

Section I. Basic Measure Information

I.A. Measure Name

Availability of multidisciplinary outpatient care for women with high risk pregnancies.

I.B. Measure Number

2

I.C. Measure Description

The percentage of high risk pregnant women seen by at least three specified types of clinicians during their pregnancy.

I.D. Measure Owner

CAPQuaM

I.E. National Quality Forum (NQF) ID (if applicable)

N/A

I.F. Measure Hierarchy

Please note here if the measure is part of a measure hierarchy or is part of a measure group or composite measure. The following definitions are used by(AHRQ)'s National Quality Measures Clearinghouse and are available at <http://www.qualitymeasures.ahrq.gov/about/hierarchy.aspx>:

Please identify the name of the **collection** of measures to which the measure belongs (if applicable). A Collection is the highest possible level of the measure hierarchy. A Collection may contain one or more Sets, Subsets, Composites, and/or Individual Measures.

This measure belongs to PQMP Availability of High Risk Obstetric Services Collection #1

2. Please identify the name of the measure **set** to which the measure belongs (if applicable). A Set is the second level of the hierarchy. A Set may include one or more Subsets, Composites, and/or Individual Measures.

Availability of Specialty Care for High Risk Pregnant Women

3. Please identify the name of the **subset** to which the measure belongs (if applicable). A Subset is the third level of the hierarchy. A Subset may include one or more Composites, and/or Individual Measures.

Structural subset

4. Please identify the name of the **composite** measure to which the measure belongs (if applicable). A Composite is a measure with a score that is an aggregate of scores from other measures. A Composite may include one or more other Composites and/or Individual Measures. Composites may comprise component Measures that can or cannot be used on their own.

N/A

I.G. Numerator Statement

The number of eligible high risk pregnant women seen as an outpatient by at least three specified types of clinicians during their pregnancy

Numerator Elements:

- Maternal ICD9 codes to identify qualifying pregnancies, outpatient visits, and provider specialty.
- Provider or specialty designation should be identified using data available before analysis, according to local (state) standards for specialty identification, credentialing and licensure.
- When more than one clinician is associated with a single clinical encounter, all associated specialties or disciplines should be considered to have been seen.

I.H. Numerator Exclusions

None

I.I. Denominator Statement

Overall number of eligible qualifying high risk pregnancies using the indicated look back period.

Eligible high risk pregnancies are identified using maternal ICD-9 codes specified in Section 2 Detailed Measure Specifications. Look back period is also specified in Section 2 Detailed Measure Specifications.

Denominator Elements:

- Number of deliveries
- Maternal and infant ICD-9 codes
- Maternal DRG, CPT codes, and revenue codes when available
- Specialty/Provider codes

I.J. Denominator Exclusions

Denominator exclusions are identified using maternal ICD-9 codes specified in Section 2 Detailed Measure Specifications.

I.K. Data Sources

Check all the data sources for which the measure is specified and tested.
Administrative data, Medical records

If other, please list all other data sources in the field below.

Section II: Detailed Measure Specifications

Provide sufficient detail to describe how a measure would be calculated from the recommended data sources, uploading a separate document (+ Upload attachment) or a link to a URL. Examples of detailed measure specifications can be found in the CHIPRA Initial Core Set Technical Specifications Manual 2011 published by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Although submission of formal programming code or algorithms that demonstrate how a measure would be calculated from a query of an appropriate electronic data source are not requested at this time, the availability of these resources may be a factor in determining whether a measure can be recommended for use.

A. Description

This measure describes the extent to which multidisciplinary outpatient care is available to high risk pregnant women. Multidisciplinary care is herein defined to mean that the woman was seen by at least three different types of clinicians during her pregnancy. This measure is intended to be reported at the level of the health plan or geographical entity, such as county, state, region, etc. It is not appropriate for measuring at the level of clinical provider. This measure is a descriptor of the availability of care for the population of women who may need high risk obstetrical services and is not a measure of the quality of care received by any individual in that population.

B. Eligible Population

Women age 10- 65 years who are pregnant and deliver an infant, whether living or dead. Delivery shall be identified using Table 1, with exclusions as noted regardless of how delivery was identified. The table is recreated largely from work done by CDC researchers.

Table 1: Identify Qualifying Pregnancies Using the Following Codes

Codes To Identify Qualifying Pregnancies	
Description	Code(s)
Revenue Code	722 Delivery
Outcome of delivery ICD-9	ICD-9-CM = V27
Normal delivery	ICD-9-CM = 650
Diagnosis-related group (DRG) delivery codes	370 (complicated cesarean section), 811,191 (3.03) 371 (uncomplicated cesarean section), 372 (complicated vaginal delivery), 373 (uncomplicated vaginal delivery) 374 (uncomplicated vaginal delivery with sterilization and/or dilatation & curettage) 375 (vaginal delivery with operation room procedure except sterilization and/or dilatation & curettage)
Selected delivery related procedures	ICD-9-CM = 720, 721, 7221, 7229,7231, 7239, 724, 726 (forceps) 7251, 7252, 7253, 7254 (breech extraction) 7271, 7279 (vacuum extraction) 728, 729 (other specified and unspecified delivery) 7322 (internal and combined version and extraction) 7359 (other manually assisted deliveries) 736 (episiotomy)740, 741, 742, 744, 7499 (cesarean section) ICD-9 Diagnosis code: 656.41 (fetal death, late gestation)
Exclusions	ICD-9 = CM 630 (hydatidiform mole) 631 (other abnormal product of conception) 633 (ectopic pregnancy) 632 (missed abortion) 634 (spontaneous apportion) 635 (legally induced abortion) 636 (illegal abortion) 637 (unspecified type of abortion) 638 (failed attempted abortion) 639 (genital tract and pelvic infection following abortion or ectopic and molar pregnancies) 69.01, 69.51, 74.91, 75.0 (abortion)

Identify Women in Need of High risk Services:

Table 2: Maternal Diagnoses and Comorbidities

CCS Category	Look Back Period	Descriptor	Remove From Inclusion List*
49	2y	DM without Cx	7902 Abnormal Glucose 79021 Impaired fasting glucose 79022 Impaired glucose tolerance test (oral) 79029 Other abnormal glucose 7915 Glycosuria
50	2y	DM with Cx	
98	2y	Essential HTN	
99	2y	HTN with CX and Secondary HTN	
100	2y	Acute MI	
101	2y	Coronary atherosclerosis and other heart disease	
104	2y	Other and ill-defined heart disease	
103	2y	Pulmonary heart disease	
96	2y	Heart valve disorders	4240 Mitral valve disorders 7852 Undiagnosed cardiac murmurs 7853 Other abnormal heart sounds
97	2y	Peri, endo and myocarditis or cardiomyopathy	
105	2y	Conduction disorders	
106	2y	Cardiac Dysrhythmias	
107	2y	Cardiac arrest and vfib	
108	2y	CHF, non hypertensive	
109	2y	Acute Cerebrovascular disease	
110	2y	Occlusion or stenosis of pre cerebral arteries	
111	2y	Other and ill defined cerebrovascular disease	
112	2y	Transient cerebral ischemia	
156	2y	Nephritis nephrosis, renal sclerosis	
158	2y	Chronic kidney disease	
157	2y	Acute and unspecified renal failure	
161	2y	Other diseases of kidney and ureters	5890 Unilateral small kidney 5891 Bilateral small kidneys 5899 Small kidney, unspecified
128	10 m	Asthma	49381 Exercise induced bronchospasm 49382 Cough variant asthma
132	10 m	Lung disease due to external agents	
133	2y	Other lower respiratory disease	78600 Respiratory abnormality, unspecified 78601 Hyperventilation

