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Rhode Island Medicaid Managed Care Program Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island 2024 External Quality Review Annual Technical Report April 2026

**Prepared on behalf of:
The State of Rhode Island
Executive Office of Health and Human Services**

ipro.org

Reference to Medicaid managed care programs and members also includes Children's Health Insurance Program members served under the same managed care programs and contracts.

Per *Title 42 CFR 438.364(a)(7)*, no managed care plan was exempt from the external quality review activities conducted in 2024.

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About This Report

External Quality Review and Annual Technical Report Requirements

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 established that state Medicaid agencies contracting with Medicaid managed care plans provide for an annual external, independent review of the quality outcomes, timeliness of, and access to the services included in the contract between the state agency and the managed care plan. *Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations Section 438.350 External quality review (a) through (f)* sets forth the requirements for the annual external quality review of contracted managed care plans. States are required to contract with an external quality review organization to perform an annual external quality review for each contracted Medicaid managed care plan. The states must further ensure that the external quality review organization has sufficient information to conduct this review, that the information be obtained from external-quality-review-related activities and that the information provided to the external quality review organization be obtained through methods consistent with the protocols established by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Quality, as it pertains to an external quality review, is defined in *Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations 438.320 Definitions* as “the degree to which a managed care plan, PIHP¹, PAHP², or PCCM³ entity increases the likelihood of desired health outcomes of its enrollees through: (1) its structural and operational characteristics. (2) The provision of services that are consistent with current professional, evidence-based knowledge. (3) Interventions for performance improvement.”

Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations 438.364 External quality review results (a) through (d) requires that the annual external quality review be summarized in a detailed technical report that aggregates, analyzes, and evaluates information on the quality of, timeliness of, and access to health care services that managed care plans furnish to Medicaid recipients. The report must also contain an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the managed care plans with respect to health care quality, timeliness, and access, as well as recommendations for improvement.

To comply with *Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations Section 438.364 External quality review results (a) through (d)* and *Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations 438.358 Activities related to external quality review*, the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services contracted Island Peer Review Organization, Inc. (doing business as IPRO), an external quality review organization, to conduct the external quality review of the managed care plans that were part of Rhode Island’s Medicaid managed care program in 2024. This report summarizes the 2024 external quality review results for Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island.

It is important to note that the provision of health care services to each of the applicable Medicaid eligibility groups (Rlte Care Core, Rlte Care for Children in Substitute Care, Rlte Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs, Rhody Health Expansion, and Rhody Health Partners) are evaluated in this report.

2024 External Quality Review

This external quality review technical report focuses on four federally required activities (validation of performance improvement projects⁴, validation of performance measures, review of compliance Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program standards, and validation of network adequacy) and one optional activity (validation of quality-of-care survey) that were conducted for measurement year 2024 (January 1, 2024-December 31, 2024). IPRO’s

¹ Prepaid inpatient health plan.

² Prepaid ambulatory health plan.

³ Primary care case management.

⁴ Rhode Island refers to performance improvement projects as quality improvement projects, and the term quality improvement project will be used in the remainder of this report.

external quality review methodologies for these activities follow the *CMS External Quality Review (EQR) Protocols*⁵ published in February 2023. The external quality review activities and corresponding protocols are described in **Table 1**.

Table 1: External Quality Review Activity Descriptions and Applicable Protocols

External Quality Review Activity	External Quality Review Protocol	Activity Description
Activity 1. Validation of Performance Improvement Projects (Required)	Protocol 1	IPRO reviewed managed care plan quality improvement projects to validate that the design, implementation, and reporting aligned with Protocol 1, promoted improvements in care and services, and provided evidence to support the validity and reliability of reported improvements.
Activity 2. Validation of Performance Measures (Required)	Protocol 2	IPRO reviewed the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS ^{®6}) audit results provided by the managed care plans' National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)-certified HEDIS compliance auditors and reported rates to validate that performance measures were calculated according to the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services' specifications.
Activity 3. Review of Compliance with Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program Standards (Required)	Protocol 3	IPRO reviewed the results of evaluations performed by NCQA, as part of the Accreditation Survey, of Medicaid managed care plan compliance with Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program standards. Specifically, this review assessed managed care plan compliance with standards under <i>Code of Federal Regulations Part 438 – Managed Care</i> .
Activity 4. Validation of Network Adequacy (Required)	Protocol 4	IPRO evaluated the managed care plan data collection methodologies and results to determine managed care plan adherence to the network standards outlined in the <i>Medicaid Managed Care Services Agreement</i> , as well as managed care plan ability to provide an adequate provider network to its Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program populations.
Activity 6. Validation of Quality-of-Care Surveys (Optional)	Protocol 6	IPRO reviewed managed care plan member satisfaction survey reports to validate that the methodology aligned with the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services' requirement to utilize the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS ^{®7}) tool. IPRO also reviewed managed care plan provider satisfaction survey reports to verify the validity and reliability of the results and to ensure that the survey was conducted in alignment with the <i>Medicaid Managed Care Services Agreement</i> .

The results of IPRO's external quality review are reported under each activity section.

⁵ The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services External Quality Review Protocols website: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/downloads/2023-eqr-protocols.pdf>.

⁶ HEDIS is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

⁷ CAHPS is a registered trademark of the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ).

Rhode Island Medicaid Managed Care Program

The Rhode Island Medicaid Managed Care Program

The State of Rhode Island was granted a Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver⁸ from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in 1993 to develop and implement a mandatory Medicaid managed care program. Rite Care, Rhode Island’s Medicaid managed care program began enrollment in 1994. Since 1994, the Rhode Island Medicaid managed care program has evolved and expanded to meet the health care needs of Rhode Islanders.

In 2015, the *Working Group to Reinvent Medicaid* was established because of an executive order issued by the Governor of Rhode Island and later codified by the Reinventing Medicaid Act of 2015⁹. The Reinventing Medicaid Act required the *Working Group to Reinvent Medicaid* to identify progressive, sustainable savings initiatives to transform Rhode Island’s Medicaid program to pay for better outcomes, better coordination, and higher-quality care, instead of more volume. The *Working Group to Reinvent Medicaid* established these four guiding principles the Rhode Island Medicaid managed care program:

1. Pay for value, not volume.
2. Coordinate physical, behavioral, and long-term health care.
3. Rebalance the delivery system away from high-cost settings.
4. Promote efficiency, transparency, and flexibility.

Further, Rhode Island’s vision for its Medicaid managed care program as expressed by the *Working Group to Reinvent Medicaid*, “calls for a reinvented Medicaid in which managed care plans contract with integrated provider organizations called accountable entities that will be responsible for the total cost of care and health care quality and outcomes of the attributed population.” Accountable entities represent interdisciplinary partnerships between providers with strong foundations in primary care that also work to address services outside of the traditional medical model which includes behavioral health and social support services.

The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services currently offers a variety of managed care plans to coordinate the provision, quality, and payment of care for its enrolled members. The Rhode Island Medicaid managed care program covers acute care, primary and specialty care, pharmacy, and behavioral health services through contracts with three managed care plans: **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island**, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Rhode Island, and Tufts Health Public Plans; and one managed dental health plan: UnitedHealthcare Dental. **Table 2** displays a summary of the Medicaid managed care programs and participating managed care plans that were available to Rhode Islanders in 2024.

⁸ Section 1115 of the Social Security Act allows for “demonstration projects” to be implemented in states to effect changes beyond routine medical care and focus on evidence-based interventions to improve the quality of care and health outcomes for members. Medicaid.gov About 1115 Demonstrations website:

<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demonstrations/about-section-1115-demonstrations/index.html>.

⁹ Title 42 State Affairs and Government Chapter 7.2 Office of Health and Human Services 16.1 Reinventing Medicaid Act of 2015 website: <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE42/42-7.2/42-7.2-16.1.htm>.

Table 2: Rhode Island Medicaid Managed Care Programs

Program	Program Description	Participating Managed Care Plans
Rlte Care Core	A Medicaid managed care plan for children and families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island ▪ Tufts Public Health Plan ▪ UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Rhode Island
Rlte Care for Children in Substitute Care	A Medicaid managed care plan for children in legal custody of the State Department of Children, Youth and Families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island
Rlte Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs	A Medicaid managed care plan for children with a disability or chronic condition who qualify for supplemental security income, Katie Beckett or adoption subsidy through the Department of Children, Youth, and Families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island ▪ Tufts Public Health Plan ▪ UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Rhode Island
Rhody Health Expansion	A Medicaid managed care plan for low-income adults aged 19-64 years with no dependent children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island ▪ Tufts Public Health Plan ▪ UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Rhode Island
Rhody Health Partners	A Medicaid managed care plan for eligible adults with disabilities who are 21 years or older.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island ▪ Tufts Public Health Plan ▪ UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Rhode Island
Rite Smiles	A dental managed care plan for children enrolled in Medicaid and born on or after May 1, 2000.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UnitedHealthcare Dental

The provision of health care services to each of the applicable eligibility groups (Rlte Care Core, Rlte Care for Children in Substitute Care, Rlte Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs, Rhody Health Expansion, and Rhody Health Partners) are evaluated in this report.

Rhode Island Medicaid Quality Strategy, 2022-2025

The Rhode Island Medicaid quality strategy is a framework for managed care plans on how to improve quality, timeliness, and access to care for Medicaid managed care enrollees; and is utilized by the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services as a tool to support the alignment of state and managed care plan Medicaid initiatives, identification of opportunities for improvement, and cost reduction. The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services performs periodic reviews of the Medicaid quality strategy to determine the need for revision and to ensure managed care plans are compliant with regulatory standards and have committed adequate resources to perform internal monitoring and ongoing quality improvement. The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services updates the Medicaid quality strategy as needed, but no less than once every three years.

Rhode Island's 2022-2025 Medicaid Managed Care Quality Strategy¹⁰ aligns with the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services' commitment to facilitating the creation of partnerships using accountable delivery models that integrate medical care, mental health, substance abuse disorders, community health, social services and long-term services, supported by innovative payment and care delivery models that establish shared financial accountability across all partners, with a demonstrated approach to continue to grow and develop the model of integration and accountability.

