rate among Surgical Inpatients with
Serious Treatable Conditions
5. California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC) NTSV Cesarean Birth
Rate
6. CMQCC Vaginal Birth After Cesarean (VBAC) Rate, Uncomplicated
7. CMQCC Exclusive Breast Milk Feeding
8. HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate
9. HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate, stratified by
behavioral health diagnosis

Core Quality Measures: Children's Hospitals

1. Pediatric experience survey with scores of willingness to recommend the hospital
2. HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate

Core Quality Measures: Acute Psychiatric Hospitals

1. HCAHPS survey: Would recommend hospital
2. HCAHPS survey: Received information and education
3. AHRQ Quality Indicator Pneumonia Mortality Rate
4. HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate in an inpatient psychiatric facility (IPF)
5. HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate, stratified by behavioral health diagnosis
6. CMS Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting Program Screening for Metabolic Disorders
7. The Joint Commission's SUB-3: Alcohol and Other Drug Use Disorder Treatment Provided or Offered at Discharge and SUB-3a: Alcohol and Other Drug Use Disorder Treatment at Discharge

Stratifications for Core Quality Measures

- AB 1204 requires a hospital equity report to include each measure broken down by each stratification category below, to the extent the data is available. Reports shall include the numerator, denominator, and rate of each measure broken down by the following stratification categories:
 1. Race /Ethnicity (OMB 2024 standards)
 2. Age (HCAI categories)
 - a. Non-maternal measures
 - b. Maternal measures
 - c. Pediatric measures
 3. Sex Assigned at Birth (USCDI standards)
 4. Expected Payer (HCAI categories)
 5. Preferred Language (HCAI categories)
 6. Disability (HL7 and CDC PLACES)
 7. Sexual Orientation (USCDI)
 8. Gender Identity (USCDI)
- HCAI All-Cause Unplanned 30-Day Hospital Readmission Rate shall be stratified by behavioral health diagnosis in addition to the above stratification.

Top Ten Disparities Identified by Rate Ratio (RR)

All hospitals and hospital systems shall include the top ten disparities identified in the data by the rate ratio (RR). The RR compares the rate between a stratification group and the reference group for each measure.

Equity Report Supplemental Document (Optional)

Hospitals and hospital systems may submit an equity report Supplemental Document. A Supplemental Document may be used to supplement the information reported in an equity report. The supplemental documents shall comply with the following requirements:

- (a) Each equity report Supplemental Document shall be submitted by uploading a pdf file.
- (b) Documents submitted shall not be a scanned version or images of paper documents. Documents shall be submitted in machine-readable format.
- (c) All data and information in a supplemental document shall conform to the DDG requirements.

HEM Report Submissions Overview

General Information

- Reporting Period: January 1 through December 31, 2024 (prior calendar year)
- Hospital Equity Measures Reports are **due annually on September 30**.
 - If the due date falls on a holiday/weekend, reports submitted by the next business day will not be considered late.
- Hospitals may request for a **single, 60-day extension**, per report period, to file the report in the HDC System.
- [California Code of Regulations \(CCR\), Title 22 Section 95309](#) authorizes HCAI to impose a civil fine of one-hundred dollars (**\$100**) **per day** for failure to file a timely report, with a maximum of \$5,000 per reporting period.
- Penalties imposed may be appealed pursuant to current appeals processes described in [California Code of Regulations, Title 22 Sections 95311 – 95316](#).
- [22 CCR, Title 22 Section 95302](#) requires that each hospital and hospital system designate a primary and secondary contact person for the purpose of receiving compliance and informational communications regarding equity reports.
 - Primary and Secondary contacts must be hospital employees. Please click [here](#) to download a contact registration form. Forms may be emailed directly to hospitalequity@hcai.ca.gov.

Method of Submission

- Hospital Equity Measures Reports are to be submitted to the Department using the report submission portal also known as the Hospital Disclosures and Compliance (HDC) System: hdc.hcai.ca.gov.
- Two methods of submission:
 - Manual entry.
 - CSV File upload.
 - File must meet the file and format specifications.
 - File must be renamed before uploading to the HDC System.
- Supplemental Document:
 - Each equity report Supplemental Document shall be submitted by uploading a Portable Document Format (.pdf) file.
 - Documents submitted shall not be a scanned version or images of paper documents. Documents shall be submitted in machine-readable format.
 - All data and information in a supplemental document shall conform to the requirements as described in the California Health and Human Services Agency's "Data De-Identification Guidelines (DDG)," dated September 23, 2016

Individual Hospital/ System Level Report Method of Submission

Option #1- Manual Data Entry

Step 1: HDC System users will log into the system.

Step 2: Select "Hospital Equity Measures" from the drop-down menu located under report type.

Step 3: Click on "Hospital Equity Report" under the column report type next to the individual facility you would like to submit a report for.

Step 4: Answer all questions and data fields. (You will be able to validate and save the data as you progress through the different pages.)

Step 5: Click "Submit."