			78602 Orthopnea 78605 Shortness of breath 78606 Tachypnea 78607 Wheezing 78606 Tachypnea 78607 Wheezing 7862 Cough 7864 Abnormal sputum 78652 Painful respiration 7866 Swelling, mass, or lump in chest 7867 Abnormal chest sounds 7868 Hiccough 7931 Nonspecific (abnormal) findings on radiological and other examination of lung field 79311 Solitary pulmonary nodule 79319 Other nonspecific abnormal finding of lung field 7942 Nonspecific abnormal results of pulmonary function study V126 Personal history of diseases of respiratory system V1260 Personal history of unspecified disease of respiratory system V1261 Personal history of pneumonia (recurrent) V1269 Personal history of other diseases of respiratory system
59, 61, 63, 64	2y	59. Deficiency anemias 61. Sickle cell 63. WBC disease 64. Other hematologic conditions	281xx 2820 2821 2822 2823 28246 2825 2883 2885x 286x 2888 2889 289 2891 2892 2893 2894 2895 28950 28951 28953 28959 2896 2897 28983 2899
657	10m	Mood disorders	
660	2y	Alcohol related	
661	2y	Substance related	
116	2y	Aortic and peripheral arterial embolic thrombotic	
118	2y	Phlebitis, embolic, etc	4510 45182 4536 4537
5	2y	HIV	
182	2y	Hemorrhage during pregnancy, abruption, previa	642.00 Threatened abortion unspecified as to episode of care 642.01 Threatened abortion delivered 642.03 Threatened abortion antepartum 640.80 Other specified hemorrhage in early pregnancy unspecified as to episode of care 640.81 Other specified hemorrhage in early pregnancy delivered 640.83 Other specified hemorrhage in early pregnancy antepartum 640.90 Unspecified hemorrhage in early pregnancy unspecified as to episode of care 640.91 Unspecified hemorrhage in early pregnancy delivered 640.93 Unspecified hemorrhage in early pregnancy antepartum
183	10m	Hypertension complicating pregnancy	642.30 Transient hypertension of pregnancy unspecified as to episode of care 642.31 Transient hypertension of pregnancy with delivery

			642.32 Transient hypertension of pregnancy with delivery with postpartum complication 642.33 Antepartum transient hypertension 642.34 Postpartum transient hypertension
83	2y	Epilepsy	
ICD9 Code	Look Back Period	Descriptor	
648.4x	10m	Mental disorders complicating pregnancy	
648.3x	10m	Substance dependence during pregnancy	
648.5x	10m	Congenital cardiac disorder, other CV disease, mother	
7620	10m	Complete previa affecting the newborn	
694x	10m	Epilepsy	
345xx			
V23.49	10m	Poor ob history	
V23.41	10m	History of preterm labor	
<p>*These are ICD9 codes that are included in the CCS software for the indicated Group that need to be removed from the inclusion list. That is, they are not specific <u>exclusions</u>, but neither do they establish eligibility.</p>			

C. DATA SOURCES

Encounter Data with billing, provider, and diagnosis codes

- a. Identify eligible population
 - i. High risk pregnant women.
 - ii. Identify those deliveries associated with high risk conditions as described in Table 1.
 - iii. To identify provider/specialist use administrative data regarding clinical providers that includes specialty of each licensed clinician in the encounter data set. Common identifiers for clinicians or a cross walk between the encounter and the provider data sets.

Woman's medical record

- b. If needed for maternal race, ethnicity, or data regarding place of residence.

D. CALCULATION

Step 1: Identify all qualifying pregnancies using Table 1.

Step 2: Identify High Risk Pregnancies using Table 2. The Denominator is the number of high risk pregnancies using the indicated look back period.

To identify the look back period do the following:

- i. Identify date of delivery using codes from Table 1.
- ii. The 2-year look back period is comprised of the 2 calendar years prior to the reporting year and all dates in the reporting year prior to the date of delivery.
- iii. The 10-month look back period is comprised of the 280 days prior to the date of delivery.

Step 3: Collect the following data elements for all eligible women

- i. Race
- ii. Ethnicity
- iii. Insurance type (Public, Commercial, Uninsured)
- iv. Benefit type (if insured): HMO, PPO, Medicaid Primary Care Case Management (PCCM) Plan, Fee for Service (FFS), Other
- v. Zip code, state and county or equivalent area of mother's residence. Record FIPS if available

Step 4: Create stratification variables

- i. Race/Ethnicity: Hispanic, Non-Hispanic Black, Non-Hispanic White, Non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islander, other Non-Hispanic
- ii. Public vs Commercial (Private Insurance)
- iii. HMO vs PPO vs FFS vs PCCM vs other

- iv. Urban Influence Code. Identify the Urban Influence Code (UIC) (2013 urban influence codes available at: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/urban-influence-codes.aspx#.UZUvG2cVoj8>). Use mother's place of residence to determine UIC. State and county names can be linked or looked up directly or zip codes can be linked to county indirectly, using the Missouri Census Data Center (<http://mcdc.missouri.edu/>). These data will link to County or County equivalents as used in various states.
- v. Identify the Level of Poverty in the mother's county of residence. The percent of all residents in poverty by county or county equivalent are available from the US Department of Agriculture at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/county-level-data-sets/download-data.aspx>. Our stratification standards are based on 2011 US population data that we have analyzed with SAS 9.3. Using mother's state and county of residence (or equivalent) or FIPS code, use the variable PCTPOVALL_2011 to categorize into one of 5 strata:
 - a. Lowest Quartile of Poverty if percent in poverty is $\leq 12.5\%$
 - b. Second Quartile of Poverty if percent in poverty is $> 12.5\%$ and $\leq 16.5\%$
 - c. Third Quartile of Poverty if percent in poverty is $> 16.5\%$ and $\leq 20.7\%$
 - d. First Upper Quartile (75th-90th) if percent in poverty is $> 20.7\%$ and $\leq 25.7\%$
 - e. Second Upper Quartile (> 90 th percentile)If needed, the Missouri Census Data Center linked in Step 7. iv. may be used to link zip codes to county equivalents.

Step 5: Calculate numerator look back period. The numerator look back period includes the 280 days before delivery or last pregnancy visit.

Step 6: Compute numerator

- a. Identify the specialty of all providers seen by each woman in the denominator.
- b. For each woman, assess whether or not (during the numerator look back period), she:
 - i. had at least 1 visit to an ob/gyn or family physician.
 - ii. had at least 1 visit to a maternal fetal medicine specialist.
 - iii. had at least 1 visit to a cardiologist.
 - iv. had at least 1 visit to an infectious disease specialist.
 - v. had at least 1 visit to any other type of internal medicine physician.
 - vi. had at least 1 visit to a neurologist.

- vii. had at least 1 visit to a psychiatrist
 - viii. had at least 1 visit to a psychologist.
 - ix. had at least 1 visit to a social worker or licensed therapist.
 - x. had at least 1 visit to a health educator.
- c. Count the number of distinct specialties (each of bi through bx) for which the answer is yes.
 - d. Is the count from c. ≥ 3 ? If yes then add that pregnancy to the numerator. Numerator1 = the number of high risk pregnancies that had visits with 3 or more types of providers.

Step 7: Calculate the percentage of high risk pregnancies for the following:

- Percentage1 is calculated as the $100 * \text{Numerator1} / \text{Denominator1}$,

Step 8: Report the results of Step 7 to 2 decimal places.

Step 9: Repeat steps 2, 6, 7, & 8 for each stratification category listed below, using the following data elements. Report all strata with N of at least 250

- i. Race and ethnicity
- ii. Insurance type (Public/Medicaid, Private/Commercial, None, other)
- iii. Benefit type: HMO vs PPO vs FFS vs PCCM vs Other
- iv. Urban Influence Code or UIC.
- v. Level of Poverty in the county of residence.

Step 10: Optionally calculate 95% confidence intervals

- a. Calculate the standard error as the square root of each proportion by 1-the same proportion divided by the number of deliveries.
- b. Multiply the standard error by 1.96.
- c. Subtract that value from the measured proportion. Report the greater of 0 and that number as the lower bound of the 95% confidence interval;
- d. Add the product from b to the measured proportion. Use the lesser of that sum or 1 as the upper bound of the 95% confidence interval.

Section III. Importance of the Measure

III.A. Evidence for general importance of the measure

The Collaboration for Advancing Pediatric Quality Measures (CAPQuaM) was assigned the topic of availability of high risk obstetrical services as a PQMP priority by AHRQ and CMS. We developed a measure set in close collaboration with our Expert Panel that describes the availability multidisciplinary care for high risk pregnant women.