Goals and objectives for the Rhode Island Medicaid program outlined in the 2022-2025 quality strategy evolved from the guiding principles established by *Working Group to Reinvent Medicaid*. To support achievement of the Medicaid managed care quality strategy goals and to ensure Rhode Island Medicaid recipients have access to the highest quality of health care, the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services adopts objectives and initiatives to help all parties focus on interventions most likely to result in progress towards the goals of the quality strategy. Goals and objectives of the 2022-2025 Medicaid quality strategy are in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Rhode Island Medicaid Quality Strategy Goals and Objectives, 2022-2025

Rhode Island Medicaid Managed Care Quality Strategy Goals and Objectives
Goal 1: Members receive quality care within all managed care delivery systems.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 1.1 Continue to work with managed care entities and the external quality review organization to collect, analyze, compare, and share clinical performance and member experience across plans and programs.▪ 1.2 Collaborate with managed care organizations, accountable entities, Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner, and other stakeholders to review and modify measures used in Medicaid managed care quality oversight.▪ 1.3 Monitor managed care organization performance for dual-eligible Medicare-Medicaid population.
Goal 2: Focus on quality performance and improvement in the following key areas: chronic disease management, maternal/infant health, preventive care for children, preventive care for adults, and behavioral health.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 2.1 Continue oversight of managed care organizations and accountable entities to increase timely preventive care, screening, and follow-up for adult and child health.▪ 2.2 Monitor and assess managed care organization and accountable entity performance improvement on quality measures related to chronic conditions.▪ 2.3 Increase the use of prenatal and postpartum services.▪ 2.4 Increase the number and percentage of well-child visits.

¹⁰ Rhode Island Medicaid Managed Care Quality Strategy Website:

<https://eohhs.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur226/files/2023-03/RI%20Managed%20Care%20Quality%20Strategy%20CMS%20Initial%20Submission%202022-08-31.pdf>.

Rhode Island Medicaid Managed Care Quality Strategy Goals and Objectives

- **2.5** Monitor child immunization rates to maintain high performance.
- **2.6** Increase engagement, treatment, and follow-up care for substance abuse.

Goal 3: Improve care and service coordination and management, with focus on coordination of services among medical, behavioral, dental and specialty services providers.

- **3.1** Increase availability of coordinated primary care and behavioral health services.
- **3.2** Improve integration with medical managed care organizations and Rite Smiles (UnitedHealthcare Dental).

Goal 4: Enhance financial and data analytic oversight of managed care organizations.

- **4.1** Ensure timely, complete, and correct encounter data within the 98% acceptance threshold.
- **4.2** Migrate to value-based payment programs based on quality measures and managed care organization quality improvement projects.

Goal 5: Increase health equity by improving capabilities to collect and analyze data related to social determinants of health, including race, ethnicity, and language data.

- **5.1** Implementation of race, ethnicity, and language data collection process to identify gaps in care.
- **5.2** Require managed care organizations to provide strategic plans to address social determinants of health, including organizational strategy and stakeholder strategy to improve care delivery model.
- **5.3** Assess quality measures that could be stratified by race, ethnicity, and language.

Goal 6: Empower members to make informed choices about their health plans and care.

- **6.1** Continue to require managed care organizations to conduct CAHPS surveys and share survey results with stakeholders.
- **6.2** Develop person-centered goals for managed care entities. Consider ways to increase development and implementation of individual care plans for members.

The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services has further identified measures to track progress towards the six goals listed above. These measures were selected from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ Child and Adult Core Set Measures and CAHPS. **Table 4** presents a summary of the state’s Medicaid quality strategy measurement plan, including measure names, populations included in the calculation of the rates, baseline data, remeasurement data, and an assessment of performance between measurement year 2023 and measurement year 2024. Unless indicated otherwise, baseline measurements are from measurement year 2020 (January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020).

Symbol Key For Table 4

Symbol	Meaning
▲ (Green Upward Triangle)	Performance Improved
▼ (Red Downward Triangle)	Performance Declined
● (Blue Circle)	No Change
— (Black Dash)	Cannot Compare

Table 4: Rhode Island Medicaid Quality Strategy Goals and Measures, 2022-2025

Goal	Measure (Population)	Baseline Measurement Year 2020	Measurement Year 2023	Measurement Year 2024	2023 to 2024 Performance Assessment
Goal 1: Members receive quality care within all managed care delivery systems.	Long-Stay, High-Risk Nursing Facility Residents with Pressure Ulcers (<i>Lower rate indicates better performance.</i>) (Medicaid)	8.6%	8.5%	Removed in 2024	—
	Care for Older Adults: Functional Status Assessment (Medicaid)	58.8%	88.8%	92.4%	▲
Goal 2: Focus on quality performance and improvement in the following key areas: Chronic Disease Management, Maternal/Infant Health, Preventive Care for Children, Preventive Care for Adults, and Behavioral Health	Breast Cancer Screening (Medicaid)	65.0%	64.38%	63.99%	▼
	Cervical Cancer Screening (Medicaid)	59.6%	66.09%	63.41%	▼
	Screening for Depression and Follow-Up Plan, Ages 12-17 Years (Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)	Not Available	8.24%	7.60%	▼
	Comprehensive Diabetes Care: Hemoglobin A1c Testing ¹ (Medicaid)	82.2%	Not Available	Not Available	—
	Comprehensive Diabetes Care: Hemoglobin A1c Poor Control ¹ (<i>Lower rate indicates better performance.</i>) (Medicaid)	33.2%	27.03%	28.85%	▼
	Controlling High Blood Pressure (Medicaid)	70.7%	73.86%	74.06%	▲
	Asthma Medication Ratio, Ages 5-18 Years (Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)	65.6%	57.59%	Not Available	—
	Asthma Medication Ratio, Ages 19-64 Years (Medicaid)	53.7%	52.95%	Not Available	—
	Prenatal and Postpartum Care – Timeliness of Prenatal Care, Ages 21 Years and Older (Medicaid)	Not Available	93.4%	85.6%	▼
	Prenatal and Postpartum Care – Timeliness of Prenatal Care, Ages Under 21 Years (Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)	Not Available	83.6%	83.3%	▼
	Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits, Ages 3-21 Years	Not Available	61.20%	62.85%	▲

Goal	Measure (Population)	Baseline Measurement Year 2020	Measurement Year 2023	Measurement Year 2024	2023 to 2024 Performance Assessment
	(Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)				
	Childhood Immunization Status – Combination 10 (Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)	61.0% ²	52.29%	49.82%	▼
	Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence Treatment – Initiation, Ages 18 Years and Older (Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)	44.8%	40.70%	39.99%	▼
	Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence Treatment – Engagement, Ages 18 Years and Older (Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)	17.9%	14.92%	15.83%	▲
	Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence – 7 Days, Ages 13-17 Years (Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)	Not Available	25.33%	36.00%	▲
	Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence – 30 Days, Ages 13-17 to Years (Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)	Not Available	49.33%	52.00%	▲
	Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence – 7 Days, Ages 18 Years and Older (Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)	12.7%	32.61%	32.90%	▲
	Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse or Dependence – 30 Days, Ages 18 Years and Older (Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)	23.8%	48.25%	48.86%	▲
Goal 3: Improve care and service coordination and management, with focus on coordination of services among medical, behavioral, dental and specialty services providers.	Follow-Up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness – 7 Days, Ages 6-17 Years (Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)	56.8%	59.73%	63.29%	▲
	Follow-Up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness – 30 Days, Ages 6-17 Years (Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)	76.6%	77.51%	82.28%	▲
	Follow-Up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness – 7 Days, Ages 18-64 Years (Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)	57.2%	59.73%	48.94%	▼

Goal	Measure (Population)	Baseline Measurement Year 2020	Measurement Year 2023	Measurement Year 2024	2023 to 2024 Performance Assessment
	Follow-Up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness – 30 Days, Ages 18-64 Years (Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)	71.7%	77.51%	69.26%	▼
	Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Mental Illness – 7 Days, Ages 6-17 Years (Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)	Not Available	57.89%	47.23%	▼
	Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Mental Illness – 30 Days, Ages 6-17 Years (Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)	Not Available	74.58%	68.34%	▼
	Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Mental Illness – 7 Days, Ages 18-64 Years (Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)	64.6%	57.89%	48.57%	▼
	Follow-Up After Emergency Department Visit for Mental Illness – 30 Days, Ages 18-64 Years (Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)	74.8%	74.58%	64.38%	▼
	Medical Assistance with Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation – Advised to Quit (Medicaid)	80.7%	Not Available ³	Not Available ³	—
	Medical Assistance with Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation – Discussed or Recommended Cessation Medications (Medicaid)	67.0%	Not Available ³	Not Available ³	—
	Medical Assistance with Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation – Discussed or Recommended Cessation Strategies (Medicaid)	59.9%	Not Available ³	Not Available ³	—
	Percentage Diagnosed with Major Depression Who Were Treated with and Remained on Antidepressant Medication – Acute Phase, Ages 18-64 Years (Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)	58.9%	61.32%	60.40%	▼
	Percentage Diagnosed with Major Depression Who Were Treated with and Remained on Antidepressant Medication – Continuation Phase, Ages 18-64 Years	44.0%	43.66%	44.05%	▲

Goal	Measure (Population)	Baseline Measurement Year 2020	Measurement Year 2023	Measurement Year 2024	2023 to 2024 Performance Assessment
	(Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)				
	Topical Fluoride for Children – Dental Services or Oral Health Services (Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)	Not Available	8.81%	18.71%	▲
	Topical Fluoride for Children – Dental Services (Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)	Not Available	17.53%	18.71%	▲
	Topical Fluoride for Children – Oral Health Services (Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program)	Not Available	0.00%	0.00%	●
Goal 4: Enhance financial & data analytic oversight of managed care organizations.					
Goal 5: Increase health equity by improving capabilities to collect and analyze data related to social determinants of health, including race, ethnicity, and language data.					
Goal 6: Empower members to make informed choices about their health plans and care.	Adult CAHPS 5.1H (Medicaid)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	—

¹ NCQA retired components of the HEDIS Comprehensive Diabetes Care measure set and implemented new technical specifications for the continuing components beginning with measurement year 2022.

