

# Measure specifications for potentially avoidable ER visits

These measure specifications are based upon Medi-Cal Statewide Collaborative Quality Improvement Project specifications ([ER Collaborative Baseline Report - August 2008](#)).

## Denominator criteria

Emergency room visits are defined using HEDIS criteria with modifications as outlined below:

- Emergency room visits are defined by criteria outlined in the HEDIS Table AMB-B.
- Exclude mental health and chemical dependency services.
- Exclude members who are younger than 12 months (based upon age at the date of service).

## Numerator criteria

The Alliance leveraged the list of diagnoses defined by the Medi-Cal Statewide QIP to identify potentially avoidable ER visits. While the original list included 165 diagnosis codes, the Alliance eliminated three codes on this list that were deemed potentially serious after review by the Alliance Quality Improvement Committee. The diagnoses that were eliminated from the numerator list are:

- Disseminated Candidiasis (112.5)
- Candidal Endocarditis (112.81)
- Candidal Meningitis (112.83)

All other numerator-qualifying diagnoses identified by the Medi-Cal QIP were used in the Alliance-based numerator criteria. The overview is provided below (excerpted from [Medi-Cal specifications](#)), and the detailed list is provided in the appendix.

DX CODE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
110.5	Dermatophytosis of the body (Herpes circinatus, Tinea imbricata)
112:112.3	Candidiasis
133: 133.9	Acariasis
372: 372.39	Disorders of Conjunctiva
382:382.9	Suppurative
460	Acute nasopharyngitis (common cold)
462	Acute Pharyngitis
465: 465.9	Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple or unspecified sites
466:466.0	Acute bronchitis
472: 472.2	Chronic pharyngitis & nasopharyngitis
473:473.9	Chronic sinusitis
474: 474.9	Chronic disease of tonsils & adenoids
595: 595.9	Cystitis
599.0	Urinary tract infection, site not specified

616:616.1	Inflammatory disease of cervix, vagina, & vulva
628.8	Infertility, female-Of other specified origin
698.8	Other specified pruritic conditions ( hiemalis, senillis, Winter itch)
698.9	Unspecified pruritic disorder (itch NOS, Puritis NOS)
705.1	Prickly heat
724.2	Lumbago
724.5	Backache, unspecified
724.7	Disorders of coccyx
724.8	Other symptoms referable to back
	Headache (excluded: 350.2; 346.0-346.9; & 307.1)
784.0	atypical face pain, migraine, & tension headache
V67:V67.9	Follow up examination
V68:V68.9	Encounters for administrative purposes
V70:V70.9	General medical examination
V72:V72.9	Special investigations & examinations

## Attribution

Patients are attributed to the hospital where the emergency room visit occurred, and also to the medical group who received primary care provider (PCP) attribution (see below) for the patient.

The PCP attribution method assigns each patient to the single primary care provider (PCP specialties listed below) who provided the most evaluation and management (E&M) visits over the most recent 24-month period covered in the report. To receive clinician attribution, patients must have a minimum of one service during the 24-month period.

The following is the ranking hierarchy to be used in selecting the single attributed primary care provider for each patient:

1. Most number of E&M visits.
2. Highest sum of relative value units (RVUs). Tthe RVUs are associated with the services based on the E&M visits in #1 above. The RVU assigns a weight for the intensity of the service (e.g. a service of 99211 would have a lower RVU than 99214).
3. Most recent service date.

## Primary care specialties

- Family Medicine
- General Practice
- Homeopahy
- Internal Medicine
- Naturopathy
- Nurse Practitioner
- Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Osteopathy
- Pediatrics
- Physician Assistant
- Preventive Medicine

## Appendix: Numerator-qualifying diagnoses

110.5	Dermatophytosis of the body (Herpes circinatus, Tinea imbricata)
112:112.3	Candidiasis
112.0	Of mouth
112.1	Of vulva and vagina
112.2	Of other urogenital sites
112.3	Of skin and nails
112.8	Of other specified sites
112.82	Candidal otitis externa
112.84	Candidal esophagitis
112.85	Candidal enteritis
112.89	Other
112.9	Of unspecified site
133	Acariasis
133.0	Scabies
133.8	Other Acariasis
133.9	Acariasis, unspecified
372	Disorders of Conjunctiva
372.01	Serous conjunctivitis, except viral
372.02	Acute follicular conjunctivitis
373.03	Other mucopurulent conjunctivitis
372.04	Pseudomembranous conjunctivitis
372.05	Acute atopic conjunctivitis
372.1	Chronic conjunctivitis
372.10	Chronic conjunctivitis, unspecified
372.11	Simple chronic conjunctivitis
372.12	Chronic follicular conjunctivitis
372.13	Vernal conjunctivitis
372.14	Other chronic allergic conjunctivitis
372.15	Parasitic conjunctivitis
372.2	Blepharoconjunctivitis
372.20	Blepharoconjunctivitis, unspecified
372.21	Angular blepharoconjunctivitis
372.22	Contact blepharoconjunctivitis
372.3	Other and unspecified conjunctivitis
372.30	Conjunctivitis, unspecified
372.31	Rosacea conjunctivitis
373.33	Conjunctivitis in mucocutaneous disease
372.39	Other
382	Suppurative and unspecified otitis media
382.00	Acute suppurative otitis media without spontaneous rupture of ear drum
382.01	Acute suppurative otitis media with spontaneous rupture of ear drum
383.02	Acute suppurative otitis media in disease classified elsewhere
382.1	Chronic tubotympanic suppurative otitis media