Optimal health of children in the United States is fostered by healthy pregnancies and healthy deliveries. Appropriate availability of specific aspects of care for pregnant women, in particular those in need of high risk obstetric services, is necessary to achieve desired outcomes. The focus of the CAPQuaM measures are on outpatient care for women with chronic illness and pregnancy related complications.

The proposed multidisciplinary care measure addresses important gaps in quality and safety for women who have chronic illness or pregnancy related problems. It will measure the percentage of high risk pregnant women seen by at least three types of clinicians for outpatient visits during their pregnancy. For this measure, the types of clinicians include:

- A. Obstetrician/Gynecologist/Family Physician
- B. Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialist
- C. Cardiologist
- D. Infectious Disease Specialist
- E. Other type of Internist
- F. Neurologist
- G. Psychiatrist
- H. Psychologist
- I. Social Worker or Licensed Counselor
- J. Health Educator

As many high-risk conditions are known prior to delivery, these providers represent a prioritized selection of key services that play a crucial role in the surveillance and management of high risk pregnant women. The prioritization process involved our team of stakeholders as well as an expert panel, whose clinical and health services judgments guided the established hierarchy.

The burden of certain diseases and chronic illnesses are rising among women (e.g. hypertension, cardiac disease, HIV, diabetes, mental disorders, epilepsy, infectious diseases, placenta previa), increasing women's risk for morbidity and mortality.¹ Over the past decade, maternal mortality has increased in the U.S. and striking racial disparities persist.^{2,3} For every maternal death, 100 or more women suffer severe maternal morbidity, a potentially life-threatening diagnosis or life-saving procedure that is

associated with pregnancy. Severe maternal morbidity is rising and affects approximately 52,000 women annually in the US.³ Similar to maternal mortality, minority women are more likely to suffer a severe maternal morbidity than white women.³

Quality of care is an important lever to address maternal morbidity and mortality and to narrow disparities, as research suggests that at one-half of maternal deaths in the US may be preventable through improvements in quality and safety of care.⁴⁻⁶ Additional studies suggest that on the continuum of care to adverse pregnancy outcomes, there are a number of points that can be impacted by improved quality,^{7,8} and improved access to medical care is considered to be an important factor in preventing complications due to chronic conditions and pregnancy-related morbidity.⁹ Our measure is critical to ensure safety of mothers and babies by focusing on maternal pre-delivery chronic conditions and complications of pregnancy.

To improve care for women with chronic conditions, it is imperative for quality measures to address the availability of multidisciplinary care. The literature suggests that women with chronic illness or disease benefit from having a multidisciplinary team.¹⁰ A multidisciplinary team is a group of health professionals who work together, share knowledge, and coordinate treatment plans to provide high risk pregnant women with optimal care. Multidisciplinary teams can consist of, but will vary according to the care that is needed: obstetrician, MFM, subspecialist (cardiologist, infection disease specialist, neurologist, psychiatrist), surgeon, anesthesiologist, nurse, dietician and neonatologist.¹¹⁻¹³ Each member of the team plays an important role in managing a pregnancy of a woman who is high risk. Provider types included in this measure were chosen because they are important members of multidisciplinary outpatient care for high risk pregnant women, they are types of clinicians who routinely bill for services, and a review of the literature and recommendations by our Expert Panel suggested they be included.

A number of high risk pregnant conditions benefit from multidisciplinary care. Data suggest that it is important for MFMs to work as part of a multi-disciplinary care team in the treatment of infectious diseases to adequately manage disease progression as well as managing therapy and medications.^{10,14-17} A multidisciplinary care team approach is beneficial in the treatment of psychiatric disorders such as anxiety and depression, specifically in the screening process, monitoring symptoms, educating women about medication usage during their pregnancy, and helping them control their disorders if their medication regime is changed due to their pregnancy.¹⁸⁻²² This measure will assess the availability of a multidisciplinary care team for women with chronic illness and pregnancy related conditions to ensure the safety and care of high risk women.

The CAPQuAM measure development process sought to ground this measure in a definitional framework of what constitutes a high-risk specialty obstetrical service and what high risk conditions/complications can be effectively managed before delivery. We first established a construct of conditions (chronic illness and pregnancy related problems) that potentially can be considered as high-risk, increasing the risk of maternal and/or infant morbidity and mortality. We convened a multidisciplinary panel of national experts to provide leadership, including helping to establish definitions for availability of multidisciplinary care. The Panel held a telephone meeting, conducted pre-work via email, and participated in a two-day face to face meeting. By the conclusion of the meeting the Panel had highlighted which chronic diseases and pregnancy-related problems were most important to focus on as well as the importance of multidisciplinary

care. This is the first measure that we are aware of that addresses specifically the availability of multidisciplinary care for women with chronic illness and pregnancy-related problems. It reflects our perspective that the optimal health of children in the United States is fostered by healthy pregnancies and deliveries.

III.B. Evidence for Importance of the Measure to Medicaid and/or CHIP

Consortium partners at the New York State Department of Health, including the Office of Health Insurance Programs / New York State Medicaid, steering committee, and scientific team have played central roles to the development of these measures.

Evidence for high level of interest in this work in particular was demonstrated by the fact that the CAPQuaM team was asked to present this work in development to the CMS Expert Panel on Improving Maternal and Infant Health Outcomes in Medicaid/CHIP Data, Measurement, and Reporting Workgroup.

More generally, childbirth is the largest category for hospital admissions for commercial payers and Medicaid programs and the estimated annual hospital costs associated with childbirth and newborn care are over \$80 billion in the United States annually.^{23,24} In New York State, 48.6% of deliveries in 2011 occurred in women insured by Medicaid.²⁵

Providing high quality care to women with high risk pregnancies has the potential both to improve outcomes and to narrow disparities, important national priorities for CMS. In fact, leaders in obstetrics emphasize the need for improved access to specialty physician services and access to multidisciplinary care for women who are high risk. Our proposal is in conjunction with the leaders in obstetrics' proposals to improve integrated maternal-fetal-neonatal networks that optimize regionalization.

As mentioned previously, experts as well as the literature recommend a multidisciplinary approach to care for high risk pregnant women. Women with Medicaid and who are uninsured are more likely to suffer from chronic conditions.²⁶ Therefore, the proposed measures have the potential to have a significant impact on the health of mothers and infants by Medicaid. High risk deliveries disproportionately impact women insured by Medicaid as compared with private insurance. Risk factors identified to be associated with high risk deliveries (e.g., hypertension, delivery of low birth weight infants) are all factors that are more prevalent among the Medicaid population. Given the fact that childbirth is the leading category for hospital admissions for Medicaid programs and the fact that high risk deliveries disproportionately occur among women insured by Medicaid, quality measures targeting high risk women have the potential to improve quality of care for a sizeable portion of the Medicaid program.

One key decision that our expert panel made that is particularly important for the vulnerable Medicaid population was establishing that high risk obstetrical services extend from preconception (e.g. managing the cessation of teratogenic medications) through delivery and the early postpartum period. The Expert Panel offered definitions regarding which conditions established that a pregnancy required high risk obstetrical services. They further endorsed constructs important to the assessment of availability of high risk obstetrical (HROB) services. Among those constructs, the panel endorsed the importance of multidisciplinary care being available to women with comorbid conditions and who have pregnancy-related problems. A working draft of the Panel Summary after

the second round of voting is attached as an Appendix.

Not specifically incorporated in this summary was the breadth of dialogue regarding what it means to assess availability in this context. The conclusion that guided much of the subsequent conversation was that the role of availability of multidisciplinary care should be used to describe availability at a population level even though the unit of analysis that we were to measure directly was an individual pregnancy. There are two key implications – these measures are not intended to assess the quality of care for a given pregnancy. They also are intended to generate a gradient along which availability of HROB services can be assessed. So while the measures have a concrete interpretation, over time the full nuance of their capacity to describe availability will be enhanced by the establishment of benchmarks in medically and geographically diverse populations and communities.

