



## PROVIDER RESOURCE GUIDE: IMPROVING PATIENT EXPERIENCE

### A Guidebook to CAHPS, HOS and Quality Resources



Jefferson Health Plans is focusing on improving patient satisfaction scores and elevating patients' experience with their health plan and their providers.

Jefferson Health Plans is committed to partnering with our network providers to elevate patient satisfaction and improve the in-office experience. This guidebook will cover multiple facets of patient experience, including:

- Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS)
- Health Outcomes Survey (HOS)
- Best practices for getting needed care

If you have any questions about this resource and its contents, please contact our Provider Services Helpline at **1-888-991-9023** (Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.). For the latest information on Jefferson Health Plans' programs and initiatives, please visit [www.HPPlans.com/quality](http://www.HPPlans.com/quality).

Together, we can achieve our shared goal of elevating patients' satisfaction and improving their experience within healthcare.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONSUMER ASSESSMENT OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS AND SYSTEMS (CAHPS)	3
Why is CAHPS Important?	3
KEY CAHPS MEASURES	3
Getting Needed Care	3
Getting Appointments and Care Quickly	3
Customer Service	4
Overall Rating of Health Care Quality	4
Care Coordination	5
HEALTH OUTCOMES SURVEY (HOS)	7
Ways for Improving HOS Measures	7
FOCUSING ON MEMBER EXPERIENCE	9
Post-Visit Survey	9
STAFF SCRIPT TIPS	11
ACCESS REDESIGN	12
Customer Service Excellence	13
QI Methodology	14
TIPS FOR IMPROVING QUALITY HEALTH OUTCOMES DURING OFFICE VISITS	15
MORE PROGRAMS AND BENEFITS	16
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	17

# CONSUMER ASSESSMENT OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS AND SYSTEMS (CAHPS)

The Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems, commonly known as CAHPS, is considered the national standard for measuring and reporting on consumers' experiences with health plans, providers and services provided. CAHPS surveys measure patients' perception of the quality of care received, such as the ease of access to providers and health care services and the patient/provider relationship, including the communication skills of physicians and practitioners.

Public reporting of CAHPS survey results helps patients to make informed decisions when selecting providers and health plans. In addition, the results help healthcare organizations use data to identify strengths and weaknesses, determine where they need to improve, and track progress over time.

## WHY IS CAHPS IMPORTANT?

Our collective success depends on it! CAHPS measures make up 33% of the entire STARS program. CAHPS measure weighting increased from 2.0x to 4.0x last year.

Jefferson Health Plans invests in programs and initiatives focused on improving member satisfaction:

- Introduced a post-visit survey to assess provider satisfaction in March 2018. Paused the surveys in 2020 to re-evaluate the program. Resumed in April 2021.
- Survey results impact reimbursement in Jefferson Health Plans' Quality Care Plus (QCP) program for the Medicaid line of business.
- Jefferson Health Plans implemented a separate survey this year to gauge Medicare members' experiences with regard to key indicators included in the Medicare CAHPS survey.

### Q: Who receives the CAHPS survey?

A: A sample of Medicare members.

### Q: How is CAHPS administered?

A: Surveys are distributed by mail and conclude with telephone-assisted surveys for participants who have not responded; surveys are conducted annually between March and June.

### Q: How long is the CAHPS survey?

A: 27 questions.

For additional information about the CAHPS survey, including survey questions, please visit <https://www.ahrq.gov/cahps/surveys-guidance>.

---

## KEY CAHPS MEASURES

### Jefferson Health Plans' Areas of Focus

#### GETTING NEEDED CARE

**Description:** This category of questions asks patients how easy it is for them to get needed care, including care from specialists.

#### Actions you can take to help:

- Identify barriers to care specific to patients
- Assist patients in getting needed care
- Educate patients on key benefits
- Remind patients with Jefferson Health Plans (Medicare) they have a transportation benefit (PA residents online); see **More Programs and Benefits** section on page 16 for more details.

