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# FEHB Program Carrier Letter

## All Health Maintenance Organizations

U.S. Office of Personnel Management  
Insurance Services Programs

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**Letter No. 2006-03**

**Date:** February 1, 2006

Experience-rated HMO [ 3 ]      Community-rated HMO [ 3 ]

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**SUBJECT: HEDIS® Data Collection**

This letter explains the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) procedures for collecting Health Plan and Employer Data Information Set (HEDIS®)<sup>1</sup> measures in 2006. Once again, the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) will collect the HEDIS data for us.

You must submit HEDIS data if you are a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) with 500 or more Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) enrollees. If you already intend to report HEDIS data to NCQA for non-OPM purposes, such as for other lines of business, you do not need to take any additional action. (You do **not** need to report separately to NCQA on FEHB enrollees.)

Below is the subset of HEDIS 2006 measures OPM will require for our data collection efforts. We selected these measures because NCQA uses them for scoring its Managed Care Organizations (MCO) accreditation programs.

- Adolescent Immunization Status
- Antidepressant Medication Management
- Appropriate Testing for Children With Pharyngitis (new requirement)
- Appropriate Treatment for Children With Upper Respiratory Infection (new requirement)
- Beta Blocker Treatment After a Heart Attack
- Breast Cancer Screening
- Cervical Cancer Screening
- Childhood Immunization Status
- Cholesterol Management after Acute Cardiovascular Events (screening rate only)
- Comprehensive Diabetes Care (eye examination rate, cholesterol screening rate, HbA1c screening rate, nephropathy monitoring)

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<sup>1</sup> HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

- Controlling High Blood Pressure
- Follow Up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness
- Osteoporosis Management in Women Who Had a Fracture (new requirement)
- Prenatal and Postpartum Care
- Use of Appropriate Medication for People with Asthma

In order for plans to report HEDIS, you must complete NCQA's annual Healthcare Organization Questionnaire on-line through the secure site area of the NCQA web site using a password. If you do not have a user ID or password, you should send an email requesting a user ID or password to [HOQ@ncqa.org](mailto:HOQ@ncqa.org). You must follow NCQA's procedures for HEDIS 2006 reporting, including the HEDIS Compliance Audit.

If you have general questions regarding HEDIS, you can refer to the NCQA website, [www.ncqa.org](http://www.ncqa.org), or contact NCQA Customer Support at: [CustomerSupport@ncqa.org](mailto:CustomerSupport@ncqa.org) or 1-888-275-7585. If you have technical questions regarding a HEDIS measure or the HEDIS technical specifications, you should use the Policy Clarification Support area of NCQA's web site ([www.ncqa.org/programs/faq/PCS.asp](http://www.ncqa.org/programs/faq/PCS.asp)) to submit your questions. Questions about the data submission process should be addressed to your health plan's assigned NCQA HEDIS Data Submission Account Manager.

The timeline for HEDIS submissions is as follows:

- **February 28, 2006:** Deadline for plans to complete NCQA's on-line Healthcare Organization Questionnaire.
- **Mid to Late April 2006:** NCQA posts HEDIS 2005 Data Submission Tool (DST) on the Secure Site of the NCQA web site for downloading.
- **June 15, 2006:** Deadline for plans to submit DST to NCQA web site. Deadline for plans to submit attestations to NCQA.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Dean Schleicher at [dean.schleicher@opm.gov](mailto:dean.schleicher@opm.gov) or by telephone at (202) 606-4162.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Danbeck  
Associate Director  
for Human Resources Products and Services