² Rates represents measurement year 2021.

³ Statewide measurement year 2023 performance for the Medical Assistance with Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation measures will be calculated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services using CAHPS data submitted by Rhode Island managed care plans to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality’s CAHPS Health Plan Survey Database. At the time of this report, statewide results were not available for inclusion.

Descriptions of the improvement strategies led by the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services to achieve the goals of its 2022-2025 Medicaid Managed Care Quality Strategy are described below.

Accountable Entity Program

Rhode Island contends that a core part of the Medicaid quality strategy is the integration of accountable entities into the Medicaid managed care delivery system. Accountable entities represent interdisciplinary partnerships between providers with strong foundations in primary care that also work to address services outside of the traditional medical model which includes behavioral health and social support services. Rhode Island's Accountable Entity Program seeks to achieve the following goals for Medicaid managed care: transition Medicaid from fee-for-service to value-based purchasing at the provider level; focus on total cost of care; create population-based accountability for an attributed population; build interdisciplinary care capacity that extends beyond traditional health care providers; deploy new forms of organization to create shared incentives across a common enterprise; and apply emerging data capabilities to refine and enhance care management, pathways, coordination, and timely responsiveness to emergent needs.

Rhode Island accountable entity certification standards ensure that qualified accountable entities either have or are developing the capacity and authority to integrate and manage the full continuum of physical and behavioral health care, from preventive services to hospital-based services and to long term services and supports and nursing home care. These entities must also demonstrate their capacity and authority to address members' social determinants of health in a way that is acceptable to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services.

Accountable entity quality performance is measured and reported by the managed care plans to the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services according to the "Medicaid Comprehensive Accountable Entity Common Measure Slate." Measures in the "Medicaid Comprehensive Accountable Entity Common Measure Slate" are used to inform the distribution of shared savings. **Table 5** displays the measures included in the "Medicaid Comprehensive Accountable Entity Common Measure Slate" for 2024, as well as the measure steward and reporting category.

Table 5: Medicaid Comprehensive Accountable Entity Common Measure Slate, Performance Year 2024

Measure	Steward	Category
Breast Cancer Screening	NCQA	P4P
Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits, Total	NCQA	P4P
Chlamydia Screening	NCQA	Reporting-only
Colorectal Cancer Screening	NCQA	Reporting-only
Controlling High Blood Pressure	NCQA	P4P
Eye Exam for Patients With Diabetes	NCQA	P4P
Follow-Up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness – 7 Days	NCQA	P4P
Glycemic Status Assessment for Patients with Diabetes (<8.0%)	NCQA	P4P
Immunizations for Adolescents (Combination 2)	NCQA	Reporting-only
Lead Screening in Children	NCQA	P4P
Developmental Screening in the First Three Years of Life	Oregon Health & Science University	Reporting-only
Screening for Depression and Follow-up Plan	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services	P4P
Patient Engagement With an Accountable Entity Primary Care Provider	Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services	Reporting-only
Social Determinants of Health Screening	Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services	P4P

P4P status indicates that an accountable entity’s performance on the measure will influence the distribution of any shared savings. **Reporting-only** indicates that measure performance must be reported to the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services for state monitoring purposes, but that there are no shared savings distribution consequences for reporting of or performance on the measure.

For performance year 2024, the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services employed a combination of internal and external sources to set achievement targets. The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services set targets for performance year 2024 using accountable entity performance data for 2021, national and New England Medicaid health maintenance organization data from NCQA’s *Quality Compass 2022* (measurement year 2021), and national and Rhode Island data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ *2021 Child and Adult Health Care Quality Measures Report*. **Table 6** displays the performance year 2024 measures and achievement targets.

Table 6: Accountable Entity ‘P4P’ Measure Targets, Performance Year 2024

Measure	Threshold Target	High-Performance Target
Breast Cancer Screening	58%	65%
Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits, Total	52%	61%
Controlling High Blood Pressure	65%	72%
Eye Exam for Patients With Diabetes	56%	71%
Follow-Up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness – 7 Days	49%	53%
Glycemic Status Assessment for Patients with Diabetes (<8.0%)	52%	60%
Lead Screening in Children	67%	79%
Screening for Depression and Follow-up Plan	50%	61%
Social Determinants of Health Screening	42%	59%

Accountable entity rates for ‘P4P’ measures are presented in the **Validation of Performance Measures – Technical Summary** section of this report.

Alternative Payment Models

Transformation to a value-based health care delivery system is a fundamental policy goal for the State of Rhode Island. A fundamental element of the transition to alternative payment models, is a focus on quality-of-care processes and outcomes. Rhode Island Medicaid managed care plans enter alternative payment model arrangements with certified accountable entities, as required by the *Medicaid Managed Care Services Agreement*, and follow the agreement terms of setting targets for payments to providers. Payments are made utilizing a Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services-approved Alternative Payment Methodology.

An Alternative Payment Methodology means a payment methodology structured such that it provides economic incentives, rather than focusing on volume of services provided, focus upon such key areas as:

- Improving quality of care;
- Improving population health;
- Impacting cost of care and/or cost of care growth;
- Improving patient experience and engagement; and/or
- Improving access to care.

The Rhode Island Medicaid agreement includes defined targets for managed care plan implementation of contracts with alternative payment arrangements. Targets for alternative payment arrangements are:

- July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020 – At least 50% of managed care plan payments to providers are made through an Alternative Payment Methodology, or the percent of managed care payments to providers made through an Alternative Payment Methodology is 5% higher than the percent required for the previous period.
- July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021 – At least 60% of managed care plan payments to providers are made through an Alternative Payment Methodology, or the percent of managed care payments to providers made through an Alternative Payment Methodology is 5% higher than the percent required for the previous period.
- July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022 – At least 65% of managed care plan payments to providers are made through an Alternative Payment Methodology, or the percent of managed care payments to providers made through an Alternative Payment Methodology is 10% higher than the percent required for the previous period.

- July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023 – At least 65% of managed care plan payments to providers are made through an Alternative Payment Methodology, or the percent of managed care payments to providers made through an Alternative Payment Methodology is 10% higher than the percent required for the previous period.
- July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024 – At least 65% of managed care plan payments to providers are made through an Alternative Payment Methodology, or the percent of managed care payments to providers made through an Alternative Payment Methodology is 10% higher than the percent required for the previous period.

Table 7 displays the Alternative Payment Results for the July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 measurement period. **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island** and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Rhode Island exceeded the 65% goal. Tufts Health Public Plans did not meet the goal.

Table 7: Alternative Payment Results, Measurement Year July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

Managed Care Plan	July 2023-June 2024 Measurement Period	Goal	Goal Met or Not Met
Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island	87.50%	65%	Met
Tufts Health Public Plans	20.81%		Not Met
UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Rhode Island	73.08%		Met

Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment

Early periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment is key to ensuring that children and adolescents receive appropriate preventive, dental, mental health, and developmental, and specialty services. As part of its oversight program of managed care plans, the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services monitors provision of early periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment to Medicaid managed care members. Medicaid beneficiaries under age 21 are entitled to early periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment services, whether they are enrolled in a Medicaid managed care plan or receive services in a fee-for-service delivery system. The Rhode Island-specific *Annual EPSDT Participation Report*, produced by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, is used by the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services to monitor trends over time, differences across managed care plans, and to compare Rhode Island to other states. The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services shares the *Annual EPSDT Participation Report* with the managed care plans to discuss opportunities for improvement and modifications to existing early periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment approaches, as necessary.

Patient Centered Medical Homes

A patient-centered medical home provides and coordinates the provision of comprehensive and continuous medical care and required support services to patients with the goals of improving access to needed care and maximizing outcomes. To be recognized as a patient-centered medical home, a practice must meet the three-part definition established by the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner, which requires demonstration of practice transformation, implementation of cost management initiatives, and clinical improvement.

The *Medicaid Managed Care Services Agreement* includes defined performance targets for managed care plan assignment of members to patient-centered medical homes. Targets for member linkage to a patient-centered medical home are:

- June 30, 2020 – At least 55% of the managed care plan’s membership is linked to a patient-centered medical home.

- June 30, 2021 – At least 60% of the managed care plan’s membership is linked to a patient-centered medical home.
- June 30, 2022 – At least 60% of the managed care plan’s membership is linked to a patient-centered medical home.
- June 30, 2023 – At least 60% of the managed care plan’s membership is linked to a patient-centered medical home.
- June 30, 2024 – At least 60% of the managed care plan’s membership is linked to a patient-centered medical home.

Table 8 displays the percentage of the managed care plans’ patient-centered medical home assignments as of June 30, 2024 **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island**, Tufts Health Public Plans, and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Rhode Island exceeded the 60% goal.

Table 8: Patient-Centered Medical Home Assignments, as of June 30, 2024

Managed Care Plan	July 2023-June 2024 Measurement Period	Goal	Goal Met or Not Met
Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island	87.35%	60%	Met
Tufts Health Public Plans	60.17%		Met
UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Rhode Island	89.71%		Met

NCQA Accreditation

Rhode Island health maintenance organizations are required to obtain and maintain NCQA accreditation and to promptly share accreditation review results and notify the state of any changes in accreditation status. The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services reviews and acts on changes in managed care plan accreditation status and has set a performance “floor” to ensure that any denial of accreditation by NCQA is considered cause for termination of the *Medicaid Managed Care Services Agreement*. In addition, managed care plan achievement of no greater than a provisional accreditation status by NCQA requires the managed care plan to submit a corrective action plan within 30 days of the managed care plan’s receipt of its final report from the NCQA.

NCQA accreditation results and plan ratings are presented in the **Accreditation – Technical Summary** section of this report.

Health Information Technology

The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, in cooperation with stakeholders across state agencies and community partners, developed the *Health Information Technology Roadmap and Implementation Plan*¹¹ (released July 2020) to promote alignment among existing efforts and guide future investments in health information technology. The *Health Information Technology Roadmap and Implementation Plan* reflects needs and opportunities to improve the quality of Rhode Island healthcare services, lower costs, reduce provider burden, and better serve the people of Rhode Island. The goals, objectives, and approved interventions of the *Health Information Technology Roadmap and Implementation Plan* were determined by the Steering Committee with consideration of the following core values:

1. health information technology is an enabler of broader health transformation efforts;
2. a race equity lens must be applied to efforts in order to reduce health disparities; and
3. patients are key and must be considered with all initiatives.