#### GETTING APPOINTMENTS AND CARE QUICKLY

**Description:** This category of questions asks patients how quickly they get appointments and care.

#### Actions you can take to help:

- Identify barriers to care specific to patients
- Assist patients in getting appointments scheduled
- Educate patients on appointment standards


## CUSTOMER SERVICE

**Description:** This category of questions asks patients how easy it is to get information and help from the health plan when needed.


**Actions you can take to help:**

- Be courteous/nice to patients
- Offer excellent customer service
- Ensure that the patient understood the resolution of any concerns addressed during the visit
- Check in on your own internal teams, as they are often the first interaction patients have with your office.





**MENU CHOICES FOR THE DAY**



**Energetic**  
**Caring**  
**Vital**  
**Creative**



**Angry**  
**Disinterested**  
**Cynical**  
**Bitter**

WHAT ZONE ARE YOU IN?			
Blue	Green	Yellow	Red
			
<p><b>Sick</b> <b>Sad</b> <b>Tired</b> <b>Bored</b> <b>Moving Slowly</b></p>	<p><b>Happy</b> <b>Calm</b> <b>Feeling Okay</b> <b>Focused</b> <b>Ready to Learn</b></p>	<p><b>Frustrated</b> <b>Worried</b> <b>Silly/Wiggly</b> <b>Excited</b> <b>Loss of Some Control</b></p>	<p><b>Mad/Angry</b> <b>Mean</b> <b>Yelling/Hitting</b> <b>Disgusted</b> <b>Out of Control</b></p>

## OVERALL RATING OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY

**Description:** This category of questions asks patients to rate the quality of the health care they received from the health plan and their doctor.

**Actions you can take to help:**

- Identify barriers to care specific to patients
- Assist patients in getting needed care
- Educate patients on key benefits
- Remind Medicare patients of transportation benefit



## CARE COORDINATION

**Description:** This category of questions asks how well the plan coordinates patients' care. (This includes whether doctors had the records and information they need about patients' care and how quickly patients got their test results.)

### Actions you can take to help:

- Identify barriers to care specific to patients
- Assist patients in getting needed care
- Assist patients in getting appointments scheduled
- Remind patients with Jefferson Health Plans (Medicare) they have a transportation benefit (PA residents online); see **More Programs and Benefits** section on page 16 for more details.

### What might impact a patient's ability to access needed care?

- Availability – providers must have appointment slots available and accept a patient's insurance.
- Convenience – the ease of scheduling the appointment.
- Affordability – the ability of the patient to pay for their care.
- Transportation – the ease of arranging for transportation to and from health care facilities.

See below for Jefferson Health Plans' access and availability standards and be sure to reinforce these standards with your patients.

CRITERIA	PCP	OBGYN	SPECIALIST
<b>Routine Office Visits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 10 business days</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OB: Initial prenatal visit within 24 hours of identification of high risk by Jefferson Health Plans or maternity care provider or immediately if emergency exists.</li> <li>• First prenatal visit (pregnant 1–3 months): Within 10 days</li> <li>• First prenatal visit (pregnant 4–6 months): Within 5 days</li> <li>• First prenatal visit (pregnant 7–9 months): Within 4 days</li> <li>• GYN: Within 10 days</li> <li>• OB/GYN: Within 5 days of effective date of enrollment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Otolaryngology, dermatology, pediatric endocrinology, pediatric general surgery, pediatric infectious disease, pediatric neurology, pediatric pulmonology, pediatric rheumatology, dentist, orthopedic surgery, pediatric allergy and immunology, pediatric gastroenterology, pediatric hematology, pediatric nephrology, pediatric oncology, pediatric rehab medicine, and pediatric urology: Within 15 business days</li> <li>• All other specialists: Within 10 business days</li> </ul>
<b>Routine Physical</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 3 weeks</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A
<b>Preventive Care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 3 weeks</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A
<b>Urgent Care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 24 hours</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 24 hours</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 24 hours</li> </ul>
<b>Emergency Care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediately and/or refer to ER</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediately and/or refer to ER</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediately and/or refer to ER</li> </ul>
<b>First Newborn Visit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 2 weeks</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A