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382.2	Chronic atticoantral suppurative otitis media
382.3	Unspecified chronic suppurative otitis media
382.4	Unspecified suppurative otitis media
382.9	Unspecified otitis media
460	Acute nasopharyngitis
462	Acute pharyngitis
465	Acute upper respiratory infections with multiple or unspecified sites
465.0	Acute laryngopharyngitis
465.8	Other multiple sites
465.9	Unspecified site
466	Acute bronchitis and bronchiolitis
466.0	Acute bronchitis
472	Chronic pharyngitis and nasopharyngitis
472.0	Chronic rhinitis
472.1	Chronic pharyngitis
472.2	Chronic nasopharyngitis
473	Chronic sinusitis
473.0	Maxillary
473.1	Frontal
473.2	Ethmoidal
473.3	Sphenoidal
473.8	Other chronic sinusitis
473.9	Unspecified sinusitis (chronic)
474	Chronic disease of tonsils and adenoids
474.0	Chronic tonsillitis and adenoiditis
474.00	Chronic tonsillitis
474.01	Chronic adenoiditis
474.02	Chronic tonsillitis and adenoiditis
474.1	Hypertrophy of tonsils and adenoids
474.10	Tonsils with adenoids
474.11	Tonsils alone
474.12	Adenoids alone
474.2	Adenoid vegetations
474.8	Other chronic disease of tonsils and adenoids
474.9	Unspecified chronic disease of tonsils and adenoids
595	Cystitis
595.0	Acute cystitis
595.1	Chronic interstitial cystitis
595.2	Other chronic cystitis
595.3	Trigonitis
595.4	Cystitis in diseases classified elsewhere
595.8	Other specified types of cystitis
595.81	Cystitis cystica
595.82	Irradiation cystitis
595.89	Other
595.9	Cystitis unspecified

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599.0	Urinary tract infection, site not specified
616	Inflammatory disease of cervix, vagina, vulva
616.0	Cervicitis and endocervicitis
616.1	Vaginitis and vulvovaginitis
628.8	Infertility, female of other specified origin
698.8	Other specified pruritic conditions (hiemalis, senillis, winter itch)
698.9	Unspecified pruritic disorder (itch NOS, puritis NOS)
705.1	Prickly heat
724.2	Lumbago
724.5	Backache, unspecified
724.7	Disorders of coccyx
724.8	Other symptoms referable to back
784.0	Headache (excluded 350.2; 346.0-346.9; & 307.1) atypical face pain,
V67	Follow up examination
V67.0	Following surgery
V67.00	Following surgery, unspecified
V67.01	Follow up vaginal pap smear
V67.09	Following other surgery
V67.1	Following radiotherapy
V67.2	Following chemotherapy
V67.3	Following psychotherapy and other treatment for mental disorder
V67.4	Following treatment of healed fracture
V67.5	Following other treatment
V67.51	Following completed treatment with high risk medication, NEC
V67.59	Other
V67.6	Following combined treatment
V67.9	Unspecified follow up examination
V68	Encounters for administrative purposes
V68.0	Issue of medical certificates
V68.01	Disability examination
V68.09	Other issue of medical certificates
V68.1	Issue of repeat prescriptions
V68.2	Request for expert evidence
V68.8	Other specified administrative purposes
V68.81	Referral of patient without examination or treatment
V68.9	Unspecified administrative purposes
V70	General medical examination
V70.0	Routine general medical examination at health care facility
V70.1	General psychiatric examination, requested by authority
V70.2	General psychiatric examination, other and unspecified
V70.3	Other medical examination for administrative purposes
V70.4	Examination for medicolegal reasons
V70.5	Health examination of defined subpopulations
V70.6	Health examination in population surveys
V70.7	Examination of participant in clinical trial
V70.8	Other specified general medical examinations

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V70.9	Unspecified general medical examination
V72	Special investigations and examinations
V72.0	Examination of eyes and vision
V72.1	Examination of ears and hearing
V72.11	Encounter for hearing examination following failed hearing screening
V72.12	Encounter for hearing conservation and treatment
V72.19	Other examinations of ears and hearing
V72.2	Dental examination
V72.3	Gynecological examination
V72.31	Routine gynecological examination
V72.32	Encounter for papanicolaou cervical smear to confirm findings of recent
V72.4	Pregnancy examination or test
V72.40	Pregnancy examination or test, pregnancy unconfirmed
V72.41	Pregnancy examination or test, negative result
V72.42	Pregnancy examination or test, positive result
V72.5	Radiological examination, not elsewhere classified
V72.6	Laboratory examination
V72.7	Diagnostic skin and sensitization tests
V72.8	Other specified examinations
V72.81	Pre-operative cardiovascular examination
V72.82	Pre-operative respiratory examination
V72.83	Other specified pre-operative examination
V72.84	Pre-operative examination unspecified
V72.85	Other specific examination
V72.86	Encounter blood typing
V72.9	Unspecified examination

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