¹¹ Rhode Island Health Information Technology website: <https://eohhs.ri.gov/initiatives/health-information-technology>.

Current initiatives of the *Health Information Technology Roadmap and Implementation Plan* are:

- Developing a new governance and coordination process to ensure statewide alignment.
- Adopting an e-referral system to help address social determinants of health.
- Improving and enhancing CurrentCare^{®12}, including a new opt-out consent policy to increase use.
- Accessing and increasing data availability and sharing, including key demographic data such as race and ethnicity needed to address health disparities.
- Enhancing behavioral health records-sharing through aligned interpretation of regulations and stakeholder convening.
- Continuing work to improve information sharing during transitions of care, such as between hospitals, primary care practices, and skilled nursing facilities.
- Continuing the development of the Quality Reporting System.

Quality Reporting System

The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services implemented the Quality Reporting System, a centralized data system, to encourage the automation of electronic clinical quality measurement and reporting. Data are collected directly from electronic health records or claims systems, aggregated and matched at the patient-level, and used to calculate quality measures and share improvement data among participants. The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services successfully connected over 40 Medicaid primary care providers' electronic health system to the Quality Reporting System in September 2021 and achieved Data Aggregator Validation NCQA-certification in February 2022 for the majority of data submitters. The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services in coordination with Project Governance will determine which data feeds will undergo data aggregator validation, starting with the accountable entity providers in 2025 and expanding year to year.

IPRO's Assessment of the Rhode Island Medicaid Quality Strategy

Rhode Island's Medicaid Managed Care Quality Strategy provides a comprehensive framework to guide managed care entities in improving the quality of care, timeliness of care, and access to care for Medicaid members. In addition to required external quality review activities, the quality strategy incorporates state- and managed care entity-level initiatives that strengthen monitoring, reporting, and accountability across the Medicaid delivery system.

The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services designed the quality strategy to align with the National Quality Strategy established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The strategy emphasizes promoting equity and member engagement, improving quality and health outcomes, facilitating statewide alignment and care coordination, and advancing a health care system that is increasingly electronic and data-driven. Key initiatives reinforce standardized approaches to identifying and addressing social determinants of health, expanding the use of Child and Adult Core Set quality measures, and leveraging partnerships to advance quality improvement activities.

This assessment evaluates Rhode Island Medicaid's progress between measurement year 2023 and measurement year 2024 across three of the six quality strategy goals. Overall, performance during this period reflects incremental improvement in several care coordination, behavioral health, and chronic disease management measures, alongside continued challenges in preventive care, pediatric measures, and medication adherence. While some

¹² CurrentCare is a registered trademark of the Rhode Island Quality Institute. CurrentCare is a free service that gives medical professionals and patients access to protected health information, such as prescriptions, lab tests and hospital visits, from multiple sources in one secure place.

indicators demonstrate positive momentum, declines in key preventive and pediatric metrics highlight ongoing opportunities for targeted intervention.

Goal 1: Members receive quality care within all managed care delivery systems.

The largest improvement was seen in functional status assessments for older adults. Completion rates increased from 58.8% in 2020 to 92.4% in 2024—an increase of 33.6 percentage points. This suggests that care facilities are more consistently evaluating residents’ functional abilities.

Goal 2: Focus on quality performance and improvement in the following key areas: chronic disease management, maternal/infant health, preventive care for children, preventive care for adults, and behavioral health.

Rhode Island Medicaid demonstrated varied performance across Goal 2 measures, with notable improvements in several chronic disease and substance use–related metrics, alongside declines in preventive and pediatric care.

Strengths and Improvements

- Chronic disease management:
 - Controlling high blood pressure increased modestly.
 - Poor blood sugar control among adults with diabetes continued to decline, indicating improved diabetes management.
- Maternal health:
 - Timeliness of prenatal care remained high, indicating effective access to early prenatal services.
- Substance use treatment and follow-up:
 - Follow-up after emergency department visits for alcohol or other drug abuse or dependence improved for adults and adolescents.
 - Improvements were observed for both seven-day and thirty-day follow-up.

Opportunities for Improvement

- Preventive care:
 - Breast cancer screening declined slightly.
 - Cervical cancer screening declined more notably.
- Pediatric care:
 - Childhood immunization rates continued to decline.
 - Screening for depression and follow-up planning among adolescents decreased slightly.
- Asthma medication management:
 - Declines observed across pediatric and adult populations.

Goal 3: Improve care and service coordination and management, with a focus on coordination of services among medical, behavioral, dental, and specialty services providers.

Strengths and Improvements

- Follow-up after hospitalization for mental illness:
 - Improved for children, adolescents, and adults.
 - Thirty-day (30) follow-up rates exceeded 82 percent for pediatric populations and 77 percent for adults.
- Depression treatment:
 - Acute-phase antidepressant treatment adherence improved.

Opportunities for Improvement

- Follow-up after emergency department visits for mental illness:
 - Declines observed, particularly among adolescents, for both seven-day and thirty-day follow-up.
- Long-term antidepressant treatment:
 - Slight decline in continuation-phase adherence.
- Data limitations:
 - Incomplete data for dental services and tobacco cessation limited comprehensive assessment.
- Overall finding:
 - Strong inpatient-to-outpatient coordination, with weaker linkage following emergency department encounters.

Rhode Island Medicaid demonstrated modest progress in selected priority areas, including chronic disease management, follow-up after hospitalization for mental illness, and follow-up after emergency department visits related to substance use. These gains indicate strengthening care coordination and targeted improvement efforts. At the same time, continued declines in preventive care, childhood immunizations, asthma medication management, and follow-up after emergency department visits for mental illness highlight persistent gaps. Overall, performance reflects maintenance of prior gains with incremental improvement in some areas, while underscoring the need for focused interventions, improved care transitions following emergency department use, and sustained attention to preventive and pediatric services to advance the effectiveness of the quality strategy.

Recommendations to the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services

- Reinforce quality improvement project requirements to the managed care plans.
- Enforce standardized data collection and analysis requirements for managed care plan provider experience surveys to enable performance comparisons across managed care plans.
- Require managed care plans to submit methodologies used to evaluate network adequacy and provider experience to ensure the external quality review organization has sufficient information for validation activities.
- Determine secret shopper timely appointment thresholds to encourage managed care plans to aggressively address barriers to accessing care that is adequate and timely.
- Expand reporting requirements for managed care plan administered secret shopper surveys to include failure reasons like wrong telephone number, no answer, provider no longer at site, etc.
- Identify opportunities to support the expansion of telehealth capabilities and member access to telehealth services across the state.

Medicaid Managed Care Plan Profile

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island is a not-for-profit health maintenance organization. **Table 9** displays Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s enrollment for year-end 2020 through year-end 2024, as well as the percent change in enrollment each year, according to data reported to the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services. The data presented here may differ from those in prior reports as enrollment counts will vary based on the point in time in which the data were abstracted. Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s enrollment decreased by 11% from 197,391 members in 2023 to 176,385 members in 2024.

Table 9: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Medicaid Enrollment, 2019 to 2024

Eligibility Group	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Rlte Care Core	100,594	104,886	110,003	116,938	104,243
Rlte Care for Children in Substitute Care	2,879	2,590	2,474	2,239	1,984
Rlte Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs	5,237	5,241	5,482	5,830	5,523
Rhody Health Expansion	48,688	55,652	61,663	51,781	44,758
Rhody Health Partners	7,497	7,621	7,376	7,006	6,763
Rhody Health Options	12,914	12,942	13,479	12,912	11,506
Extended Family Planning	1,240	991	828	685	1,608
Medicaid Total	179,049	189,923	201,305	197,391	176,385
Percent Change from Previous Year	+12%	+6%	+6%	-2%	-11%

Note: Enrollment counts for 2019–2023 reflect totals as of December 31, while 2024 enrollment counts are as of October 31.

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Program, 2024

The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services requires that contracted health plans have a written quality assurance or quality management plan that monitors, assures, and improves the quality of care delivered over a wide range of clinical and health service delivery areas, including all subcontractors. Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s *2024 Quality Improvement Program Description* (approved May 2023) met these requirements.

Program Description

The Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement Program of Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island is a comprehensive, organization-wide framework designed to ensure that members have access to high-quality, safe, equitable, and responsive health care services that result in positive health outcomes. The Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement Program applies across all departments and operational levels of the organization and emphasizes collaboration among clinical staff, operational teams, contracted providers, and senior leadership.

During calendar year 2024, the Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement Program included sixty-five quality improvement initiatives across three major domains:

- 1) Clinical quality improvement
- 2) Service and operational quality improvement
- 3) Patient safety and coordination of care

The program relied on the systematic collection, validation, and analysis of data from multiple sources, including the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set, the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and

Systems surveys, the Health Outcomes Survey, provider satisfaction surveys, utilization data, and internal performance monitoring activities. Program oversight was provided by the Clinical Affairs Committee and the Board of Directors. A formal annual evaluation was conducted to assess program effectiveness, identify barriers to improvement, and establish priorities for the following year.