CRITERIA	PCP	OBGYN	SPECIALIST
<b>Patient with HIV Infection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 7 days of enrollment for any member known to be HIV positive unless the member is already in active care with a PCP or specialist regarding HIV status</li> </ul>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 7 days of enrollment for any member known to be HIV positive unless the member is already in active care with a PCP or specialist regarding HIV status</li> </ul>
<b>EPSDT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 45 days of enrollment unless the member is already under the care of a PCP and the member is current with screenings and immunizations</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A
<b>SSI Recipient</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 45 days of enrollment unless the enrollee is already in active care with a PCP or specialist</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 45 days of enrollment unless the enrollee is already in active care with a PCP or specialist</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 45 days of enrollment unless the enrollee is already in active care with a PCP or specialist</li> </ul>
<b>Office Wait Time</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 minutes (or up to 1 hour if urgent situation arises)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 minutes (or up to 1 hour if urgent situation arises)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 minutes (or up to 1 hour if urgent situation arises)</li> </ul>
<b>Weekly Office Hours</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 20 hours per site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 20 hours per site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 20 hours per site</li> </ul>
<b>Maximum Appointments per Hour</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A



# HEALTH OUTCOMES SURVEY (HOS)

Every year, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) administers the Health Outcomes Survey (HOS), which assesses the ability of an organization to maintain or improve the current physical and mental health status of its members. A random sample of Jefferson Health Plans' Medicare members receive the HOS survey.

The results help evaluate how members view their current health status and if providers addressed their health concerns. Two years later, the same respondents receive a follow-up survey on maintaining or improving physical and mental health.

## WAYS FOR IMPROVING HOS MEASURES

To better connect with patients, think about integrating these tips into your daily activities.

### HOS Measure: Improving or maintaining physical health

Engage with patients before they even check into the office by planning ahead. Implement a pre-visit checklist to better address past issues or concerns the patient has raised during previous visits. Dedicate time to review a patient's health history before his/her appointment time. Find out the patient's upcoming appointment schedule and have his/her lab work results available.

By having results available during the appointment, patients can be part of the decision-making and are more likely to follow treatment recommendations.

Ask patients about getting a flu shot and other preventative measures, too.

See **More Programs and Benefits** section on page 16 to learn how to order blood pressure cuffs for patients with high blood pressure.

### HOS Measure: Improving or maintaining mental health

Consider using depression screening tools like the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) to identify early signs of depression. Ask questions to assess if a patient's mental health affects daily activities, such as, "Do you have a lot of energy?" and, "How much of the time has your physical or emotional health interfered with social activities?"

When appropriate, refer Jefferson Health Plans members to a behavioral health resource by calling Magellan at 1-800-424-3704. Please note that a referral is not required for behavioral health services.

### HOS Measure: Monitoring physical activity

Implement a standardized functional assessment tool—an industry-wide survey tool or list of questions—to monitor patients' physical activity. Ask pointed questions such as, "In the past seven days, did you need any help from others to perform everyday activities, like bathing or dressing?"

Remember to submit the CPT2 code for functional status assessment, 1170F, on the claim.

All Jefferson Health Plans (Medicare) members have access to the SilverSneakers® fitness center network. Members also can choose to join the Kroc Center, in Philadelphia.  
See **More Programs and Benefits** section on page 16 for more details.

## **HOS Measure: Improving bladder control**

Initiate the discussion of bladder control with patients and ask if it has affected their daily life or sleep. Recommend exercises and discuss treatment options. Inform patients there are many ways to control or manage the leaking of urine, including bladder training exercises, incontinence products, medication and surgery. If you determine a patient would benefit from seeing a urologist, kindly refer your patient. Please note that referrals are not required.

Assessments, such as the [3 Incontinence Questions](#) tool, can be helpful to determine if chronic urinary incontinence is present.

## **HOS Measure: Reducing risk of falling**

Talk to patients about the risk of falling so that you can initiate interventions to prevent injuries. Ask patients if they have fallen in the past 12 months or if they have any problems with balance or walking. Share tips with patients about how they can prevent falls, such as standing up slowly, installing handrails in the shower, monitoring side effects of medicine, limiting alcohol intake and using an assistive device to walk if they feel unsteady.