The co-leads of this measure development, a pediatrician and an obstetrician, collaboratively operationalized these constructs into the measures in the current measure set, working with the CAPQuaM stakeholders, including NY Medicaid, and consulting the expert panelists as appropriate. Using ICD9 codes and a publicly available grouping system, AHRQ's Clinical Classification Software (<http://hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/ccs/ccs.jsp>), the various conditions that could classify a pregnancy as in need of HROB services were specified into those seen in this measure.

The New York State Office of Health Insurance Programs is an active CAPQuaM partner and has been engaged in the conceptualization and development of these measures. Our testing has occurred in Medicaid data and is described below.

III.C. Relationship to Other Measures (if any)

Previously, we developed measures based on self-report of whether there is 24 hour 7 day a week availability of structural characteristics at the facility in which the woman gave birth. This measure and the second HROB measure we are proposing to CHIPRA at this time focus on multidisciplinary care and specialty prenatal care. They will all supplement the collection of measures focused on HROB services to further evaluate and enhance the safety and care for high risk women regardless of birth outcome.

Receipt of prenatal care during the first trimester is a current HEDIS measure. Both timing and adequacy of prenatal care have been the focus of national quality measurement activities in the past. Prenatal care is considered to be an important aspect of quality of care for all pregnancies in this country. Our measure complements this focus. We suggest availability of multidisciplinary care for high risk pregnant women who are at risk of significant morbidity and mortality for themselves and their infants. This measure has the potential to improve both maternal and infant outcomes in the setting of high risk pregnancies. As many high-risk conditions are known prior to delivery, obstetricians and higher level physicians, including maternal fetal medicine doctors and specialists, play a crucial and lifesaving role in the surveillance and management of these conditions. Other health professionals, including psychologists, social workers, and health educators are also crucial to improve care for high risk pregnant women. Thus, this measure strives to decrease the rate of morbidity and mortality of pregnant women with chronic illness and pregnancy related problems.

The selection of these topics is valid and justified by evidence summarized briefly below. All were prioritized during our formal expert process. Other priorities will guide future measure development.

The burden of having certain diseases and chronic illnesses are all rising among women and increases women's risk for morbidity and mortality.¹ In one study conducted by the Center for Health Quality Outcomes and Economic Research in 2008, 27% of pregnant women reported having a chronic illness/condition.²⁷ According to the CDC, the number of women with HIV giving birth in the United States increased approximately 30%, from 6,000–7,000 in 2000 to 8,700 in 2006.²⁸ With the prevalence of chronic illness and pregnancy related problems continuing to increase, it is imperative that measures related to HROB, specifically related to essential specialty physician services and multidisciplinary care, are developed.

Causes of pregnancy-related deaths in the United States are as follows: Cardiovascular diseases (14.6%), Infection/sepsis (14.0%), Noncardiovascular diseases (11.9%), Cardiomyopathy (11.8%), Hemorrhage (11.0%), Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy (9.9%), Thrombotic pulmonary embolism (9.4%), Cerebrovascular accidents (6.1%), Amniotic fluid embolism (5.4%), and Anesthesia complications (0.6%).²⁹ Many of these pregnancy-related deaths are complications and conditions associated with women who are classified as high risk and therefore should be seeking higher level physician services throughout their pregnancy. Having access to a multidisciplinary team with the appropriate and essential subspecialty services available to help identify risk factors and manage conditions for women with high-risk pregnancies will reduce maternal and neonatal mortality. The role of multidisciplinary care for women with chronic illness or pregnancy related problems was discussed in detail in the Importance of the Measure section.

Whether occurring prior to conception or affiliation with pregnancy, maternal cardiac disease of any type has the potential for significant morbidity and mortality, representing the largest percentage of pregnancy-related deaths in the United States. Congenital heart diseases require multidisciplinary care for early intervention and close monitoring of maternal and fetal well-being.³⁰ Discussion regarding multidisciplinary services necessary to appropriately care for those OB patients includes the availability of a comprehensive team approach consisting of cardiologist, obstetricians, anesthesiologists, pediatricians, clinical nurse specialists, and clinical geneticists.³¹ All women at risk should have at least one consultative appointment with a subspecialty provider.³² The principal recommendations focus on: pre-pregnancy counseling and testing³³, specialized care rendered by a multidisciplinary team,^{12,30} caution with medication management and surgical interventions^{34,35}, close maternal-fetal monitoring³⁰, and evaluation of maternal-fetal risks for decision making regarding timing of delivery.¹²

Mental illness and substance dependency during pregnancy present a number of challenges for treatment and require a multidisciplinary approach. Decisions about appropriate treatment methods must be cautiously considered with respect to the impact on the health of the mother and the outcomes of the pregnancy.³⁶ The principal recommendations for treating mental health during pregnancy focus on: screening of all pregnant women for substance abuse, brief interventions^{37,38}, harm reduction³⁷, substance abuse withdrawal management³⁷, multidisciplinary management^{36,39},

pharmacological therapy should be individualized with consideration of risks vs. benefits^{38,40,41}, and careful monitoring of the mother and infant development throughout the pregnancy.³⁹ It is essential that all high risk mental health patients have available a consultation and referral to psychiatric and psychological clinicians for management of mood disorders, acute and chronic psychosis, pregnancy loss, unwanted pregnancy and substance abuse and chronic pain.⁴² The multidisciplinary team approach allows psychiatric consultants to concentrate on psychosocial interventions rather than psychopharmacological interventions when appropriate, thus reducing unintended consequences from pharmacotherapy and increasing positive outcomes.

A great deal of literature suggests the importance of close monitoring by maternal fetal medicine specialist, neurologist, and obstetricians for pregnant women with epilepsy.⁴³ Epilepsy is a significant issue in pregnancy and specialist care is recommended. Close monitoring of seizure activity, medications, and maternal and fetal well-being require coordination and collaboration between neurology, obstetrics and other services.^{43,44}

The high risk pregnancy conditions selected for this measure are associated with significant maternal and infant morbidity and mortality and the availability of outpatient multidisciplinary care is crucial for improving outcomes. This measure has the potential to improve both maternal and infant outcomes in the setting of high risk pregnancies.

Section IV. Measure Categories

CHIPRA legislation requires that measures in the initial and improved core set, taken together, cover all settings, services, and topics of health care relevant to children. Moreover, the legislation requires the core set to address the needs of children across all ages, including services to promote healthy birth. Regardless of the eventual use of the measure, we are interested in knowing all settings, services, measure topics, and populations that this measure addresses. These categories are not exclusive of one another, so please indicate "Yes" to all that apply.

The evidence base for the focus of the measures will be made explicit and transparent as part of the public release of CHIPRA deliberations; thus, it is critical for submitters to specify the scientific evidence or other basis for the focus of the measure in the following sections.

V.A. Research Evidence

Evidence is discussed throughout this form. A targeted review of the literature is in the Appendix. Further, we interviewed clinicians, engaged clinical societies and accreditors, patient/family groups, NY Medicaid and others to inform our measure development with the intelligence and experiences of stakeholders as well as the medical literature. The ratings of the panel along with a brief description of methodology are included as Appendices. These measures result from careful conduct of a systematic process.

The availability of high risk obstetric (HROB) services is a challenging concept, and to develop quality measures that assess availability of high risk obstetrics services we first needed to define: 1) availability of services and 2) high risk obstetrical services. Specifically we wondered whether the target population could be identified by conditions present in the women, by the clinical services required, or by the clinicians providing the services. Through discussions with our Scientific Team, Steering Committee, review of the literature, and in consultation with our Expert Panel we answered these questions in the following manner. Regarding availability we expanded on the Anderson and Aday model,⁴⁵ which suggests that utilization of health care is driven by three predisposing characteristics, enabling resources and need, and that these factors are themselves influenced by the available system of care.^{46,47} While their distinction between availability and realized access has blurred over time, we nonetheless chose to respect our assignment by using an availability lens as our framework for this measure.