Program Goals

- Ensure members have access to high-quality, timely, and responsive health care services
- Improve measurable clinical outcomes, patient safety, and care coordination
- Enhance member and provider experience
- Reduce health disparities and promote health equity
- Foster a culture of continuous quality improvement throughout the organization

Program Objectives

- Achieve or exceed national Medicaid quality benchmark performance for prioritized Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set measures
- Reduce gaps in preventive care, chronic disease management, and behavioral health services
- Improve member experience as measured by member experience surveys, loyalty indicators, and complaint resolution timeliness
- Strengthen patient safety oversight through quality-of-care reviews, medication safety activities, and critical incident monitoring
- Improve coordination of care for high-risk and vulnerable populations, including members residing in nursing facilities and members enrolled in the Medicare-Medicaid integrated product line
- Address identified health disparities related to race, ethnicity, and language through targeted quality improvement interventions
- Maintain full compliance with credentialing, re-credentialing, and regulatory quality requirements

Quality Improvement Program Activities

Clinical Quality Improvement Activities

- Focused quality improvement projects addressing:
 - Childhood and adolescent immunizations
 - Lead screening for children
 - Follow-up care for children prescribed attention deficit hyperactivity disorder medications
 - Child and adolescent well-care visits
 - Transitions from nursing facilities to community settings
 - Care for older adults
 - Opioid prescribing and utilization safety
 - Chronic care improvement for diabetes
- Disease management programs, including:
 - Asthma disease management
 - Diabetes disease management
- Maternal and prenatal care initiatives, including the Bright Start program
- Ongoing monitoring and improvement of Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set performance across prevention, screening, treatment, utilization, and behavioral health measures

Service and Operational Quality Improvement Activities

- Access to the health plan:
 - Call center performance monitoring, including call abandonment and answer timeliness
 - Timely distribution of member handbooks and identification cards
 - Nurse advice line oversight
 - Member electronic mail access and response quality monitoring
- Accessibility of services:
 - Appointment availability and access standards
 - After-hours access to care
 - Provider directory accuracy reviews
- Member experience:
 - Monitoring and resolution of member complaints and grievances
 - Administration and analysis of member experience surveys
 - Wellness reward and engagement programs
- Provider experience:
 - Provider satisfaction surveys
 - Claims processing accuracy and timeliness
 - Credentialing and re-credentialing activities

Patient Safety and Coordination of Care Activities

- Quality-of-care case reviews
- Oversight by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee
- Medication therapy management and drug recall notification processes
- Critical incident reporting and analysis
- Comprehensive assessments and care planning for high-risk members
- Nursing home quality monitoring and discharge planning
- Transitions of care and interdisciplinary care coordination

Health Equity and Language Access Activities

- Oversight by the Health Equity Advisory Committee
- Dedicated work groups addressing behavioral health, maternal health, and childhood health equity
- Analysis of quality performance differences by race, ethnicity, and preferred language
- Implementation of cultural and linguistic appropriate services initiatives

Summary of Neighborhood Health Plan's Evaluation of the 2024 Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement Program

The annual evaluation of the 2024 Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement Program concluded that the program was effective overall in advancing quality of care, patient safety, health equity, and member experience.

Key Evaluation Findings

- The health plan achieved strong national performance recognition, earning a high national health plan quality rating for Medicaid plans.
- Measurable improvements were achieved across multiple clinical quality indicators, particularly in preventive care, chronic disease management, and care for older adults.
- Member experience remained strong, with high levels of reported satisfaction and timely resolution of quality-of-care complaints.

- Patient safety oversight processes were effective, with all identified quality-of-care complaints reviewed and resolved within required timeframes.
- Health equity infrastructure was strengthened through the establishment of formal governance, targeted analyses, and disparity-reduction initiatives.

The evaluation also identified challenges, including operational complexity related to system changes, staffing constraints, reliance on annual quality reporting cycles, and limitations in member contact information for outreach activities.

Based on the evaluation findings, the organization identified focused priorities for the following year, including enhanced data analysis, expanded health equity measurement, strengthened care coordination activities, and continued efforts to improve performance in identified opportunity areas.

Information Systems Capabilities Assessment – Technical Summary

Objectives

The *CMS External Quality Review (EQR) Protocols* published in February 2023 by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services state that an Information Systems Capabilities Assessment is a mandatory component of the external quality review as part of Protocols 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services later clarified that the systems reviews that are conducted as part of the NCQA HEDIS® Compliance Audit™ for External Quality Review Activity 2 – Validation of Performance Measures may be substituted for an Information Systems Capabilities Assessment. IPRO's validation methodology included an evaluation of the systems reviews summarized by each managed care plan's NCQA HEDIS Compliance Audit Licensed Organization in the final audit report for measurement year 2024.

Technical Methods of Data Collection and Analysis

As part of the NCQA HEDIS Compliance Audit™, HEDIS compliance auditors assessed the managed care plan's compliance with NCQA's four information system capabilities standards for collecting, storing, analyzing, and reporting medical, service, member, practitioner, and vendor data. The standards specify the minimum requirements that information systems should meet and criteria that are used in HEDIS data collection. Compliance with the NCQA information system capabilities standards ensures that the managed care plan has effective systems, practices, and control procedures for core business functions and for HEDIS reporting. **Table 35** and **Table 36** display these standards as well as the elements audited for the standard.

The information system capabilities evaluation included the computer and software environment, data collection procedures, abstraction of medical records for hybrid measures, as well as the review of any manual processes used for HEDIS reporting. The HEDIS compliance auditor determined the extent to which the managed care plan had the automated systems, information management practices, processing environment, and control procedures to capture, access, translate, analyze, and report each HEDIS measure.

A managed care plan meeting all Information System standards required for successful HEDIS reporting and submitting HEDIS data to the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services according to contractual requirements were considered strengths during IPRO's external quality review. A managed care plan not meeting an Information System standard was considered an opportunity for improvement during IPRO's review.

Description of Data Obtained

For the 2024 external quality review, IPRO obtained each managed care plan's final audit report that was produced by the HEDIS compliance auditor. The final audit report included key audit dates, product lines audited, audit procedures, vendors, data sources including supplemental data sources (e.g., immunization registries, care management files, laboratory result files), descriptions of system queries used by the auditor to validate the accuracy of the data, results of the medical record reviews, results of the information systems capabilities assessment, and rate status. Rates were determined to be reportable or not reportable (small denominator, benefit not offered, not reported, not required, biased, or unaudited; **Table 37**).

Comparative Results

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's HEDIS compliance auditor determined that the HEDIS rates reported by the managed care plan for measurement year 2024 were all “reportable,” indicating that the rates were calculated in accordance with the required technical specifications. Further, there were no data collection or reporting issues identified by the HEDIS compliance auditor for the managed care plan. **Table 38** displays the results of the managed care plan's information systems capabilities review conducted as part of the HEDIS Compliance Audit for measurement year 2024.

External Quality Review Activity 1. Validation of Performance Improvement Projects – Technical Summary

Objectives

Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations 438.330(d) Performance improvement projects establishes that the state must require contracted Medicaid managed care plans to conduct performance improvement projects that focus on both clinical and non-clinical areas. According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the purpose of a performance improvement project is to assess and improve the processes and outcomes of health care provided by a managed care plan. Further, managed care plans are required to design performance improvement projects to achieve significant, sustained improvement in health outcomes, and that include the following elements:

- measurement of performance using objective quality indicators,
- implementation of interventions to achieve improvement in access to and quality of care,
- evaluation of the effectiveness of interventions based on the performance measures, and
- planning and initiation of activities for increasing or sustaining improvement.

As required by section 2.12.03.03 *Quality Assurance* of the *Medicaid Managed Care Services Agreement*, Rhode Island managed care plans must conduct at least four quality improvement projects in priority topic areas of its choosing with the mutual agreement of the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and consistent with federal requirements.

Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations 438.358 Activities related to external quality review mandates that the state or an external quality review organization must validate the performance improvement projects that were underway during the preceding 12 months. IPRO conducted this activity on behalf of the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services for measurement year 2024.

Table 10 displays the titles of the quality improvement projects led by **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island** for measurement year 2024.

Table 10: Managed Care Plan Quality Improvement Project Topics, 2024

Managed Care Plan Quality Improvement Project Topics, 2024	
Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve Child and Adolescents’ Well-Care Visits, Ages 3 to 21 Years 2. Improving Adolescent Immunization Rates 3. Improve the HEDIS <i>Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication</i> Rate 4. Improve the Rate of Lead Screening in Children – Social Determinant of Health Measure 5. Improve <i>HEDIS Care for Older Adults</i> Performance 6. Increase the Percentage of Transitions from the Nursing Home to the Community

Technical Methods of Data Collection and Analysis

The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services requires that quality improvement projects be documented using NCQA’s *Quality Improvement Activity Form*. A copy of the *Quality Improvement Activity Form* is in **Appendix A** of this report.

The quality improvement project assessments were conducted using an evaluation approach developed by IPRO and consistent with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ *Protocol 1 – Validation of Performance Improvement Projects*. IPRO’s evaluation involves the following elements:

1. Review of the selected study topic(s) for relevance of focus and for relevance to the managed care plan’s enrollment.
2. Review of the study question(s) for clarity of statement.
3. Review of the identified study population to ensure it is representative of the managed care plan’s enrollment and generalizable to the managed care plan’s total population.
4. Review of selected study indicator(s), which should be objective, clear, unambiguous, and meaningful to the focus of the performance improvement project.
5. Review of sampling methods (if sampling used) for validity and proper technique.
6. Review of the data collection procedures to ensure complete and accurate data were collected.
7. Review of the data analysis and interpretation of study results.
8. Assessment of the improvement strategies for appropriateness.
9. Assessment of the likelihood that reported improvement is “real” improvement.
10. Assessment of whether the managed care plan achieved sustained improvement.

Following IPRO’s evaluation of the *2024 Quality Improvement Activity Forms* completed by the managed care plan against the review elements listed above, determinations of “met” and “not met” were used for each element under review. Definitions of these review determinations are presented in **Table 11**.

Table 11: Review Determination Definitions

Review Determination	Definition
Met	The managed care plan has met or exceeded the standard.
Not Met	The managed care plan has not met the standard.

The review findings were considered to determine whether the quality improvement project outcomes should be accepted as valid and reliable. A determination was made as to the overall credibility of the results of each quality improvement project, with assignment of one of three categories:

- There were no validation findings indicating that the credibility of the performance improvement project results was at risk.
- The validation findings generally indicate that the credibility for the quality improvement project results was not at risk; however, results must be interpreted with some caution. Processes that put the conclusions at risk are enumerated.
- There are one or more validation findings that indicate a bias in the quality improvement project results. The concerns that put the conclusion at risk are enumerated.

Description of Data Obtained

For the 2024 external quality review, IPRO reviewed the *2024 Quality Improvement Activity Forms* submitted by **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island**. These reports included project rationale, aims and goals, target population, performance indicator descriptions, performance indicator rates (baseline, interim, final), methods for performance measure calculations, targets, benchmarks, interventions (planned and executed), tracking measures and rates, barriers, limitations, and next steps for continuous quality improvement.