# FOCUSING ON MEMBER EXPERIENCE

To improve our members' experience, Jefferson Health Plans has implemented a number of interventions, including:

- Member satisfaction focused provider webinars
- Practice transformation coaching for select provider sites
- Post-visit provider satisfaction surveys
- Implementation of a member satisfaction component in our Quality Care Plus (QCP) Program
- Member and provider focus groups
- Member-satisfaction focused outbound calls to members

For providers, improved scores in patient satisfaction can lead to higher scores in member satisfaction measures in QCP, which can result in additional revenue.

## POST-VISIT SURVEY

Our post-visit survey tool, administered by Press Ganey, helps Jefferson Health Plans understand members' perception and satisfaction with their providers. In 2023, Jefferson Health Plans updated the survey tool and how the survey results are used to impact provider performance and payment in our QCP Program. These changes will allow us to continue to reward high performing providers as well as partner with providers to discuss innovative ways to improve member perception.

Jefferson Health Plans includes two member satisfaction measures for Medicaid. The measures are structured similarly to the other QCP quality measures, in which providers can earn an incentive for achieving high performance but will not face a reduced payment for poor performance. The minimum denominator for both member satisfaction measures will be 30 members. Scores are based on the combination of Very Good and Excellent member responses and will be derived from a modification of top-box scoring.

The following questions are included in the 2024 survey.

QUESTION	QUESTION PURPOSE	RESPONSES
<b>Q01.</b> Our records show (you/your child) had a recent visit with (UDEF10) on (UDEF03). Is that right?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm the appointment.</li> </ul>	<b>1</b> Yes <b>2</b> No (THANK AND TERMINATE)
<b>Q02.</b> Did you contact this provider's office to get an appointment for a well visit, follow-up visit, or illness in which you needed care right away?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine the visit type the patient required. Allows survey responses to be stratified by visit type to evaluate results.</li> </ul>	<b>1</b> Well Visit <b>2</b> Follow Up <b>3</b> Illness <b>4</b> Do not recall <b>9</b> Not Ascertained
<b>Q03.</b> When you contacted your provider's office to schedule your appointment, did you get your appointment as soon as you needed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considers the wait for an appointment based on when it was needed.</li> </ul>	<b>1</b> Yes <b>2</b> No <b>3</b> Do not recall <b>9</b> Not Ascertained
<b>Q04.</b> How long after your scheduled appointment time did it take this provider to see <You/Your Child>? [READ LIST IF NEEDED]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considers the time a patient waited (idle time) between their scheduled appointment and their interaction with their provider.</li> </ul>	<b>1</b> Less than 15 minutes <b>2</b> 15 to 30 minutes <b>3</b> 31 to 45 minutes <b>4</b> Over 45 minutes <b>5</b> Do not recall <b>9</b> Not ascertained