At a system level, utilization can vary as a result of differences in individual behaviors or system characteristics. The current measures predominantly reflect distribution of system attributes, which may include geography, system design, and/or sufficiency of resources.⁴⁷ The definition of HROB specialty physician services for the purposes of these measures is broad and may include services provided by a variety of clinicians if received by a woman who has an identifiable condition that predisposed her or her baby to an increased risk of morbidity and mortality during the assessment period. Our definition of high risk is derived from the literature, Expert Panel ratings, and discussions with our Steering Committee, and from insights drawn from clinician interviews.

As described in Section III pregnant women with chronic illness and pregnancy complications are at increased risk of maternal and infant morbidity and mortality. Availability of multidisciplinary care is particularly important for these women. Evidence suggests access to MFMs, subspecialists, and multidisciplinary care is associated with better outcomes. Professional societies, including the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, as well as others recommend that multidisciplinary care be provided for high risk pregnant women.

V.B. Clinical or other rationale supporting the focus of the measure (optional)

Provide documentation of the clinical or other rationale for the focus of this measure, including citations as appropriate and available.

This is discussed in detail above in the Importance of the Measure section. This measure has importance as a descriptor of the higher level physician elements essential for safe maternity care for high risk women with chronic illness and pregnancy related conditions. The rationale can be summarized as follows: Our expert panel reinforced and prioritized multidisciplinary care as highly important.

This measure represents the capacity to provide necessary outpatient care. This measure is specified so as to be able to identify disparities that arise because of socio-economic, racial/ethnic, and rural/urban considerations. In this regard, they address 5 of the 6 characteristics (Timeliness, Equity, Safety, Patient-Centeredness and Effective) of quality care described in the IOM's Crossing the Quality Chasm⁴⁸. We have described the importance of the availability to multidisciplinary care in our review above.

We have operationalized the need for HROB specialty physician services rather broadly, consistent with the guidance provided by our Expert Panel. Our definitions borrow from the literature and from AHRQ's own clinical classification software, and at the margins are defined based upon specific guidance provided by our expert panel. In so doing, we produce a measure that is more sensitive and less specific, as is desirable for a measure intended to create a gradient at the population level such as we described above. These are not measures designed to assess as good or bad the quality of care for any individual pregnancy. Rather they are designed to provide insight into the availability of HROB multidisciplinary services to a population of women who may need them. This approach is consistent with the useful Institute of Medicine definition of quality health care, as "the degree to which health services for individuals and populations increase the likelihood of desired health outcomes and are consistent with current professional knowledge."⁴⁸ Thus this measure may be said to specify current professional knowledge in a way that produces an index that describes the degree to which specific HROB services (pertaining to multidisciplinary care) are available to women who are at risk to need them.

The salience and validity of our work has benefited from our use of a formal method, a pragmatic adaptation of the CAPQuaM 360 degree method. The method, as adapted to availability of HROB services, described in the next paragraph was specifically designed to develop valid and reliable measures in the face of pragmatic epistemological uncertainty. That is, recognizing that practice extends well beyond the research base, we designed this method to allow us to develop reliable and valid state of the science measures, in part by explicitly modeling and accounting for uncertainties in the measure development, in part by the conceptualization and implementation of a Boundary Guideline. We have shared and refined this approach in a number of venues including within the PQMP, comprised of the various PQMP AHRQ-CMS CHIPRA Centers of Excellence, the state PQMP participants, and AHRQ and CMS participants. All presentations have invited dialogue and feedback. This work has been similarly presented at a number of Grand Rounds / weekly conferences in the New York-New Jersey area as well as to national/international audiences including the Bioethics and children's health services communities. These latter venues include:

- 2012 Pediatric Academic Societies State of the Science Plenary (Boston). This presentation is included as an Appendix.
- 2012 Oxford-Mount Sinai Bioethics Consortium (Amsterdam)
- 2012 Child Health Services Research Interest Group at Academy Health (Orlando)

Feedback from these presentations has been extremely positive. The Boundary Guideline construct has generated particular enthusiasm. We asked the Bioethics Consortium to extrapolate the *primum non nocere* (First, do no harm) principle to apply regarding this aspect of performance measurement. We received strong feedback that not only is it ethical to measure using systematically developed measures (even in the context of some uncertainty), but that it is ethically preferable to use such measures compared with the alternative of providing care that is not assessed (and perhaps not assessable) because of residual uncertainty. Fortunately, in the case of this proposed measure we can present both a systematically developed measure and a variety of evidence to support its use.

Section VI. Scientific Soundness of the Measure

Explain the methods used to determine the scientific soundness of the measure itself. Include results of all tests of validity and reliability, including description(s) of the study sample(s) and methods used to arrive at the results. Note how characteristics of other data systems, data sources, or eligible populations may affect reliability and validity.

VI.A. Reliability

Reliability of the measure is the extent to which the measure results are reproducible when conditions remain the same. The method for establishing the reliability of a measure will depend on the type of measure, data source, and other factors.

Explain your rationale for selecting the methods you have chosen, show how you used the methods chosen, and provide information on the results (e.g., the Kappa statistic). Provide appropriate citations to justify methods.

The strengths of this measure derive from its systematic development, its meticulous specification, its careful conceptualization and articulation and its grounding in existing science and consensus.

The data collection and reliability therein depend upon the use of administrative data. These data are used to identify deliveries (our specifications are a slight enhancement of CDC methodologies described in Kuklina et al⁴⁹); to Kuklina's work we added Revenue code 722. This was important for our test because the Medicaid MAX data provided by CMS and in which these schemas were tested does not include DRGs, which are employed in the Kuklina method. We tested also a variation of the approach to identify deliveries employed by HEDIS in its Timing of PreNatal Care measure in the initial CHIPRA core set. We found that these approaches identified substantially the same population of deliveries in a sixteen state subset of the national MAX database. We chose the 16 states to include in an attempt to manifest some standardization of approaches across the seven AHRQ-CMS CHIPRA Centers of Excellence—they were recommended to us as a diverse set of states with high data quality by the Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania Center which has used them extensively in a number of their validation activities. As the different approaches produced 90% or more overlap, we decided to specify the measure based upon the Kuklina/CDC approach as both widely used and relevant for the type of population-based approach to measurement proposed in this measure. We have used this method for all of CAPQUaM high risk obstetrical services availability measures.

In determining which women were to be considered potentially in need of HROB services, our specifications further rely upon administrative data. One study found that quality measures that could be calculated using administrative data showed higher rates of performance than indicated by a review of the medical record alone, and that claims data is more accurate for identifying services with a high likelihood of documentation due to reimbursement.⁵⁰ Further, at the current stage of EMR development and implementation, chart review is likely to prove infeasible for population-based measures of this scope. Since this measure is specified to be interpreted at the population and not the individual level, the impact of some of the imperfections of using administrative data will be overcome naturally because of the law of large

numbers. We found that of ~119,000 Medicaid deliveries in New York State in 2010, 59,254 were at sufficiently elevated risk to qualify for this measure set (just under 50%). Our team had predicted that 40-50% of all pregnancies would have elevated risk and these findings are consistent with the expectations that Medicaid would be at least at the higher end of that range. Use of a mother-only algorithm in MAX data in 16 states indicates the proportion of high risk pregnancies ranges from 31.50% in NJ to 63.97% in KY. The NY MAX finding was 55,379 HROB pregnancies, almost identical to the 56,465 found using internal data bases on the maternal codes, indicating very high reliability across systems.

Regarding the assessment of the presence or absence of specific provider type visits in this measure, we have specified this measure to use administrative data. We worked with our partners at the New York State Department of Health and investigated New York State Medicaid data to identify outpatient claims for Reporting Year, July 2011 - June 2012. We determined that these data are available in New York State. In general, provider specialty is assigned by the health plan. For our validation, for the 10% or so of encounters that had more than one provider indicated, one specialty was assigned for each encounter that best describes the key provider using a pre-existing Medicaid algorithm. For our final specification, we chose instead to give credit for each specialist seen during one of these encounters. We investigated outpatient visits with cardiologists, infectious disease specialists, neurologist, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers/ therapists, and health educators based on our Expert Panel recommendations and the literature. Health plans typically will credential physicians in an identified specialty. When such is not the case, the approach for specialty assignment should default to any mechanism that is used or recommended by either the state Medicaid program or the state Department of Health.