Comparative Results

IPRO's assessment of the methodologies used by **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island** determined that the managed care plan was not fully compliant with the standards of *Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations 438.330(d)(2) Performance Improvement Projects*. Two quality improvement projects met all validation elements, while four quality improvement project did not meet all elements reviewed to validate improvement strategies.

Quality Improvement Project 2 - Improving Adolescent Immunization Rates

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's conduct of the Improving Adolescent Immunization Rates quality improvement project 2 did not meet all standards related to quality improvement strategies. Through the validation process, IPRO determined that for Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's quality improvement project 2:

- The quality improvement strategy included interventions that were implemented during 2023, prior to the formal launch of the quality improvement project in 2024; moreover, these interventions were similar or the same as those used in other quality improvement project topics, indicating that the project did not introduce a distinct test of change during the designated measurement period.

Quality Improvement Project 3 - Improve the HEDIS Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication Rate

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's conduct of the Improve the HEDIS *Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication Rate* quality improvement project 3 did not meet all standards related to quality improvement strategies. Through the validation process, IPRO determined that for Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's quality improvement project 3:

- The quality improvement strategy included interventions that have remained unchanged year over year, which suggests that the improvement strategy is not being updated to address current barriers or to implement a distinct test of change.

Quality Improvement Project 4 - Social Determinant of Health Measure – Improve the Rate of Lead Screening in Children

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's conduct of the Improve the Social Determinant of Health Measure – Improve the Rate of Lead Screening in Children quality improvement project 4 did not meet all standards related to quality improvement strategies. Through the validation process, IPRO determined that for Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's quality improvement project 4:

- The quality improvement strategy included interventions that have remained unchanged year over year, which suggests that the improvement strategy is not being updated to address current barriers or to implement a distinct test of change.

Quality Improvement Project 6 - Increase the Percentage of Transitions from the Nursing Home to the Community
Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's conduct of the Increase the Percentage of Transitions from the Nursing Home to the Community quality improvement project 6 did not meet all standards related to quality improvement strategies. Through the validation process, IPRO determined that for Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's quality improvement project 6:

- The quality improvement strategy included interventions that have remained unchanged year over year, which suggests that the improvement strategy is not being updated to address current barriers or to implement a distinct test of change.

Table 12 displays a summary of the validation results of each quality improvement project that was conducted for measurement year 2024. Summaries of each quality improvement project immediately follow.

Table 12: Managed Care Plan Quality Improvement Project Validation Results, Measurement Year 2024

Quality Improvement Project Topics	Selected Topic	Study Question	Indicators	Population	Sampling Methods	Data Collection Procedures	Interpretation of Results	Improvement Strategies
Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island								
1) Improve Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits, Ages 3 to 21 Years	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
2) Improving Adolescent Immunization Rates	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Not Met
3) Improve the HEDIS <i>Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication</i> Rate	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Not Met
4) Social Determinant of Health Measure – Improve the Rate of Lead Screening in Children	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Not Met
5) Improve <i>HEDIS Care for Older Adults</i> Performance	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
6) Increase the Percentage of Transitions from the Nursing Home to the Community	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Not Met

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island

IPRO’s assessment of **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s** methodology found that there were no validation findings that indicated that the credibility of the four quality improvement projects was at risk. Summaries of each quality improvement project immediately follow.

Table 13: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Project 1 Summary – Well-Care Visits, Measurement Year 2024

Quality Improvement Project 1 Summary	
<p>Title: Improve Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits, Ages 3 to 21 Years Start Year: 2021. End Year: Not Yet Determined. Validation Summary: There were no validation findings indicating that the credibility of the performance improvement project results was at risk.</p>	
<p><u>Aim</u> Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island aims to improve access to well child visits for child and adolescent members aged 3 to 21 years.</p>	
<p><u>Indicator of Performance</u> HEDIS <i>Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits</i>: The percentage of members ages 3 to 21 years who had at least one comprehensive well-care visit with a primary care provider or an OB/GYN practitioner during the measurement year.</p>	
<p><u>Member-Focused 2024 Interventions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continued to offer a \$25 incentive gift card to children and adolescent members for completing an annual well visit. ▪ Promoted the importance of well-child visits and immunizations through automated voice calls to non-compliant members. ▪ Created and posted social media content on the importance of well-child visits. ▪ Distributed flyers at school events across the state to highlight the importance of well visits and staying up-to-date on screenings and immunizations. 	
<p><u>Provider-Focused 2024 Interventions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continued provider incentive for accountable entities. ▪ Shared best practices and well-child visits requirements with low performing providers. ▪ Distributed gaps in care reports to providers. ▪ Published an article on the importance of ensuring that all of their patients have an annual well-child visit. 	

Table 14: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Project 1 Indicator Summary – Well-Care Visits, Ages 3-11 Years, Measurement Years 2020 to 2024

HEDIS Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits, Ages 3-11 Years					
Measurement Period	Measurement Phase	Numerator	Denominator	Results	Goal
Measurement Year 2020	Baseline	18,862	31,375	60.12%	66.06%
Measurement Year 2021	Remeasurement 1	21,671	31,644	68.48%	68.89%
Measurement Year 2022	Remeasurement 2	22,061	31,433	70.18%	67.94%
Measurement Year 2023	Remeasurement 3	21,975	32,050	68.56%	70.95%
Measurement Year 2024	Remeasurement 4	22,103	31,315	70.58%	70.95%

Indicator Description: The percentage of children 3 to 11 years of age who received one or more well-care visit with a primary care practitioner or an obstetrician/gynecologist practitioner during the measurement year.

Table 15: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Project 1 Indicator Summary – Well-Care Visits, Ages 12-17 Years, Measurement Years 2020 to 2024

HEDIS Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits, Ages 12-17 Years					
Measurement Period	Measurement Phase	Numerator	Denominator	Results	Goal
Measurement Year 2020	Baseline	10,849	20,627	52.60%	62.45%
Measurement Year 2021	Remeasurement 1	13,655	21,632	63.12%	64.17%
Measurement Year 2022	Remeasurement 2	14,097	21,999	64.08%	62.57%
Measurement Year 2023	Remeasurement 3	14,196	22,751	62.39%	65.37%
Measurement Year 2024	Remeasurement 4	14,393	22,426	64.18%	65.37%

Indicator Description: The percentage of children 12 to 17 years of age who received one or more well-care visit with a primary care practitioner or an obstetrician/gynecologist practitioner during the measurement year.

Table 16: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Project 1 Indicator Summary – Well-Care Visits, Ages 18-21 Years, Measurement Years 2020 to 2024

HEDIS Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits, Ages 18-21 Years					
Measurement Period	Measurement Phase	Numerator	Denominator	Results	Goal
Measurement Year 2020	Baseline	3,549	10,212	34.75%	41.23%
Measurement Year 2021	Remeasurement 1	4,708	12,071	39.00%	41.38%
Measurement Year 2022	Remeasurement 2	5,307	12,834	41.35%	39.00%
Measurement Year 2023	Remeasurement 3	5,103	12,645	40.35%	42.37%
Measurement Year 2024	Remeasurement 4	3,989	9,149	43.60%	42.37%

Indicator Description: The percentage of children 18 to 21 years of age who received one or more well-care visit with a primary care practitioner or an obstetrician/gynecologist practitioner during the measurement year.

Table 17: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Project 1 Indicator Summary – Well-Care Visits, Ages 3 to 21 Years, Measurement Years 2020 to 2024

HEDIS Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits, Ages 3-21 Years					
Measurement Period	Measurement Phase	Numerator	Denominator	Results	Goal
Measurement Year 2020	Baseline	33,260	62,214	53.46%	62.19%
Measurement Year 2021	Remeasurement 1	40,034	65,347	61.26%	62.74%
Measurement Year 2022	Remeasurement 2	41,465	66,266	62.57%	61.15%
Measurement Year 2023	Remeasurement 3	41,274	67,446	61.19%	64.74%
Measurement Year 2024	Remeasurement 4	40,485	62,890	64.37%	64.74%

Indicator Description: The percentage of children 3 to 21 years of age who received one or more well-care visit with a primary care practitioner or an obstetrician/gynecologist practitioner during the measurement year.

Table 18: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Project 2 Summary – Improving Adolescent Immunization Rates, Measurement Year 2024

Quality Improvement Project 2 Summary
<p>Title: Improving Adolescent Immunization Rates Start Year: 2024. End Year: Not Yet Determined. Validation Summary: There were no validation findings indicating that the credibility of the performance improvement project results was at risk.</p>
<p><u>Aim</u> Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island aims to increase the percentage of adolescents who receive timely vaccines.</p>
<p><u>Indicators of Performance</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Percentage of adolescents who had one dose of the meningococcal vaccine by their 13th birthday.2. Percentage of adolescents who had one dose of the Tdap vaccine by their 13th birthday.3. Percentage of adolescents who two doses of the human papilloma vaccine by their 13th birthday.4. Percentage of adolescents who had one dose of meningococcal vaccine, one Tdap vaccine, and two doses of the human papilloma vaccine by their 13th birthday.
<p><u>Member-Focused 2024 Interventions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Published an article in the member newsletter to increase awareness of school-based health centers.▪ Conducted automated voice calls to promote the importance of well visits and immunizations to approximately 40,000 non-compliant members.▪ Created and distributed a Women’s Health Passport that includes immunizations.
<p><u>Provider-Focused 2024 Interventions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Included immunizations as an accountable entity incentive measure.▪ Incorporated adolescent immunization education materials in the Accountable Entity Quality Circle.▪ Published an article in the provider newsletter on the importance of the human papilloma vaccine.
<p><u>Managed Care Plan-Focused 2024 Interventions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Partnered with school-based health centers in Providence, Rhode Island to administer vaccines to members enrolled in the school.

Table 19: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Project 2 Indicator Summary – HEDIS Adolescent Immunizations, Measurement Years 2023 to 2024

HEDIS Adolescent Immunizations – Meningococcal Vaccine					
Measurement Period	Measurement Phase	Numerator	Denominator	Results	Goal
Measurement Year 2023 ¹	Baseline	3159	3656	86.41%	88.81%
Measurement Year 2024 ¹	Remeasurement 1	3063	3569	85.82%	88.81%

¹ Rate calculated using the administrative methodology.