QUESTION	QUESTION PURPOSE	RESPONSES
<p><b>Q05.</b> Was this an in-person visit or a virtual visit where you used a website or smartphone app to see and hear each other?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considers how the visit was conducted and allows data to be stratified by visit 'mode' in order to identify differences in member experience.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1</b> In-person visit  <b>2</b> Virtual visit  <b>3</b> Do not recall  <b>9</b> Not Ascertained</p>
<p><b>Q06.</b> If your provider ordered a blood test, x-ray, or other test for you during this visit, did someone from this provider's office follow up to give you those results?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considers care coordination activities, tracking of lab and imaging orders, as well as communication from the care team.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1</b> Yes  <b>2</b> No  <b>3</b> Does Not Apply  <b>4</b> Do not recall  <b>9</b> Not Ascertained</p>
<p><b>Q07.</b> During your visit, did someone from this provider's office talk about all the prescription medicines you were taking?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considers medication management activities conducted by a member of the care team.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1</b> Yes  <b>2</b> No  <b>3</b> Do not recall  <b>9</b> Not Ascertained</p>
<p><b>Q08.</b> How would you rate your provider's ability to explain things in a way that was easy to understand?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considers provider communication.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1</b> Excellent  <b>2</b> Very Good  <b>3</b> Good  <b>4</b> Fair  <b>5</b> Poor  <b>9</b> Not Ascertained</p>
<p><b>Q09.</b> How would you rate the ability of the clerks and receptionists at this provider's office to treat you with courtesy and respect?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considers perceived politeness of the office clerks and receptionists.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1</b> Excellent  <b>2</b> Very Good  <b>3</b> Good  <b>4</b> Fair  <b>5</b> Poor  <b>9</b> Not Ascertained</p>
<p><b>Q10.</b> Generally, when you contact this provider's office during regular office hours, how often do you get an answer to your medical question that same day?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considers response time for clinical advice questions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1</b> Never  <b>2</b> Sometimes  <b>3</b> Usually  <b>4</b> Always  <b>9</b> Not Ascertained</p>
<p><b>Q11.</b> What suggestions do you have for how your personal provider's office could improve?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows member to provide comments about any questions asked or any other information they would like to share about their experience.</li> </ul>	<p>Open ended</p>

# STAFF SCRIPT TIPS

Some of the member satisfaction survey questions can be hard to understand or easy to misinterpret if patients are not familiar with certain terms. Here are some helpful talking points and tips to share with staff when informing patients about aspects of their visit or other encounters with the care team. The more that patients hear these terms, the more likely they are to answer survey questions as intended.

- Consider defining different types of visits so that staff can assist patients in scheduling the best type of visit for them.
  - **Well visits** are important to ensure that you are in good health, maintaining wellness and stopping health problems before they occur or before they get worse. Well visits typically occur once a year and are separate from other medical visits related to illness or injury.
  - **Sick visits or illness-related visits** are intended for acute problems or a flare-up of a chronic condition or problem. They generally involve active, short-term medical treatment for a specific illness or injury. They are for non-emergent care issues that can be addressed at the provider's outpatient office or clinic.
  - **Follow-up visits** generally occur after an initial visit for a medical problem or illness or a regular series of check-ins with a provider to manage chronic conditions or recurring issues. Appropriate follow-up can help patients to identify misunderstandings, answer questions, make further assessments and adjust treatments.
- Communicating about how patients will receive their lab or imaging results is key to reducing confusion for members and hopefully cut down on phone calls to your office.
  - Communicate with patients about your office's process for following up about test results.
  - Some patients may not be as accustomed to receiving results electronically through a patient portal. It may be helpful to coach patients about the mode in which they will receive their results.
  - Sample scripting: "You will receive your results within 7 days. If you are signed up for our patient portal, you may not receive a phone call, but your results will be available as soon as they are processed and sent to the portal."
- What is a medical question or clinical advice question?
  - A **medical question** or **clinical advice question** generally asks a provider or care team to provide a diagnosis or interpretation of lab results, medical notes, etc. Patients may ask medical questions about current symptoms, their current treatment regimen or side effects to a medication. A medical question or clinical advice question is **not** a medication refill request or a referral request. Scheduling appointments are not considered medical questions either.

# ACCESS REDESIGN

The quality of access is critical to the health of your patients and the success of your health center. Patients with urgent medical conditions, as well as those with non-urgent conditions, want timely and convenient access to their providers. Improving appointment availability, reducing time spent waiting at your health center, and rapid responses to clinical questions are all part of access. Patient satisfaction, and ultimately provider satisfaction, is enhanced by improving access.

