

Memorandum

To: Gold Coast Health Plan Primary Care Providers

From: Kim Timmerman, MHA, CPHQ
Director of Quality Improvement

Re: **Decline in the Annual Diabetic Nephropathy Screenings**

Date: June 14, 2018

Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP) measures the rate of annual diabetic nephropathy screenings using the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) Comprehensive Diabetes Care (CDC) measure developed by the [National Committee for Quality Assurance](#) (NCQA).

According to the [National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive Kidney Diseases](#), diabetes is the leading cause of chronic kidney disease (CKD) in the United States. Annual nephropathy screenings for patients diagnosed with diabetes mellitus (DM) type 1 and type 2 is essential for monitoring kidney function and for implementing treatment plans to prevent or minimize the progression of kidney disease.

The table below shows that in HEDIS® measurement year 2017, GCHP's diabetic nephropathy screening rate fell to the 10th percentile, according to NCQA's national percentile ranking. The state Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) requires GCHP to meet the 25th percentile as a minimum performance level on this measure.

GCHP's Diabetic Nephropathy Screening Rates for the 2012-2017 Measurement Years

Measurement Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
DM Nephropathy Screening Rate	79.81	78.10	83.70	91.24	89.05	88.08
NCQA National Percentile Rank	50 th	25 th	75 th	90 th	25 th	10th

NCQA recognizes the following clinical documentation as evidence for monitoring diabetic nephropathy during each measurement year:

- A urine test for albumin or protein
- Documentation of a visit to a nephrologist
- Documentation of a renal transplant
- Documentation of ACE/ARBs therapy
- Documentation of medical attention to any of the following:
 - Diabetic nephropathy
 - ESRD
 - Chronic renal failure
 - Chronic kidney disease
 - Renal insufficiency
 - Proteinuria

- Albuminuria
- Renal dysfunction
- Acute renal failure
- Dialysis, hemodialysis, or peritoneal dialysis

Please continue to ensure that your patients who have diabetes receive their annual screenings for diabetic nephropathy by continuing to monitor and maintain their condition, thereby improving the health of GCHP's members and providing high quality care.

[Click here](#) for the tip sheet on appropriate coding for the CDC measure and nephropathy screening.

If you have any questions, please contact GCHP's Quality Improvement Department at hedis@goldchp.org.