

the measure set have only been tested with adults and have not been tested with children and adolescents. As a result, the measure set may not be appropriate for use in HCBS programs that serve children and adolescents.

As noted earlier, the HCBS Quality Measure Set extensively leverages existing beneficiary surveys used by states to assess beneficiary experience of care, and is designed to be used with one or more experience of care surveys to assess the experience of care of each of the major population groups included in the HCBS program (e.g., older adults, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, adults with physical disabilities, adults with serious mental illness).³⁹ In the measure set, CMS provides states with the choice of measures derived from the following experience of care surveys: HCBS CAHPS®, NCI®-IDD, NCI-AD™, and POM®. States that adopt the measure set are not expected to conduct all of the experience of care surveys included in the measure set. However, some experience of care surveys have not been tested with all populations enrolled in HCBS programs. As a result, states may need to use multiple experience of care surveys, depending on the populations served by the states' HCBS program and the particular survey instruments that states select to use, to ensure that all major population groups are assessed using the measures in the measure set. States are only expected to use as many surveys as are necessary to assess the experience of care of each of the major population groups included in the HCBS program (e.g., older adults, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, adults with physical disabilities, adults with serious mental illness).

Also, as noted earlier, while use of this measure set is voluntary at this time, CMS strongly encourages states to use the measures and plans to incorporate use of the measure set into the reporting requirements for specific authorities and programs, including the MFP program and section 1115 demonstrations that include HCBS. Additional information will be made available to states participating in the MFP program and states that deliver HCBS through section 1115 demonstrations. CMS also encourages states to use the measure set to assess quality and outcomes in their HCBS programs authorized under other federal authorities, including section 1915(c) waiver programs, section 1915(i) state plan services, section 1915(j) self-directed personal assistance services, and section 1915(k) Community First Choice.

States that implement the measure set are encouraged to assess their performance on the measures at least biannually, set performance targets, and develop a quality improvement plan to meet their targets. Further, states are strongly encouraged to oversample sufficiently to produce results at the population (e.g., older adults, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, adults with physical disabilities, adults with serious mental illness) and delivery system levels, and to assess and address disparities within their HCBS programs related to demographic characteristics (e.g., race, ethnicity, language), health status (e.g., physical disability, mental illness), and social determinants of health (e.g., housing security, food security, literacy). Additional information on using the measure set to promote equity is provided in the next section.

³⁹ Most of the measures included in the measure set have only been tested with adults and have not been tested with children and adolescents. As a result, the measure set may not be appropriate for use in HCBS programs that serve children and adolescents.