Jefferson Health Plans has developed several tools and guides to assist with customer service and member satisfaction initiatives at your offices. The next few pages include information on the following concepts:

- Access Redesign
- Customer Service Excellence
- Quality Improvement Checklist

			PROJECT GOALS
Third Next Available Appointment (TNAA)		How long do your patients typically wait before receiving an appointment they requested?	Patients are seen within 3 weeks for routine care and within 24 hours for urgent care.
Same Day Appointments		How many appointment slots are actively reserved for same day use? How many patients that request to be seen on the same day are actually seen?	Up to 30% of daily schedule is reserved for same day appointment demand.
Cycle Time		How much time does the patient spend in your office beginning from their initial arrival?	The complete visit is 45 minutes in length with no more than 30 minutes of idle time.
No-Show Rate		How frequently do your patients not show up for their appointments (not including cancellations or rescheduled appointments)?	No-shows make up less than 10-15% of total scheduled appointments.
Provider Capacity Utilized		How many provider appointment slots result in completed visits with patients?	90% of provider's appointment capacity is utilized.
Telephone Availability		What is your standard for responding to clinical advice calls by a provider, during and after hours?	Patients can request clinical advice via telephone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

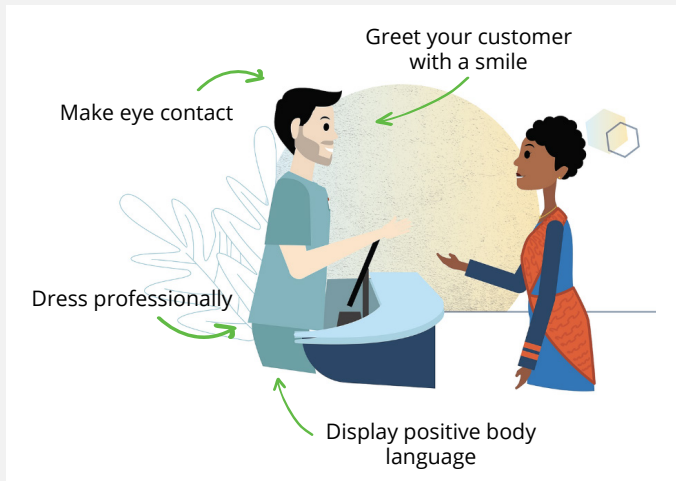
Customer service in health care is often referred to as customer excellence. Service excellence is the ability of health care professionals to consistently meet and manage patient expectations. Excellent customer service needs to be extended to both internal and external customers.



## CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

### BUILD RAPPORT

Rapport is another term for building a genuine connection and a sense of friendliness with another person. Rapport can be established quite quickly, right from the beginning of your interaction.



### CHOOSE YOUR WORDS WISELY

**RESPONSE**  
thought-out, calm, measured

VS.

**RESPONSE**  
quick, abrupt, unprepared

"I understand. Let me find out how I can resolve this for you."

"Are you sure that's what happened?"

**EMPATHY**  
being able to put oneself in another's shoes

VS.

**SYMPATHY**  
agreeing with another's feelings

"I'm sorry you don't feel heard by your doctor. I can provide your anonymous feedback."

"I'm not surprised he said that! I don't like the doctor much either."

### EMPOWER CUSTOMERS TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES



**Give yourself positive self-talk.** "Yes, this is tough, but I'm going to stay calm and solve the problem."

**Take a deep breath.** This isn't personal. Ask, "Can you tell me what happened?"

**Listen actively.** Let your patient talk. If there is off-the-topic rambling, gently redirect the patient back.

**Assume good intent.** You don't know what happened before your patient appeared at the counter. Perhaps they had a really difficult morning.

### UTILIZE EQ

Emotional intelligence (EQ) is the ability to manage one's own emotions, as well as the emotions of others.



Quality Improvement (QI) can be defined as systematic and continuous actions which lead to the enhancement of desired health outcomes. QI initiatives can result in better outcomes for patients, happier staff, and increased efficiency.

## QI METHODOLOGY

### 1 SET THE AIM

*What are you trying to accomplish?*

You can make any needed improvements in your practice by applying the QI methodology.

Project ideas with AIM statements:

- ⊕ **Improve Quality of Care:** Increase percentage of diabetic patients that receive yearly HbA1c testing from 57% to 65% by March 31st.
- ⊕ **Improve Patient Access:** Reduce the no-show rate for clinic patients to 15% by December 1st.
- ⊕ **Improve Preventative Care:** Address 75% of daily gaps in care for patients missing mammograms within six months.
- ⊕ **Improve Patient Satisfaction:** Receive at least 25 completed patient satisfaction surveys per week by the next quarter.

