

Apple Health (Medicaid) managed care preventive services and vaccinations

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5187; Section 211(18); Chapter 475; Laws of 2023

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External Quality Review Organization 2022 report

Comagine Health, HCA's federally required Medicaid external quality review organization (EQRO), publishes an annual report that provides comprehensive information regarding Washington's managed care Apple Health (Medicaid) program and individual managed care organization performance on outcome measures, including the number of individuals in Apple Health managed care by carrier, age, gender, and eligibility category as well as preventive services and vaccination utilization.

Comagine's 2022 comparative and regional analysis report provides full data and analysis for the past three measure years (2019, 2020, and 2021). It can be found in [Appendix A of this legislative report](#).

Appendix C: MCO comparison results of Comagine's 2022 comparative and regional analysis report contains all the publicly available performance measures for Apple Health Managed Care Organizations (MCO). It can be found in [Appendix B of this legislative report](#).

The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) submits this cover page along with the External Quality Review Organization 2022 report to the Legislature as required by Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5187 (2023):

The authority shall submit reports to the governor and the legislature by September 15, 2023, and no later than September 15, 2024, that delineate the number of individuals in Medicaid managed care, by carrier, age, gender, and eligibility category, receiving preventive services and vaccinations. The reports should include baseline and benchmark information from the previous two fiscal years and should be inclusive of, but not limited to, services recommended under the United States Preventive Services task force, advisory committee on immunization practices, early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment (EPSDT) guidelines, and other relevant preventive and vaccination Medicaid guidelines and requirements.

The Legislature first required HCA to submit this report under Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2376 (2016), Section 213(1)(rr).

Preventive services

There were over 2 million Washingtonians enrolled in Apple Health managed care during 2021 (Comagine, 2023). The largest percentage (51.6 percent) of enrollees were members of Molina Health Washington. Additional information regarding age, race, gender, and other demographic information during the measure year can be found within Comagine's 2022 comparative and regional analysis report. Further, HCA provides an online [client eligibility dashboard](#) that tracks managed care enrollment, demographic data, and program eligibility category.

Appendix C: MCO comparison results of Comagine's 2022 comparative and regional analysis report contains all the publicly available performance measures for Apple Health MCOs. Preventive health services found within the report include:

- Childhood immunization status (CIS)
- Well-child visits
- Prenatal and postpartum care
- Breast cancer screening

- Cervical cancer screening
- Chlamydia screening
- Lead screening in children
- Asthma medication ratio
- Comprehensive diabetes care
- Antidepressant medication management
- Substance use disorder
- Mental health treatment services rate

The 2022 comparative and regional analysis report provides data from measure years 2019, 2020, and 2021. This data is reported on a statewide basis as well as by each individual MCO. Information regarding 2021 measure year performance in comparison with national trends is included.

Next steps

[Comagine's 2022 comparative and regional analysis report](#) has many insightful comments on how HCA can continue focusing on preventive care, including:

- Continue current work on behavioral health integration and the continuous quality improvement efforts associated with these measures.
- Continue emphasis on asthma medication ratio to avoid the slippage in performance.
- Continue focus on prenatal and postpartum care by all MCOs.
- Focus on measures that have seen significant declines in performance, including:
 - Mental health service rate broad version (MH-B)
 - Opioid use disorder
 - Breast cancer screenings
 - Access to preventive care
 - Immunizations for adolescents
- Continue to prioritize health equity.

HCA has already begun implementing many of these suggestions. Prenatal and postpartum care, asthma medication ratio, mental health service rate broad, and child and adolescent well-care visits are currently part of [HCA's value-based payment report card](#). Additionally, to improve maternal and newborn outcomes, postpartum coverage has been extended from 60 days postpartum to one-year postpartum and, as of the July 2023 contract amendments, human donor milk will be available to inpatient newborns when medically indicated.

To further integration efforts:

- HCA has implemented an [integrated care assessment tool](#) to help both physical and behavioral health providers move towards more integrated care.
- HCA is making strategic State Plan changes to section 13d and section 6 to offer more flexibility in the workforce, as well as improve access to services, including routine outpatient services.

Health equity initiatives include:

- HCA has initiated a health equity performance improvement project with the MCO Collaborative for children's mental health service rate.

- HCA has created multiple internal workgroups that are analyzing and promoting health equity work, including but not limited to the Pro-Equity Anti-Racism team, health equity database, Collaborative Community for Health Equity, and a health equity toolkit.

Appendix A: 2022 comparative and regional analysis report

[View Comagine Health's 2022 comparative and regional analysis report.](#)

If you are having difficulty viewing this, contact HCA for an electronic copy.

Appendix B: MCO comparison results

[View Comagine Health's 2022 comparative and regional analysis report, Appendix C.](#)

If you are having difficulty viewing this, contact HCA for an electronic copy.