LOINC and HEDIS

What is LOINC®?

Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC) is a set of identifiers, names, and codes for health measurements, observations, and documents. LOINC was developed as a definitive standard for identifying clinical information in electronic reports.

LOINC is a universal coding system that enables healthcare organizations to map or link their local codes to LOIN codes for transmission in clinical messages to payers, regulators, and other healthcare organizations. These codes can give detailed descriptions about tests or screenings performed.

NCQA added measures requiring LOINC to the HEDIS® Electronic Clinical Data Systems (ECDS) reporting to encourage the secure sharing of patient medical information electronically. ECDS reporting is part of NCQA's larger strategy to enable a digital quality system and is aligned with the industry's move to digital measures.

The HEDIS measures listed require a LOINC submission to capture compliance for the screening numerator:

- Depression Remission or Response for Adolescents and Adults (DRR-E)
- Depression Screening and Follow-Up for Adolescents and Adults (DSF-E)
- Prenatal Depression Screening and Follow-Up (PND-E)
- Postpartum Depression Screening and Follow-Up (PDS-E)
- Social Need Screening and Intervention (SNS-E)
- Unhealthy Alcohol Use Screening and Follow-Up (ASF-E)

Find complete HEDIS guidance for all lines of business in our online HEDIS QRG: ILmeridian.com/providers/resources/quality-improvement.html

How are LOINC shared with Centene and Meridian?

LOINC requires electronic submission and cannot be added to medical claims. Centene uses an Electronic Medical Records (EMR) process, while Meridian uses a supplemental data process to capture LOINC—files are transmitted directly from Electronic Health Records (EHR) systems and through flat files submissions. Ask your Quality Improvement Practice Advisor, Associate Quality Improvement Practice Advisor or Provider Relations representative for more information.

Sources

[1] https://loinc.org/
[2] https://digital.ahrq.gov/loinc
[3] https://www.healthit.gov/topic/health-it-and-health-information-exchange-basics/health-information-exchange

This document is an informational resource designed to assist licensed healthcare providers in caring for their patients. Providers should use their professional judgment in using the information provided.