VI.B. Validity

Validity of the measure is the extent to which the measure meaningfully represents the concept being evaluated. The method for establishing the validity of a measure will depend on the type of measure, data source, and other factors.

Explain your rationale for selecting the methods you have chosen, show how you used the methods chosen, and provide information on the results

(e.g., R for concurrent validity).

The reliability section above also contains information related to validity.

Our definition of high risk obstetrical services results from a formal RAND/UCLA modified Delphi process conducted with a multidisciplinary panel of national experts that included obstetricians, MFM specialists, and a nurse midwife, anesthesiologist and family physician. We carefully operationalized the panel's clinical recommendations by fine tuning AHRQ's Clinical Classification Software. We operationalized panel specifications using data elements that are available in typical administrative data sets.

Potential exceptions are elements such as race and ethnicity. Our feasibility work confirmed race/ethnicity are generally available from clinical charts. The CHIPRA legislation (2009) which directs our measures to be capable of identifying disparities and we have specified it to be so, although we are aware of variability in the manner of assignment of race and ethnicity by health care facilities.

Use of administrative data in performance assessment is common. They contain consistent elements, are available, inform regarding large numbers of individuals, and are relatively inexpensive. Validity of many has been established, and their strengths and weaknesses relative to data abstracted from medical records and obtained via survey have been documented and their use encouraged by federal agencies.⁵¹ The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has made clear to the participating AHRQ-CMS CHIPRA Centers of Excellence funded to develop measures in the Pediatric Quality Measures Program that it places a premium on feasibility.

Expert Panels have been demonstrated to enhance measure development and health care evaluation, including for children.⁵² Frontline practitioners can assist researchers to create useful measures.⁵³ CAPQuaM's 360 degree method is highly engaged with collaborators, partners, and the literature. It targets relevant information and perspectives and measures emerge from the process. Potential measures are tested to the extent that time and resources permit. In developing the HROB availability measures we incorporate:

- Engagement with broadly diverse partnered institutions and senior advisors;
- Detailed literature review;
- Interviews with clinicians from around the country;
- The CAPQuaM scientific team;
- A geographically diverse, multidisciplinary expert panel who participated in a 2 Round RAND/UCLA modified Delphi process, with enhanced follow up;
- Development of a Boundary Guideline that incorporates simultaneously a variety of gradients, including gradients of importance, relevance, and certainty, as appropriate to the construct being represented;
- Specification and review of measures and approaches to measurement by stakeholders and experts;
- Testing and assessment of measure performance using Medicaid data.

Key aspects of validity of HROB measures Availability

The construct of availability is complex and can be muddled in the distinction or

lack thereof between availability, access, and utilization.⁴⁷ For this PQMP measure set on availability of HROB services, we create an index of the availability of multidisciplinary care and include a range of provider types important for the care of high risk women. All else equal, we would expect women who live in more medically dense communities to experience greater availability than those in less medically dense communities and those who live in more isolated communities to have less availability. While these measures are challenging to validate definitively, these predictions give us an opportunity to explore construct validity.

High Risk

We have operationalized a systematic expert process informed by a detailed literature review and incorporating a well described and frequently utilized system developed by AHRQ. While we have modified this system, it has been done to be consistent with its use in this context and to remain consistent with the guidance of the expert panel. It is transparent and has high face validity. We validated its use in 16 states using MAX data and in two separate years of New York State Medicaid data.

Availability of Multidisciplinary Care

Provider specialty is typically available for Medicaid and health plan providers as described above. Our validation confirmed that findings varied across geographic areas in the expected directions. For our validation study, we defined the 2-year look back period as the 2-years prior to the delivery date. For our final specifications we defined the 2-year look back period as the 2 calendar years prior to the reporting year and all dates in the reporting year prior to the date of delivery. See Table 3 below.

Table 3

Availability of multidisciplinary care for high risk pregnant women, defined as at least 3 different types of providers during pregnancy				
Urbanicity	UIC	N	<3 visit	≥ 3 Visits
URBAN	1, 2	58,261	85%	15%
SUBURBAN	3, 4, 5, 6	3,054	91%	9%
RURAL	7, 8, 9	737	94%	5%

We interpret the findings to suggest that these services become less available with increasing rurality, as we had predicted. We designed the measures to identify reduced availability for any reason, including geographic isolation and the observed gradient strongly supports the validity of this measure as a population measure of availability. Please see sections III.C, V.A, and VI.A. above for additional evidence of validity.

Section VII. Identification of Disparities

CHIPRA requires that quality measures be able to identify disparities by race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and special health care needs. Thus, we strongly encourage nominators to have tested measures in diverse populations. Such testing provides evidence for assessing measure's performance for disparities identification. In the sections below, describe the results of efforts to demonstrate the capacity of this measure to produce results that can be stratified by the characteristics noted and retain the scientific soundness (reliability and validity) within and across the relevant subgroups.

VII.A. Race/Ethnicity

Our feasibility assessment confirmed that racial and ethnicity data are almost universally available and that method of assignment of race and ethnicity to the mother varied. It could be based on maternal self-report or assigned by the hospital. National improvement is needed in the methods used to assign race and ethnicity in hospital discharge data. For the purposes of this measure we are resigned at this time to using the existing data as recorded in the mothers' medical records.

Testing sites that participated in the CAPQuaM feasibility assessment were asked to determine if maternal race/ethnicity was documented in the maternal chart. Representatives from institutions were asked to determine whether the data source for maternal race/ethnicity was located in an electronic medical record format (EMR) or a paper format. Institutions were also asked to indicate the difficulty of data abstraction in obtaining maternal race/ethnicity. Responses included very difficult to collect, difficult to collect, not difficult to collect, or unavailable. Virtually all indicated that this was not difficult to collect. The data was generally on the electronic medical records. The New York State Medicaid Program was able to identify race using their information systems. Forty five individuals out of nearly 60,000 pregnancies were missing data on race.

We also examined race/ethnicity data in New York State Medicaid files. The following statistics focus on women found to be high risk. Our findings suggest that blacks, Hispanics, and others race/ethnicities are more likely to have multidisciplinary care. Our data do not give us any indication of severity of illness. There is evidence that suggests that blacks and Hispanics have higher rates of comorbidity and have an increased risk for maternal morbidity and mortality.^{2,3} See Table 4 below.

Table 4

Availability of multidisciplinary care for high risk pre women, defined as outpatient visits with at least 3 different types of providers during pregnancy.			
Race/Ethnicity	N	<3 Visits	≥ 3 Visits
BLACK	13,176	86%	14%
HISPANIC	20,380	82%	18%
OTHER	9,761	85%	15%
WHITE	18,920	90%	10%

We found that our measures are able to identify statistically significant differences in

performance across race/ethnicity, poverty, and also when stratifying for several of the levels of urbanicity.

VII.B. Special health care needs

Not Assessed

VII.C. Socioeconomic status

Institutions participating in feasibility assessments were asked to determine whether sources of payment could be found in patient charts. Payment sources were identified as being in the form of an electronic medical record (EMR) or a paper record. Representatives from the participating institutions were then asked to assess the difficulty of data abstraction of the payment source. Responses included: very difficult to collect, difficult to collect, not difficult to collect, or unavailable. A space was also provided for institutions to provide an explanation and additional comments that might be insightful. Virtually all indicated that this was not difficult to collect. The data was generally on the electronic medical records.

Our feasibility testing demonstrated that we can use Medicaid insurance as a marker for SES and our New York State data demonstrate this to be an important independent predictor of poor maternal outcomes.

We further use the national distribution of percent of individuals in poverty to establish five categories that reflect the counties level of poverty. We considered other data such as county median income or county unemployment, but felt that the percent of individuals in poverty was a more integrative measure. The use of a geographic rather than an individual measure is consistent with recent applications of hierarchical methods to study the impact of poverty and also with data that indicate that local disparities in income is an independent predictor of outcomes. It also allows this measure to consider issues of socioeconomic status while using publicly available data and requiring only the mother's county of residence, a more reliable data point than self-reported income.

