

LOINC® Codes and HEDIS



What is LOINC®?

Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC®)

is a language (set of identifiers, names, and codes) for identifying health measurements, observations, and documents. LOINC® was developed to provide a definitive standard for identifying clinical information in electronic reports.

LOINC® is considered a universal coding system, enabling health care organizations to map (or link) their local codes to LOINC® codes for transmission in clinical messages to payers, regulators, and other health care organizations. These codes describe in detail the test or screening that was performed.



Which HEDIS® measures use LOINC® codes?

The below measures require a LOINC® code 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)
- ✓ Utilization of the PHQ-9 to Monitor Depression Symptoms for Adolescents and Adults (DMS-E)



Why are LOINC® codes important to providers?

NCQA added measures requiring LOINC® to the HEDIS® Electronic Clinical Data Systems (ECDS) reporting to encourage health information exchange, which is 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 health care industry's move to digital measures.

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How are LOINC® codes shared with WellCare of Kentucky?

LOINC® requires electronic submission and **cannot** be added to a medical claim. WellCare of Kentucky uses a supplemental data process to capture LOINC® codes — files that are transmitted directly from EHR systems and through flat files submissions. Without this submission, LOINC® codes are unable to be transmitted.



How can providers help?

Ask your Provider Engagement or Quality Improvement representative for more information on the data sharing process. If you need assistance in identifying your provider representative, please contact us at **KY_PROVIDERRELATIONS@WELLCARE.COM** for assistance.

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 practitioners in caring for their patients. Healthcare practitioners should use their professional judgment in using the information provided.