### 2 ESTABLISH MEASURES

*How will you know when a change is an improvement?*

Measures tell you whether the changes actually lead to improvement.



#### Process Measures

Measures that show what providers do to maintain and improve patient health. *Example: Percentage of patients whose hemoglobin A1c level was measured twice in the past year.*



#### Outcome Measures

Measures that show how well a service or intervention influenced the health status of patients. *Example: Average hemoglobin A1C level for population of patients with diabetes.*

### 3 SELECT CHANGES

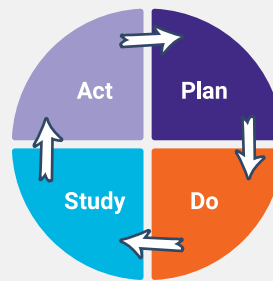
*What changes will result in improvement?*

While all changes do not lead to improvement, all improvement requires change. In this step, you and your team will brainstorm ideas on how to learn more about the process or system you're trying to improve as well as ideas for initial tests of change.



### 4 TEST THE CHANGES

*PLAN-DO-STUDY-ACT Cycles*



**PLAN:** Articulate the details needed to execute the test cycle

**DO:** Carry out the plan and record observations

**STUDY:** Assess the results and what was learned

**ACT:** Make decisions on next steps

*PDCA cycles test one change, are short in duration, look at a small sample size, and are iterative.*

### 5 IMPLEMENT THE CHANGES

*Apply the change to your whole practice*

Take time to celebrate your success before planning the next QI project!

# TIPS FOR IMPROVING QUALITY HEALTH OUTCOMES DURING OFFICE VISITS

Jefferson Health Plans is committed to helping our members maintain and improve physical and mental health outcomes. Please use this checklist as a guide for pre-visit prep or during visits with your patients.

## Did you complete the following assessments during your visit?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Determinants of Health         | <input type="checkbox"/> Depression Screening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Care of Older Adults Measures         | <input type="checkbox"/> Urinary Incontinence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pain Screening                        |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Functional Assessment/Fall Prevention |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medication Review                     |   |

## Is patient due for any of the following vaccines?

- |                                       |                                 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pneumococcal | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoster |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Influenza    | <input type="checkbox"/> COVID  |

## Does patient have any open care gaps?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Care Planning      | <input type="checkbox"/> Blood Pressure Control  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breast Cancer Screening     | <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes Eye Exam – does patient have an eye care professional?                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorectal Cancer Screening | <input type="checkbox"/> Medication Adherence – does patient need refill for chronic conditions or maintenance medication? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A1c Control                 |  |

## Check-out checklist:

- Schedule follow-up visit or annual well visit.
- If your patients have any care coordination issues, please refer to the Jefferson Health Plans Care Coordinators.
- Encourage patient to complete patient satisfaction surveys after the visit. Their feedback is important to help make positive changes for the practice and health plan!
- Remind patients that they may be eligible for rewards from Jefferson Health Plans when they close care gaps.
- Add ICD-10 codes for chronic conditions, CPT2 codes and SDOH ICD-10 codes to visit if applicable.

### Jefferson Health Plans Can Help

If you want to learn more about how using this checklist can help you improve QCP measures, CAHPS and member satisfaction, or HOS (Health Outcomes Survey), contact your Provider Services Representative.

# MORE PROGRAMS AND BENEFITS

Jefferson Health Plans wants to remind you of several programs and benefits available to your patients that may help to increase satisfaction with their provider and plan experience.

## SNAP

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program provides nutrition help to low-income individuals and families. SNAP eligibility is based on income and family size. Patients need to apply for SNAP benefits [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us) or their county assistance office.

## FIND HELP

Jefferson Health Plans encourages providers to use Find Help, an online directory of local resources and support organizations, to help members find the resources they need. Visit [hpp.findhelp.com](http://hpp.findhelp.com) to search for help.

