

Medicaid MCO Quality Tabulations – NCQA Rating Year 2018-2019

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The Menges Group

Strategic Health Policy & Care Coordination Consulting

Introduction

- The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) publishes managed care organization (MCO) quality ratings annually, releasing this information in the Fall.
- Health plans are rated in three industries – commercial, Medicaid, and Medicare. Plans are rated on a 0 – 5 scale, with each entity given a rating rounded to the nearest half number (3.0, 3.5, etc.).
- This edition of the 5 Slide Series presents some of our tabulations of the Medicaid ratings for NCQA's most recently released data, which are for the 2018-2019 Rating Year.

What was the Distribution of NCQA's Ratings Across the Medicaid MCO Industry?

- Most Medicaid MCOs (84%) are bunched in the 3.0 – 4.0 rating range. The rounded NCQA ratings to the nearest half point masks the true level of differentiation that exists among these MCOs.
- The national average Medicaid MCO rating improved from 3.37 in Rating Year 2017-2018 to 3.43 in Rating Year 2018-2019.

NCQA Rating	Number of Plans with Indicated Rating		% of NCQA Rated Plans with Indicated Rating	
	2017-2018 Rating Year	2018-2019 Rating Year	2017-2018 Rating Year	2018-2019 Rating Year
5.0	1	4	0.6%	2.3%
4.5	10	9	5.6%	5.1%
4.0	29	26	16.3%	14.7%
3.5	69	76	38.8%	42.9%
3.0	51	46	28.7%	26.0%
2.5	11	13	6.2%	7.3%
2.0	4	3	2.2%	1.7%
1.5	3	0	1.7%	0.0%
Total	178	177	100.0%	100.0%
Average (Mean) Rating	3.37	3.43		

How Do the Large Multi-State Chain Medicaid MCOs Compare?

- Seven large Medicaid MCO chains received a quality rating from NCQA in at least five states for the 2018-2019 Rating Year.
- These organizations' average rating across the states in which they operate are shown in the table to the right.
- AmeriHealth Caritas had the highest overall average (3.79), followed by UnitedHealthcare (3.50). These were the only two chain entities whose average rating was above the overall US average rating (3.43).

National Organization	NCQA Rating Year 2018-2019		
	Number of Plans	Average NCQA Rating	Ranking Among National Medicaid MCOs Operating in 5+ States
AmeriHealth Caritas	7	3.79	1st
UnitedHealthcare	22	3.50	2nd
WellCare	7	3.36	3rd
Molina	11	3.32	4th
Anthem	18	3.28	5th
Centene	14	3.27	6th
Aetna	9	3.17	7th
USA Average (all MCOs with a rating)	177	3.43	

Who Were the Nation's Highest-Rated Medicaid MCOs in Rating Year 2018-2019?

Health Plan Name (Parent Entity)	State	NCQA Rating
HMO Minnesota (Blue Plus -- BCBS)	MN	5.0
Jai Medical Systems	MD	5.0
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan	MD	5.0
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan	VA	5.0
Capital District Physicians' Health Plan	NY	4.5
Health Partners Plans	PA	4.5
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan	HI	4.5
Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island	RI	4.5
Priority Health	MI	4.5
Tufts Health	MA	4.5
UnitedHealthcare	RI	4.5
Upper Peninsula Health Plan	MI	4.5
WellSense Health Plan (Boston Medical Center)	NH	4.5

- Four Medicaid MCOs received NCQA's highest-possible score (5.0), with nine MCOs earning the next-highest rating of 4.5.
- Most MCOs on this “Honor Roll” list have relatively modest Medicaid membership. The MCOs achieving this high level of quality on the largest enrollment scale are Health Partners Plans in Pennsylvania, Tufts Health in Massachusetts, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, and Priority Health in Michigan.

Who is the Highest-Rated NCQA Medicaid MCO in Each State in Rating Year 2018-2019?

State	Health Plan Name (Parent Entity)	NCQA Rating
California	CalOptima	4.0
Colorado	Rocky Mountain HMO (United HealthCare)	3.5
District of Columbia	AmeriHealth Caritas	3.5
Delaware	Highmark BCBS	3.5
Florida	Aetna Better Health	4.0
Georgia	Amerigroup (Anthem)	3.5
Hawaii	Kaiser Foundation Health Plan	4.5
Iowa	UnitedHealthcare	3.5
Illinois	2-Way Tie: IlliniCare Health, Meridian Health Plan	3.5
Indiana	2-Way Tie: Anthem, MDwise	3.5
Kansas	3-Way Tie: Amerigroup (Anthem), Sunflower State Health Plan (Centene), UnitedHealthcare	3.5
Kentucky	2-Way Tie: Aetna Better Health, WellCare	3.5
Louisiana	2-Way Tie: AmeriHealth Caritas, UnitedHealthcare	3.5
Massachusetts	Tufts Health	4.5
Maryland	2-Way Tie: Jai Medical Systems, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan	5.0

State	Health Plan Name (Parent Entity)	NCQA Rating
Michigan	2-Way Tie: Priority Health, Upper Peninsula Health Plan	4.5
Minnesota	Blue Plus (HMO Minnesota dba Blue Plus) Special Project: MSHO	5.0
Missouri	2-Way Tie: Home State Health Plan (Centene), Missouri Care (WellCare)	3.0
Mississippi	Magnolia Health Plan (Centene)	3.0
Nebraska	UnitedHealthcare	4.0
New Hampshire	Well Sense Health Plan (Boston Medical Center)	4.5
New Jersey	3-Way Tie: AmeriChoice (UnitedHealthcare), Amerigroup (Anthem), WellCare	3.5
New Mexico	3-Way Tie: BCBS of New Mexico, Molina, UnitedHealthcare	3.0
Nevada	2-Way Tie: Community Care Health Plan (Anthem), Health Plan of Nevada (UnitedHealthcare)	3.0
New York	Capital District Physicians' Health Plan	4.5
Ohio	5-Way Tie: Buckeye Health Plan (Centene), CareSource, Molina, Paramount Advantage, UnitedHealthcare	3.5
Oregon	Trillium Community Health Plan	3.5
Pennsylvania	Health Partners Plans	4.5
Rhode Island	2-Way Tie: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, UnitedHealthcare	4.5

State	Health Plan Name (Parent Entity)	NCQA Rating
South Carolina	Select Health of South Carolina (AmeriHealth Caritas)	4.0
Tennessee	5-Way Tie: AmeriGroup (Anthem), UnitedHealthcare (2 regional plans), Volunteer State Health Plan (BCBS -- 2 regional plans)	3.5
Texas	3-Way Tie: AmeriGroup (Anthem), Scott and White Health Plan, Superior HealthPlan (Centene)	3.5
Utah	SelectHealth (Intermountain Healthcare)	4.0
Virginia	Kaiser Foundation Health Plan	5.0
Washington	4-Way Tie: Community Health Plan of Washington, Coordinated Care Health Plan (Centene), Molina, UnitedHealthcare	3.5
Wisconsin	3-Way Tie: Children's Community Health Plan (Children's Hospital), Security Health Plan (Marshfield Clinic), UnitedHealthcare	4.0
West Virginia	3-Way Tie: Aetna Better Health, UNICARE Health Plan (Anthem)	3.5

5 Slide Series Overview

Our 5 Slide Series is a monthly publication whereby we briefly discuss/address a selected topic outside the confines of our client engagements.

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Address: 4001 9th Street N., Suite 227, Arlington, VA 22203

Website: www.themengesgroup.com