Indicator Description: The percentage of adolescents who had one dose of meningococcal vaccine by their 13th birthday.

Table 20: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Project 2 Indicator Summary – HEDIS Adolescent Immunizations, Measurement Years 2023 to 2024

HEDIS Adolescent Immunizations – Tdap Vaccine					
Measurement Period	Measurement Phase	Numerator	Denominator	Results	Goal
Measurement Year 2023 ¹	Baseline	3170	3656	86.71%	90.63%
Measurement Year 2024 ¹	Remeasurement 1	3081	3569	86.33%	90.63%

¹ Rate calculated using the administrative methodology.

Indicator Description: The percentage of adolescents who had one dose of the Tdap vaccine by their 13th birthday.

Table 21: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Project 2 Indicator Summary – HEDIS Adolescent Immunizations, Measurement Years 2023 to 2024

HEDIS Adolescent Immunizations – HPV Vaccine					
Measurement Period	Measurement Phase	Numerator	Denominator	Results	Goal
Measurement Year 2023 ¹	Baseline	1724	3656	47.16%	50.12%
Measurement Year 2024 ¹	Remeasurement 1	1768	3569	49.54%	50.12%

¹ Rate calculated using the administrative methodology.

Indicator Description: The percentage of adolescents who two doses of the human papilloma vaccine by their 13th birthday.

Table 22: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Project 2 Indicator Summary – HEDIS Adolescent Immunizations Combination 2, Measurement Years 2023 to 2024

HEDIS Adolescent Immunizations – Combination 2					
Measurement Period	Measurement Phase	Numerator	Denominator	Results	Goal
Measurement Year 2023 ¹	Baseline	1724	3656	47.16%	50.12%
Measurement Year 2024 ¹	Remeasurement 1	1506	3569	48.44%	50.12%

¹ Rate calculated using the administrative methodology.

Indicator Description: The of adolescents who had one dose of meningococcal vaccine, one Tdap vaccine, and two doses of the human papilloma vaccine by their 13th birthday.

Table 23: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Project 3 Summary – Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Medication, Measurement Year 2024

Quality Improvement Project 3 Summary
<p>Title: Improve the HEDIS <i>Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Medication (ADHD) Medication Rate</i></p> <p>Start Year: 2018. End Year: Not Yet Determined.</p> <p>Validation Summary: There were no validation findings indicating that the credibility of the performance improvement project results was at risk.</p>
<p><u>Aim</u></p> <p>Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island aims to improve the follow-up care for children prescribed attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder medication.</p> <p><u>Indicators of Performance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The percentage of children between 6 and 12 years of age who were diagnosed with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder and had one follow-up visit with a practitioner with prescribing authority within 30 days of their first prescription of attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder medication. ▪ The percentage of children between 6 and 12 years of age who had a prescription for attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder medication and remained on the medication for at least 210 days, and had at least two follow-up visits with a practitioner in the 9 months after the Initiation Phase. <p><u>Member-Focused 2024 Interventions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continued to educate parents of enrollees about attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder symptom management, medication compliance, and the importance of timely follow-up with their practitioners. ▪ Created and posted social media content informing members about attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder and how to deal with social isolation. ▪ Provided members with an enhanced form that supports the member with prescription management. <p><u>Provider-Focused 2024 Interventions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continued to disseminate current clinical practice guidelines to network providers. ▪ Continued to deliver education through email blasts to providers identified as treating one or more members diagnosed with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder within the past few months. ▪ Continued to conduct telephonic outreach to providers of members with a new attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder diagnosis to confirm with the provider that a follow-up appointment has been scheduled. ▪ Continued to offer free continuing education credits for practitioners via an on-demand webcast titled, “Behavioral Health Treatment for Children and Adolescents,” which focuses on the screening, diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up care for children and adolescents on attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder or antipsychotic medication. ▪ Published an article in the provider newsletter outlining Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s performance, how providers can help, and resources available to providers.

Table 24: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Project 3 Indicator Summary – Initiation Phase, Measurement Years 2017 to 2024

HEDIS Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication – Initiation Phase					
Measurement Period	Measurement Phase	Numerator	Denominator	Results	Goal
Measurement Year 2017	Baseline	418	885	47.23%	55.91%
Measurement Year 2018	Remeasurement 1	423	889	47.58%	55.91%
Measurement Year 2019	Remeasurement 2	418	891	46.91%	55.91%
Measurement Year 2020	Remeasurement 3	431	848	50.83%	55.91%
Measurement Year 2021	Remeasurement 4	391	808	48.39%	55.91%
Measurement Year 2022	Remeasurement 5	391	822	47.57%	55.91%
Measurement Year 2023	Remeasurement 6	404	865	46.71%	55.91%
Measurement Year 2024	Remeasurement 7	426	855	49.82%	55.91%

Indicator Description: The percentage of children between 6 and 12 years of age who were diagnosed with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder and had one follow-up visit with a practitioner with prescribing authority within 30 days of their first prescription of attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder medication.

Table 25: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Project 3 Indicator Summary – Continuation and Maintenance Phase, Measurement Years 2017 to 2024

HEDIS Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication – Continuation and Maintenance Phase					
Measurement Period	Measurement Phase	Numerator	Denominator	Results	Goal
Measurement Year 2017	Baseline	130	223	58.30%	69.14%
Measurement Year 2018	Remeasurement 1	134	219	61.19%	69.14%
Measurement Year 2019	Remeasurement 2	127	226	56.19%	69.14%
Measurement Year 2020	Remeasurement 3	131	212	61.79%	69.14%
Measurement Year 2021	Remeasurement 4	97	164	59.15%	69.14%
Measurement Year 2022	Remeasurement 5	99	182	54.40%	69.14%
Measurement Year 2023	Remeasurement 6	129	230	56.09%	69.14%
Measurement Year 2024	Remeasurement 7	124	230	53.91%	69.14%

Indicator Description: The percentage of children between 6 and 12 years of age who had a prescription for attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder medication and remained on the medication for at least 210 days and had at least two follow-up visits with a practitioner in the 9 months after the Initiation Phase.

Table 26: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Project 4 Summary – Lead Screening, Measurement Year 2024

Quality Improvement Project 4 Summary
<p>Title: Social Determinant of Health Measure – Improve the Rate of Lead Screening in Children Start Year: 2016. End Year: Not Yet Determined. Validation Summary: There were no validation findings indicating that the credibility of the performance improvement project results was at risk.</p>
<p><u>Aim</u> Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island aims to increase the percentage of children screened for lead by their second birthday.</p> <p><u>Indicator of Performance</u> The percentage of children 2 years of age who had one or more capillary or venous lead blood test for lead poisoning by their second birthday.</p> <p><u>Member-Focused 2024 Interventions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Continued to mail post card reminders for lead testing to children turning one year old.▪ Continued to offer a \$25 incentive gift card to parents of children who had a lead screening by the age of two years.▪ Created and posted social media content on the importance of lead screening.▪ Continued to distribute Rhode Island Department of Health-developed lead screening educational materials at marketing events targeted to parents with children.▪ Provided lead screening education to parents/guardians and created goals for members who met the screening age criteria.▪ Implemented a social media campaign to increase awareness of the importance of lead screening and to promote the member reward program. <p><u>Provider-Focused 2024 Interventions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Continued to disseminate best practices and clinical requirements for primary care visits with low performing providers.▪ Continued to distribute gaps in care reports to providers along with education materials on the importance of lead screening and how the provider can support Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s goal of improving the lead screening rate.▪ Published an article in the provider newsletter on the importance of lead screening, well visits, and follow-up care for patients with blood lead levels greater than 5 mcg/dl.▪ Added lead screening as an accountable entity incentive measure. <p><u>Managed Care Plan-Focused 2024 Interventions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Continued collaboration efforts with the Rhode Island Department of Health to address lead poisoning prevention, promoting screening, rescreening for high blood lead levels, lead screening guidelines and laws, exchange of data, sharing of best practices, and collaborative efforts around member and provider education.

Table 27: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Project 4 Indicator Summary – Lead Screening, Measurement Years 2015 to 2024

Lead Screening in Children					
Measurement Period	Measurement Phase	Numerator	Denominator	Results	Goal
Measurement Year 2015	Baseline	2,502	3,018	82.90%	84.77%
Measurement Year 2016	Remeasurement 1	2,884	3,688	78.20%	86.37%
Measurement Year 2017	Remeasurement 2	2,699	3,416	79.01%	85.64%
Measurement Year 2018	Remeasurement 3	2,786	3,536	78.79%	85.90%
Measurement Year 2019	Remeasurement 4	2,475	3,119	79.35%	86.62%
Measurement Year 2020	Remeasurement 5	2,267	2,938	77.16%	83.94%
Measurement Year 2021	Remeasurement 6	2,510	3,342	76.80%	79.57%
Measurement Year 2022	Remeasurement 7	2,529	3,276	77.20%	79.26%
Measurement Year 2023	Remeasurement 8	321	398	80.65%	79.51%
Measurement Year 2024	Remeasurement 9	2,365	2,978	79.42%	79.51%

Indicator Description: The percentage of members 2 years of age who received one or more capillary or venous blood tests for lead poisoning on or before their second birthday.

Table 28: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Project 5 Summary – Care for Older Adults, Measurement Year 2024

Quality Improvement Project 5 Summary	
<p>Title: Improve <i>HEDIS Care for Older Adults</i> Performance Start Year: 2018. End Year: Not Yet Determined. Validation Summary: There were no validation findings indicating that the credibility of the performance improvement project results was at risk.</p>	
<p><u>Aim</u> Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island aims to improve performance for care of older adults.</p>	
<p><u>Indicators of Performance</u> The percentage of adults 66 years and older who had each of the following during the measurement year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ medication review, ▪ functional status assessment, and ▪ pain assessment. 	
<p><u>Provider-Focused 2024 Interventions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continued to disseminate best practices and technical specifications for the <i>HEDIS Care for Older Adults</i> measure to providers. ▪ Continued nursing home collaboration to improving documentation of care. ▪ Updated the provider reference guide to include all Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) II codes for the <i>HEDIS Care for Older Adults</i> measure and made the guide available to providers on the Neighborhood website. 	
<p><u>Managed Care Plan-Focused 2024 Interventions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implemented enhancements to the health risk assessment and care management system to capture pain assessment and functional status. 	