Our analysis of USDA data considering 3142 counties and related geographic units found a mean of 17.2 % of county residents living in poverty, a standard deviation of 6.5%, and an interquartile range of 8.2%. The distribution illustrated below shows meaningful dispersion and supports our plan to build off quartiles of distribution with a finer focus in higher areas of poverty. See Table 5 on the next page.

Table 5

Quantile	Percent in Poverty
Maximum	49.9%
99	37.5%
95	28.9%
90	25.7%
75	20.7%
50	16.5%
25	12.5%
10	10.0%
5	8.6%
1	6.1%
Minimum	2.9%

All of New York State lies in the top three quartiles. We would expect to find the largest differences between poorer and other counties, than across the upper end of the spectrum. Nonetheless, we conducted the analysis and found statistically significant differences. High risk pregnant women living in the top quartile were more likely to have outpatient multidisciplinary care than high risk pregnant women living in the second or third quartiles. There was a gradient with higher income counties having higher availability of outpatient multidisciplinary care, defined by outpatient visits with three or more different types of providers. See Table 6 attached.

Table 6

Availability of multidisciplinary care for high risk pregnant women.			
Poverty Level	N	<3 Visits	≥ 3 Visits
TOP QUARTILE	8,682	81%	19%
SECOND QUARTILE	48,581	86%	14%
MEDIAN INCOME			
THIRD QUARTILE	4,789	92%	8%

VII.D. Rural/Urbanicity

As described in the specification we use urban influence codes to describe the level of rurality or urbanicity.

Metropolitan

- 1 In large metro area of 1+ million residents
- 2 In small metro area of less than 1 million residents

Non-metropolitan

- 3 Micropolitan adjacent to large metro
- 4 Non-core adjacent to large metro

- 5 Micropolitan adjacent to small metro
- 6 Non-core adjacent to small metro with own town
- 7 Non-core adjacent to small metro no own town
- 8 Micropolitan not adjacent to a metro area
- 9 Non-core adjacent to micro with own town
- 10 Non-core adjacent to micro with no own town
- 11 Non-core not adjacent to metro or micro with own town
- 12 Non-core not adjacent to metro or micro with no own town

We analyzed 3143 county equivalents in the U.S, and the results are shown in Table 7 below.

Table 7

UIC_2013		
UIC_2013	Frequency	Percent
1	432	13.74
2	735	23.39
3	130	4.14
4	149	4.74
5	242	7.70
6	344	10.94
7	162	5.15
8	269	8.56
9	184	5.85
10	189	6.01
11	125	3.98
12	182	5.79

The population is heavily weighted to metropolitan areas as demonstrated in Table 8 below.

Table 8

UIC_2013				
UIC_2013	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
1	1.672E8	55.07	1.672E8	55.07
2	91886000	30.27	2.5909E8	85.34
3	6921700	2.28	2.6601E8	87.62
4	3094100	1.02	2.691E8	88.64
5	10760300	3.54	2.7986E8	92.18
6	7005400	2.31	2.8687E8	94.49
7	1511900	0.50	2.8838E8	94.99
8	8459500	2.79	2.9684E8	97.78

9	2684400	0.88	2.9952E8	98.66
10	1289100	0.42	3.0081E8	99.09
11	1887800	0.62	3.027E8	99.71
12	887700	0.29	3.0359E8	100.0

As noted, we use Urban Influence Codes (UIC), which have been developed by the USDA based on a number of criteria to describe the levels of urbanicity and rurality. This is intended not only to report within plan differences but to allow for aggregation as appropriate. While each UIC has its own meaningful definition, some researchers choose to aggregate various codes. Bennett and colleagues at the South Carolina Rural Research Center.⁵⁴ Bring together Codes 1 & 2 as Urban; 3,5, & 8 as micropolitan rural; 4,6, & 7 as rural adjacent to a metro area; and 9, 10, 11, & 12 as remote rural. We observe that UIC 5 might as well be aggregated with 4,6,&7 as an adjacent rural area. Further, this approach to rurality does not map exactly to the population density based definition of frontier (< 6 persons per square mile) as articulated in the Affordable Care Act. However, use of such categories is consistent with the ACA's intent that the Secretary asks that data that is collected for racial and ethnic disparities also look at underserved frontier counties. Frontier health care may be approximated by analysis of the remote rural categories.⁵⁵ Those interested in care specific to large cities may wish to aggregate rural areas and analyze UIC 1 and 2 separately.

The New York State Medicaid data were sensitive to urbanicity. For our validation studies we chose to group urbanicity by urban, suburban, and rural. We considered UIC 1 (large metropolitan) and UIC 2 (small metropolitan) to be urban, UIC codes 3-6, those areas to adjacent to large and small metropolitan, to be suburban, and UIC codes 7-9 to be rural. New York State does not have counties with UIC codes 10-12. We chose to group urbanicity by urban, suburban, and rural for the purposes of these analyses.

VII.E. Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Populations

Not assessed, but there is nothing intrinsic to the measure to inhibit its use in that population so long as the LEP characteristic can be linked to the pregnancy or delivery data.

Section VIII. Feasibility

Feasibility is the extent to which the data required for the measure are readily available, retrievable without undue burden, and can be implemented for performance measurement. Using the following sections, explain the methods used to determine the feasibility of implementing the measure.

VIII.A. Data Availability

1. What is the availability of data in existing data systems? How readily are the data available?

Feasibility is the extent to which the data required for the measure are readily available, retrievable without undue burden, and can be implemented for performance measurement. Using the following sections, explain the methods used to determine the feasibility of implementing the measure.

VIII.A. Data Availability

VIII.A.1. What is the availability of data in existing data systems? How readily are the data available?

The CAPQuaM High-Risk OB measures seek to describe the extent to which high risk pregnant women receive multidisciplinary care (seen by at least three types of clinicians for outpatient visits) during their pregnancy. As many high-risk conditions are known prior to delivery, these providers represent care during their pregnancy. As such, the data elements of interest include:

- Outpatient claims data
- Provider type
- Documentation of conditions that would classify a woman as “high risk”
- For stratification purposes:
 - Race and ethnicity
 - Insurance type (Medicaid, Private, Uninsured)
 - Managed care insurance – Yes/No (where applicable)
 - Benefit category (for Medicaid and CHIP eligible cohorts)
 - Income level (as recorded for Medicaid and CHIP eligible cohorts)
 - County equivalent and State, or Zip Code of residence

Several of these data elements are readily available through hospital administrative data. For example, identification of women with “high risk” conditions can be achieved through use of the appropriate ICD9, CCS, and/or revenue codes. Additionally, benefit type is typically recorded in health plan, Medicaid and CHIP administrative data sets.

As part of our feasibility assessment, CAPQuaM partnered with New York State Medicaid to conduct a variety of analyses using their administrative data set. The findings from these analyses indicated that the aforementioned administrative data elements are also readily available at the state-level, and can be abstracted and used for calculating and reporting the CAPQuaM HROB measures. Further, we have specified several variables, for SES, and urbanicity by linking county of residence at the time of delivery to publicly available data sets.

The CAPQuaM feasibility assessment received responses from 9 of 10 sites with obstetrical services around the country. Results from the assessment indicated that, in general, the data elements of interest are available in the medical record system and not difficult to abstract, including race, ethnicity, and zip code or state and county of residence, for those administrative systems that may lack them.

Payment source (insurance type) should be available in a health plan data base and is also easily obtained from electronic data at the health care facility.

VIII.A.2. If data are not available in existing data systems or would be better collected from future data systems, what is the potential for modifying current data systems or creating new data systems to enhance the feasibility of the measure and facilitate implementation?

The data required for the CAPQuaM HROB structural measures are generally available in the existing data systems. Enhancement of collection of patient reported race-ethnicity data into existing administrative systems would also be valuable.

1. If data are not available in existing data systems or would be better collected from future data systems, what is the potential for modifying current data systems or creating new data systems to enhance the feasibility of the measure and facilitate implementation?

See above

VIII.B. Lessons from Use of the Measure

1. Describe the extent to which the measure has been used or is in use, including the types of settings in which it has been used, and purposes for which it has been used.

New measure.

2. If the measure has been used or is in use, what methods, if any, have already been used to collect data for this measure?

