

October 13, 2020

Ms. Joy Burkhard
c/o 2020 Mom
5042 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Dear Ms. Burkhard:

Thank you for your letter detailing the importance of prenatal and postpartum depression screening. We appreciate that your organizations supported the recommendation of Multi-Stakeholder Workgroup to CMS to add the Postpartum Depression Screening and Follow-Up measure to the Core Sets. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) appreciates the importance of maternal mental health and we read with interest the public comments submitted by your organizations to our Annual Core Set Review Workgroup Report. The final report, *Recommendations for Improving the Core Sets of Health Care Quality Measures for Medicaid and CHIP: Summary of a Multi-Stakeholder Review of the 2021 Child and Adult Core Sets* may be found [here](#).

The Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Child Core Set and Adult Core Set contain measures intended to serve as a set which, taken together, can be used to estimate the overall national quality of health care for Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries.^{1, 2} The Core Sets are comprised of quality measures collected at the state level. To be publicly reported, measures must be reported by 25 or more states and the data must meet internal quality standards. These state-level data are then used to calculate national estimates.

CMS is statutorily bound to a process to annually review the measures on the Child and Adult Core Sets.³ The annual Core Set review is designed to identify gaps in the existing Core Sets and suggest updates to strengthen and improve the Core Sets. Your contribution to the public comments in the final report was part of the process. The next three steps of this process include: 1) outreach to state Medicaid programs, because Medicaid is a federal-state partnership. This to determine feasibility of the measures for states to report. 2) The recommendations in the *Final Report*, along with feedback from our state partners, are also discussed internally in CMS and with key Federal partners before updates to the Core Sets are reviewed with Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services (CMCS) leadership. 3) Finally the Annual Core Set Update is published in a Center Informational Bulletin (CIB) by December 31st.

¹ The Child Core Set was established under section SSA 1139A and states began reporting the measures in FFY 2011.

² The Adult Core Set was established under section SSA 1139B and states began voluntarily reporting the measures in FFY 2013.

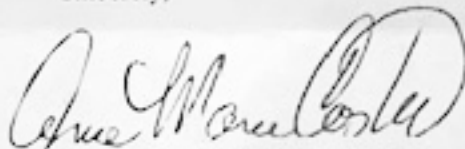
³ https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title11/1139A.htm and https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title11/1139B.htm

The work group **did not** recommend the addition of the prenatal depression measure for the 2021 Core Set.

The Prenatal Depression Screening and Follow-Up was not recommended for inclusion this year, so it will not be added this year.

Thank you for your continued efforts to promote maternal health and we look forward to working with you through our established process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anne Marie Costello". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with the first and last names being more prominent.

Anne Marie Costello
Acting Deputy Administrator and Director