



Medical Assistance With Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation (MSC)

MSC Measure Description¹

The three components of this survey measure assess different facets of providing medical assistance with smoking and tobacco use cessation:

- Advising Smokers and Tobacco Users to Quit
- Discussing Cessation Medications
- Discussing Cessation Strategies

Why is MSC Important?¹

Smoking and tobacco use are the largest causes of preventable disease and death in the United States. Tobacco use causes disease in nearly every organ in the body. Quitting smoking and tobacco use can save lives and improve overall health. Comprehensive cessation interventions that motivate and help users to quit tobacco use can be very effective. Health care providers also play an important role in supporting tobacco users and their efforts to quit.

Best Practices

- ✓ Access information on assisting patients with quitting tobacco at the CDC Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/quit-smoking/index.html>
- ✓ Access CDC information on vaping for parents and providers: <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/e-cigarettes/youth.html>
- ✓ Screen for tobacco use exposure at every visit for both medical and OB/GYN patients.
- ✓ Become a certified tobacco cessation counselor.
- ✓ Prescribe tobacco cessation medications to assist with quitting tobacco if medically appropriate for the patient.

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¹ Source: <https://www.ncqa.org/report-cards/health-plans/state-of-health-care-quality-report/measures-list/>

² Source: HEDIS MY 2025 Tech Specs Manual Vol. 2

Numerator Compliance²

Rate 1: Advising Smokers and Tobacco Users to Quit - The number of members in the denominator who indicated that they received advice to quit from a doctor or other health provider by answering “Sometimes” or “Usually” or “Always” to Q35.

Rate 2: Discussing Cessation Medications - The number of members in the denominator who indicated that their doctor or health provider recommended or discussed cessation medications by answering “Sometimes” or “Usually” or “Always” to Q36.

Rate 3: Discussing Cessation Strategies - The number of members in the denominator who indicated that their doctor or health provider discussed or provided cessation methods and strategies by answering “Sometimes” or “Usually” or “Always” to Q37.

Data Collection Method²

CAHPS Survey Data



Trillium Percentages/NCQA National Averages¹

MSC	Measurement Year	Trillium	NCQA National Average
Rate 1: Advising Smokers and Tobacco Users to Quit	2023	-	73.50
	2022	-	72.8
Rate 2: Discussing Cessation Medications	2023	-	52.75
	2022	-	45.4
Rate 3: Discussing Cessation Strategies	2023	-	46.61
	2022	-	51.2

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