The measure is not currently in use.

3. What lessons are available from the current or prior use of the measure?

The measure is not currently in use.

Section IX. Levels of Aggregation

CHIPRA states that data used in quality measures must be collected and reported in a standard format that permits comparison (at minimum) at State, health plan, and provider levels. Use the following table to provide information about this measure's use for reporting at the levels of aggregation in the table.

For the purpose of this section, please refer to the definitions for provider, practice site, medical group, and network in the Glossary of Terms.

If there is no information about whether the measure could be meaningfully reported at a specific level of aggregation, please write "Not available" in the text field before progressing to the next section.

Level of aggregation (Unit) for reporting on the quality of care for children covered by Medicaid/ CHIP†:

County, Region, State; Can also be aggregated at health plan level State Medicaid

Section X. Understandability

CHIPRA states that the core set should allow purchasers, families, and health care providers to understand the quality of care for children. Please describe the usefulness of this measure toward achieving this goal. Describe efforts to assess the understandability of this measure (e.g., focus group testing with stakeholders).

The focus of the CAPQuaM measures are on outpatient care for women with chronic illness and pregnancy related complications. This measure describes the extent to which high risk pregnant women are seen by at least three types of clinicians. This measure is straight forward and intuitive as it represents desirable clinical practice. Variations at the population level demonstrate differences in the availability of these services for women with high risk pregnancies. This measure is intended for use at the population level and not to assess the quality of care or any individual pregnancy.

Understandability is at the heart of CAPQuaM's measure development process. Throughout development, CAPQuaM brought together diverse stakeholders – clinicians, scientists, payers, purchasers, consumer organizations, and others – to ensure their iterative engagement in advancing quality measures that are understandable, salient and actionable. CAPQuaM employed a 360° method, designed to involve key stakeholders in meaningful ways.

Our development process for this measure cultivated formal input from:

- Medical literature (both peer reviewed and gray, including state websites)
- Relevant clinicians
- Organizational stakeholders (our consortium partners, as well as advisory board members, see below)
- Multi-disciplinary, geographically diverse expert panel including clinicians and academicians; and,
- CAPQuaM's scientific team.

Clinical criteria, including consideration of inclusion and exclusion criteria, were developed using a modified version of the RAND/UCLA modified Delphi Panels.

CAPQuaM sought recommendations from major clinical societies and other stakeholders to identify academic and clinician expert panel participants with a variety of areas of backgrounds, clinical and regional settings, and expertise. The product of this process was participation by a broad group of experts in the development of clinically detailed scenarios leading to the measures.

CAPQuaM integrated perspectives from a national consortium, Steering Committee, and Senior Advisory Board at each step of the process, in addition to a continuing collaboration with AHRQ. Our team far exceeded the required minimums for expertise outside of the mainstream medical system, ensuring understandability at various levels, and by a variety of audiences.

Alpha testing was performed to assess feasibility, mechanisms of data collection and operational aspects of collecting and analyzing data for the measure.

Beta testing was performed by the NY State Office of Health Insurance Programs (Medicaid) in close collaboration with the CAPQuaM team..

The route to measure specification included development of relevant scenarios and issues for formal processing by our expert panel who participated in a two round RAND/UCLA modified Delphi panel that culminated in a two- day long in person meeting hosted at the Joint Commission and moderated by a pediatrician and an obstetrician-gynecologist. The output from that panel meeting was summarized in the form of a boundary guideline that was then used to guide the measure specification and prioritization.

Section XI. Health Information Technology

Please respond to the following questions in terms of any health information technology (health IT) that has been or could be incorporated into the measure calculation.

XI.A. Health IT Enhancement

Please describe how health IT may enhance the use of this

As health information systems advance, perhaps the administrative data at the heart of this measure could migrate from billing and management systems to the EHR. We are not yet there.

XI.B. Health IT Testing

Has the measure been tested as part of an electronic health record (EHR) or other health IT system?

If so, in what health IT system was it tested and what were the results of testing?

Not at present.

XI.C. Health IT Workflow

Please describe how the information needed to calculate the measure may be captured as part of routine clinical or administrative workflow.

Other than perhaps the race/ethnicity data the clinical data are a part of routine administrative data systems. The migration of diagnosis data from the EMR directly to administrative systems conceivably could improve the accuracy of the data in the future, although that is not clear.

XI.D. Health IT Standards

Are the data elements in this measure supported explicitly by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT Standards and Certification criteria (see http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit_hhs_gov_standards_ifr/1_195)?

No

If yes, please describe.

XI.E. Health IT Calculation

Please assess the likelihood that missing or ambiguous information will lead to calculation errors.

N/A

XI.F. Health IT Other Functions

If the measure is implemented in an EHR or other health IT system, how might implementation of other health IT functions (e.g., computerized decision support systems in an EHR) enhance performance characteristics on the measure?

N/A

Section XII. Limitations of the Measure

The definition of high risk obstetrical care is based upon a careful, evidence driven consensus process that was highly engaged and guided by an extraordinary and multidisciplinary panel of national experts. The CAPQuaM team carefully and faithfully operationalized their conclusions and maintained dialogue as we did so. Still there were infinite combinations of qualifying criteria and we had to specify one. We are confident that the specifications are strong, the conditions meaningful, and the population at increased risk. But these were designed from the outset and explicitly discussed at the expert meeting to be population-based measures. They are intended for the measurement of performance cross populations, not for the assessment of the quality of an individual's care. The inevitable noise in the measures was designed to be dwarfed by the signal when applied to large numbers of pregnant women, but not for any given individual.

This measure is based on identification of provider type specified in state Medicaid data, health plans, and other administrative data sources. In general, encounter data provider specialty is assigned by the health plan. Our colleagues at the New York State Department of Health and other members of our Steering Committee have confirmed that this is a feasible and valid way to assess specialty and we will have each health plan or state Medicaid use their own internal algorithm for identifying provider type.

Section XIII. Summary Statement

Provide a summary rationale for why the measure should be selected for use, taking into account a balance among desirable attributes and limitations of the measure. Highlight specific advantages that this measure has over alternative measures on the same topic that were considered by the measure developer or specific advantages that this measure has over existing measures. If there is any information about this measure that is important for the review process but has not been addressed above, include it here.

This is an innovative measure that addresses a complex and critical idea: How available is multidisciplinary care to women who may need it? Specifically, how often do high risk pregnant women receive multidisciplinary care? We set forth specifications to identify pregnancies that constitute high risk and that require specialty care. This measure assesses an important aspect of HROB services (availability of multidisciplinary care) and reports the percentage of high risk pregnant women seen by at least three types of clinicians during their pregnancy.

This measure responds to the assignment to CAPQuaM, an AHRQ-CMS CHIPRA Center of Excellence in the Pediatric Quality Measurement Program. We have used a rigorous and systematic process that was highly engaged with clinicians, stakeholders, and experts to develop these measures. We began with the evidence base and the literature.

Childbirth accounts for a plurality of hospital admissions for Medicaid programs; our data show that between one and two thirds of them across the country are high risk. Hospital costs for childbirth are large. High risk women suffer increased rates of maternal or infant morbidity and mortality.

Maternal deaths and severe maternal morbidity are often preventable through improved quality and safety of maternity care. The rapidly rising rate of chronic illness and associated complications points out the need for increased availability of maternal fetal medicine specialists and subspecialty care. Further, the importance of multidisciplinary coordinated care is emphasized in the literature and professional societies. This is an important measure regarding quality and patient safety.

This measure was designed to be a population measure and we have tested it in that regard. As intended, our validation tests showed that more geographically isolated areas show less availability than areas with more dense medical services. We found the measures to be complementary and not duplicative.

This measure is sensitive to differences in socioeconomic status, race, and urbanicity. We found that it could be implemented in New York State Medicaid data. The measure performed well.

Section XIV: Identifying Information for the Measure Submitter

Complete information about the person submitting the material, including the following:

The CHIPRA Pediatric Quality Measures Program (PQMP) Candidate Measure Submission Form (CPCF) was approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act. The OMB Control Number is 0935-0205 and the Expiration Date is December 31, 2015.

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