## SILVERSNEAKERS®

All Jefferson Health Plans (Medicare) members have access to the SilverSneakers® fitness center network. With over 16,000 fitness centers and gyms nationwide plus in-person and online classes, or an at-home fitness kit, you're sure to find the right fitness program for you.

## REWARDS & INCENTIVES

The Wellness Rewards program incentivizes Medicare members to complete specific health-related activities in 2024 to earn money on a reloadable card. Please note that our Medicare rewards program is different from our Medicaid/CHIP rewards program.

Providers are encouraged to visit [www.HPPlans.com/rewards](http://www.HPPlans.com/rewards) for a full description of the program.

## TRANSPORTATION BENEFITS

Jefferson Health Plans (Medicare) members who live in Pennsylvania have a transportation benefit. Members can use the benefit for trips to and from doctor's visits, other healthcare appointments, and pharmacies.

- Special (DSNP): Unlimited rides
- Prime: 50 one-way rides
- Complete: 22 one-way rides

*Please note: Members use two rides to go to and from a doctor's visit. The benefit is for one-way, not round trip, rides.*

## BP CUFFS

Blood pressure cuffs allow patients to monitor their blood pressure and report their results based on your direction. As a provider, you can complete and submit a blood pressure cuff referral form when appropriate for Medicare patients. A prescription from a provider is required. Visit [www.HPPlans.com/cuff](http://www.HPPlans.com/cuff) to complete a request form.

## ADVANCED CARE PLANNING

Voluntary ACP is a face-to-face service between the physician and a patient discussing advance directives with or without completing relevant legal forms. Because Medicare pays for ACP, you may be reimbursed for advance care planning services.

Examples of Advance Directives include living wills, instruction directives, healthcare proxy and healthcare power of attorney.

## MEDICATION MANAGEMENT

Jefferson Health Plans has partnered with several vendors and pharmacies that can help support our provider partners with outreach and medication adherence efforts. Our members also have access to pharmacy benefits through their specific health plan. The resource guide can be found on our website at [www.HPPlans.com/MedicareMedAdherence](http://www.HPPlans.com/MedicareMedAdherence).





## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: Where can I find our patient care gaps?**

A: Our provider portal has care gap reports. Visit [www.HPPlans.com/ProviderPortal](http://www.HPPlans.com/ProviderPortal) to learn more.

**Q: Does Jefferson Health Plans provide fitness benefits to Medicare members?**

A: Members of all Jefferson Health Plans (Medicare) plans get access to SilverSneakers®. Members in the Philadelphia region can also opt for membership in the state-of-the-art Salvation Army Kroc Center in place of SilverSneakers®.

**Q: Does Jefferson Health Plans have a rewards program for members?**

A: The Wellness Rewards Program incentivizes Medicare members to complete specific health-related activities in 2024 to earn money on a reloadable card. Please note that our Medicare rewards program is different from our Medicaid/CHIP rewards program.

Providers are encouraged to visit [www.HPPlans.com/rewards](http://www.HPPlans.com/rewards) for a full description of the program.

**Q: How can I order a blood pressure cuff for patients with high blood pressure?**

A: Blood pressure cuffs can allow patients to monitor their blood pressure and report their results based on your direction. As a provider, you can complete and submit a blood pressure cuff referral form when appropriate for Medicare patients. A prescription from a provider is required. To complete a request form, visit [www.HPPlans.com/cuff](http://www.HPPlans.com/cuff).

**Q: Where can I find the latest information from Jefferson Health Plans?**

A: Visit [www.HPPlans.com/ProviderNews](http://www.HPPlans.com/ProviderNews) for the latest updates from Jefferson Health Plans.

Jefferson Health Plans is the marketing name for Health Partners Plans, Inc., and includes the following lines of business: Jefferson Health Plans (Individual and Family Plans; Jefferson Health Plans (Medicare; Health Partners (Medicaid); and KidzPartners (CHIP). If information in a communication pertains to a specific line of business, Jefferson Health Plans will specify within the content.

1-888-991-9023  
1101 Market Street, Suite 3000  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
[JeffersonHealthPlans.com](http://JeffersonHealthPlans.com)