Manual Data Entry

The screenshot shows the 'California Hospital Equity Measures Report' interface on Page 1. The page title is 'California Hospital Equity Measures Report'. Below the title, there is a 'Page' dropdown menu set to 'Page 1 - General Information' and a 'Go' button. The main content area is a table with the following data:

General Information	
Hospital Name	Adventist Health and Rideout
Facility Type	General Acute Care
Hospital HCAI ID	106500996
Reporting Organization	Adventist
Report Period Start Date	01/01/2024
Report Period End Date	12/31/2024
Hospital Location with Clean Water and Air	Yes
Hospital Web Address for Equity Report	www.testhospital.com/hospitalequityreporttest.pdf

At the bottom of the page, there are 'Previous', 'Next', and 'Validate Data' buttons. The footer text reads '© Copyright 2022 State of California'.

The screenshot shows the 'California Hospital Equity Measures Report' interface on Page 2. The page title is 'California Hospital Equity Measures Report'. Below the title, there is a 'Page' dropdown menu set to 'Page 2 - Joint Commission Accreditation' and a 'Go' button. The main content area is a table with the following data:

Joint Commission Accreditation	
Designate an individual to lead hospital health equity activities (Y/N)	Y
Provide documentation of policy prohibiting discrimination (Y/N)	Y
Joint Commission Accreditation Language Denominator	10,000

Below this table is another table with the following data:

Languages	Numerator	Denominator	Percent
American Sign Language	100	10,000	1.0%
English Language	5600	10,000	56.0%
Asian Pacific Islander Languages	400	10,000	4.0%
Middle Eastern Languages	300	10,000	3.0%
Spanish Language	2200	10,000	22.0%
Other Languages	1400	10,000	14.0%

At the bottom of the page, there are 'Previous', 'Next', and 'Validate Data' buttons. The footer text reads '© Copyright 2022 State of California'.

*** Manual data entry visuals are subject to change. Step-by-step manuals with updated visuals will be available on the reporting webpage. Report submitters will have an opportunity to attach a supplemental document, that may used to supplement the information reported in the equity report.*****

Individual Hospital/ System Level Report Method of Submission

Option #2- CSV File Upload

Step 1: HDC System users will log into the system.

Step 2: Select "Hospital Equity Measures" from the drop-down menu located under report type.

Step 3: Click on "Hospital Equity Report" under the column report type next to the individual facility you would like to submit a report for.

Step 4: Select "Individual or System Report" and the reporting year.

Step 5: Upload the CSV file and select "next".

Step 6: Attach a supplemental document, if available and select "next".

Step 7: Click "Submit."

CSV File Upload

Upload Multiple Reports [X]

☒ Individual Hospital Report

☐ Hospital System Report

Report Year: 2025 [v]

Hospital Type: General Acute Care [v]

Cancel [Next]

Supplemental Document

Click on the + icon to add a PDF supplemental document.

Facility	HCAI ID	Status	RPE Date	Due Date	Supplemental Document
ADVENTIST HEALTH AND RIDEOUT	106580996	Pending	06/01/2025	09/30/2025	Supplemental Document Name2.PDF + x
ADVENTIST HEALTH HANFORD	106164029	Pending	12/31/2025	09/30/2025	Supplemental Document Long file N... + x
ADVENTIST HEALTH HOWARD MEMORIAL	106231013	Pending	12/31/2025	09/30/2025	+ x
ADVENTIST HEALTH LODI MEMORIAL	106100797	Pending	12/31/2025	09/30/2025	+ x

Previous [Next]

*** Manual data entry visuals are subject to change. Step-by-step manuals with updated visuals will be available on the reporting webpage. Report submitters will have an opportunity to attach a supplemental document, that may used to supplement the information reported in the equity report.*****

Reporting Resources

- HDC System Resources:
 - [2024 List of Required Hospitals for Hospital Equity Measures Report Submission.](#)
 - HDC System and Hospital Equity Measures Reporting Manual (Coming soon!)
 - QuickStart Guide Series:
 - [Getting Started](#)
 - [Approving Another User for a Facility.](#)
 - [Requesting for a Report Extension.](#)
 - [Starting a New Report.](#)
 - Revising a Submitted Report (Coming soon!)
- Hospital Equity Measures Reporting, Excel Files: (coming soon!)
 - General Acute Care Hospital
 - Children's Hospital
 - Acute Psychiatric Hospital
 - System Level Report

Reporting Resources (cont.)

- [Hospital Equity Data Toolkit](#)
- [Hospital Equity Report: Measures Submission Guide](#)
- [Methodology for Calculating All Cause, Unplanned, 30-Day Hospital readmission Rate, California Department of Health Care Access and Information](#)
- [The California Health and Human Services Agency's 'Data De-Identification Guidelines \(DDG\),' version 1.0, dated September 23, 2016](#)
- **HCAI Technical Assistance:**
 - Upcoming Webinars and Trainings
 - Consultations on implementing the data de-identification guidelines
 - Clarifying information in the Measures Submissions Guide
 - Supporting hospitals in using HCAI's submission portal

Additional Resources

- Hospital Equity Measures Reporting Program [website](#).
- Hospital Equity Measures Advisory Committee [website](#).
- [Hospital Equity Data Toolkit](#)
- [Reporting Regulations](#)
- Submission Portal: [HDC System](#)
- [Hospital Contact Information Form](#)
- If you have questions or concerns regarding the HDC system, please contact us via email at hospitalequity@hcai.ca.gov or via phone at (916) 326-3830.
- To receive email updates regarding the program, please [subscribe](#).