

# Closing gaps in care, improving kidney health for patients with diabetes

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HEDIS<sup>®</sup> measures<sup>1</sup> address a broad range of important health issues. Among updates for measurement year (MY) 2022 is the Kidney Health Evaluation for Patients With Diabetes (KED) measure. As reported in the January newsletter, KED is one of four new MY2022 measures to [document diabetes care](#).

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[Could your patients use additional care management support?](#)

## Background on kidney health evaluation

Healthy People 2020 set a goal to [improve chronic kidney disease](#). Among objectives to meet that goal are increasing the proportion of people with chronic kidney disease (CKD) who know they have impaired renal function, increasing the proportion of people with diabetes who receive recommended medical evaluations, and reducing kidney failure due to diabetes.

Meeting these objectives may serve to reduce the kidney disease burden, increase lifespan and quality of life, and eliminate disparities among kidney disease patients.

## Measure by measure: Guidelines for the new KED measure<sup>2</sup>

The NCQA's [Kidney Health Toolkit](#) offers best-practices resources for providers and your patients.

Led by the NCQA and the National Kidney Foundation, a multidisciplinary panel of technical experts collaborated to develop a new HEDIS measure for kidney health evaluation. KED measures the percentage of patients ages 18–85 with diabetes (type 1 and type 2) who received both an estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) *and* a urine albumin-creatinine ratio (uACR) during the measurement year.

The HEDIS measure sets the following required screenings to occur annually. Both the “blood test” column and one option from the “urine test” column are needed to close the gap in care.

Blood test	Urine test (complete one option)
Estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) anytime during the measurement year	Urine albumin-creatinine ratio (uACR) anytime during the measurement year
	Combo test—complete both quantitative urine albumin test and a urine creatinine test with service dates <b>four days or less apart</b>

More than 90% of America’s health plans, including Blue Cross® Blue Shield® of Arizona, use HEDIS to measure performance on important dimensions of care and service. HEDIS helps providers and health plans see where to focus their improvement efforts for higher-quality outcomes.

HEDIS is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

<sup>1</sup>Source: [National Committee for Quality Assurance \(NCQA\) \(HEDIS and Performance Measurement\)](#).

<sup>2</sup>Source: [NCQA, “HEDIS MY 2022 Measure Descriptions”](#)

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