Table 29: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Project 5 Indicator Summary – Medication Review, Measurement Years 2017 to 2024

HEDIS Care for Older Adults – Medication Review					
Measurement Period	Measurement Phase	Numerator	Denominator	Results	Goal
Measurement Year 2017 ¹	Baseline	281	411	68.37%	79.00%
Measurement Year 2018 ¹	Remeasurement 1	352	411	85.64%	79.00%
Measurement Year 2019 ¹	Remeasurement 2	366	411	89.05%	80.00%
Measurement Year 2020 ¹	Remeasurement 3	316	388	81.44%	81.00%
Measurement Year 2021 ²	Remeasurement 4	4,566	5,116	89.25%	86.00%
Measurement Year 2022 ²	Remeasurement 5	4,470	5,032	88.83%	87.00%
Measurement Year 2023 ²	Remeasurement 6	4,730	5,255	90.00%	88.00%
Measurement Year 2024 ²	Remeasurement 7	172	184	93.48%	88.00%

¹ Rate calculated using the hybrid methodology.

² Rate calculated using the administrative methodology.

Indicator Description: The percentage of adults 66 years and older who had a medication review during the measurement year.

Table 30: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Project 5 Indicator Summary – Functional Status Assessment, Measurement Years 2017 to 2024

HEDIS Care for Older Adults – Functional Status Assessment					
Measurement Period	Measurement Type	Numerator	Denominator	Results	Goal
Measurement Year 2017 ¹	Baseline	207	411	50.36%	67.00%
Measurement Year 2018 ¹	Remeasurement 1	295	411	71.78%	67.00%
Measurement Year 2019 ¹	Remeasurement 2	302	411	73.48%	68.00%
Measurement Year 2020 ¹	Remeasurement 3	235	388	60.57%	69.00%
Measurement Year 2021 ²	Remeasurement 4	4,208	5,116	82.25%	72.00%
Measurement Year 2022 ²	Remeasurement 5	4,309	5,032	85.63%	73.00%
Measurement Year 2023 ²	Remeasurement 6	4,667	5,255	88.80%	74.00%
Measurement Year 2024 ²	Remeasurement 7	170	184	92.39%	74.00%

¹ Rate calculated using the hybrid methodology.

² Rate calculated using the administrative methodology.

Indicator Description: The percentage of adults 66 years and older who had a functional status assessment during the measurement year.

Table 31: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Project 5 Indicator Summary – Pain Assessment, Measurement Years 2017 to 2024

HEDIS Care for Older Adults – Pain Assessment					
Measurement Period	Measurement Phase	Numerator	Denominator	Results	Goal
Measurement Year 2017 ¹	Baseline	268	411	65.21%	62.00%
Measurement Year 2018 ¹	Remeasurement 1	366	411	89.05%	62.00%
Measurement Year 2019 ¹	Remeasurement 2	378	411	91.97%	63.00%
Measurement Year 2020 ¹	Remeasurement 3	4,199	5,457	77.43%	64.00%
Measurement Year 2021 ²	Remeasurement 4	4,681	5,116	91.50%	90.00%
Measurement Year 2022 ²	Remeasurement 5	4,618	5,032	91.77%	91.00%
Measurement Year 2023 ²	Remeasurement 6	4,869	5,228	93.13%	92.00%
Measurement Year 2024 ²	Remeasurement 7	174	184	94.57%	92.00%

¹ Rate calculated using the hybrid methodology.

² Rate calculated using the administrative methodology.

Indicator Description: The percentage of adults 66 years and older who had a pain assessment during the measurement year.

Table 32: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Project 6 Summary – Transitions of Care, Measurement Year 2024

Quality Improvement Project 6 Summary
<p>Title: Increase the Percentage of Transitions from the Nursing Home to the Community Start Year: 2018. End Year: Not Yet Determined. Validation Summary: There were no validation findings indicating that the credibility of the performance improvement project results was at risk.</p>
<p><u>Aim</u> Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island aims to increase the percentage of transitions from the nursing home to the community.</p> <p><u>Indicators of Performance</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The number of INTEGRITY Medicare-Medicaid program members who transitioned from a nursing facility to the community under the Rhode to Home Program. 2. The number of INTEGRITY Medicare-Medicaid program members who transitioned from a nursing facility to the community. <p><u>Member-Focused 2024 Interventions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continued to facilitate telehealth visits. ▪ Continued to distribute an enrollee educational flyer on the availability of services. ▪ Continued outreach to members prescribed antipsychotic medication and identified with gaps in care. <p><u>Provider-Focused 2024 Interventions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continued the Nursing Home Quality Incentive Program. <p><u>Managed Care Plan-Focused 2024 Interventions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continued to conduct reassessments after the first 60 days as opposed to the first 90 days for members who opted to remain in the nursing facility and leveraged the contact to encourage the member to transition back to the community. ▪ Continued to accessed nursing home-based electronic medical record systems to assist in identifying opportunities for transition. ▪ Continued use of the nursing home dashboard to display real-time member data for timely response to member needs. ▪ Continued collaboration efforts with the state and community to identify and increase Section 8 Housing Vouchers. ▪ Collaborated with facility nurses to complete “Section Q” from the Minimum Data Set for Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island members to increase identification of potential transfers.

Table 33: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Project 6 Indicator Summary – Transitions for Rhode to Home Eligible Members, Measurement Years 2017 to 2024

Transitions From the Nursing Home to the Community – INTEGRITY Medicare-Members Who Are Eligible for the Rhode to Home Program					
Measurement Period	Measurement Phase	Numerator	Denominator	Results	Goal
Measurement Year 2017	Baseline	14	55	14 Members	20 Members
Measurement Year 2018	Remeasurement 1	20	58	20 Members	20 Members
Measurement Year 2019	Remeasurement 2	17	31	17 Members	20 Members
Measurement Year 2020	Remeasurement 3	19	30	19 Members	20 Members
Measurement Year 2021	Remeasurement 4	14	21	14 Members	20 Members
Measurement Year 2022	Remeasurement 5	13	22	13 Members	20 Members
Measurement Year 2023	Remeasurement 6	12	23	12 Members	20 Members
Measurement Year 2024	Remeasurement 7	7	25	7 Members	20 Members

Indicator Description: The number of INTEGRITY Medicare-Medicaid program members who transitioned from a nursing facility to the community under the Rhode to Home Program.

Table 34: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Quality Improvement Project 6 Indicator Summary – Transitions for All Members, Measurement Years 2018 to 2024

Transitions from the Nursing Home to the Community – All INTEGRITY Medicare-Members					
Measurement Period	Measurement Phase	Numerator	Denominator	Results	Goal
Measurement Year 2018	Baseline	391	982	39.82%	35.00%
Measurement Year 2019	Remeasurement 1	647	862	75.06%	35.00%
Measurement Year 2020	Remeasurement 2	390	636	61.32%	35.00%
Measurement Year 2021	Remeasurement 3	416	682	61.00%	35.00%
Measurement Year 2022	Remeasurement 5	469	797	58.85%	35.00%
Measurement Year 2023	Remeasurement 6	505	869	58.11%	35.00%
Measurement Year 2023	Remeasurement 7	360	672	53.57%	35.00%

Indicator Description: The number of INTEGRITY Medicare-Medicaid program members who transitioned from a nursing facility to the community.

External Quality Review Activity 2. Validation of Performance Measures – Technical Summary

Objectives

Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations 438.330(c) Performance measurement establishes that the state must identify standard performance measures relating to the performance of managed care plans and that the state requires each managed care plan to annually measure and report to the state on its performance using the standard measures required by the state.

As required by section 2.12.03.03 *Quality Assurance* of the *Medicaid Managed Care Services Agreement*, Rhode Island managed care plans must provide performance measure data, specifically HEDIS, to the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services within 30 days following the presentation of these results to the managed care plan's quality improvement committee. The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services utilizes performance measures to evaluate the quality and accessibility of services furnished to Medicaid beneficiaries and to promote positive health outcomes. Further, the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services incorporates select HEDIS results into its methodology for the accountable entity shared savings distribution.

Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations Section 438.358 Activities related to external quality review (2)(b)(1)(ii) mandates that the state or an external quality review organization must validate the performance measures that were calculated during the preceding 12 months. IPRO conducted this activity on behalf of the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services for measurement year 2024.

Technical Methods of Data Collection and Analysis

For measurement year 2024, the Rhode Island Medicaid managed care plans were required to submit performance measure data to the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services based on NCQA's *HEDIS Measurement Year 2024 Volume 2 Technical Specifications for Health Plans*. To ensure compliance with these reporting requirements, **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island** contracted with an NCQA HEDIS-certified vendor and an NCQA-licensed HEDIS compliance organization.

The HEDIS vendor collected data and calculated performance measure rates on behalf of the managed care plan for measurement year 2024. The HEDIS vendor calculated rates using NCQA's *HEDIS Measurement Year 2024 Volume 2 Technical Specifications for Health Plans*.

The HEDIS compliance auditor determined if the appropriate information processing capabilities were in place to support accurate and automated performance measurement, and they also validated the managed care plan's adherence to the technical specifications and reporting requirements. The HEDIS compliance auditor evaluated the managed care plan's information practices and control procedures, sampling methods and procedures, compliance with technical specifications, analytic file production, and reporting and documentation in two parts:

1. Information System Standards
2. HEDIS Determination Standards

Auditors considered managed care plan compliance with the Information System Standards and HEDIS Determination Standards to fully assess the organization's HEDIS reporting capabilities.

Information System Standards

As part of the NCQA HEDIS Compliance Audit™, HEDIS compliance auditors assessed the **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s** compliance with NCQA’s four information system capabilities standards for collecting, storing, analyzing, and reporting medical, service, member, practitioner, and vendor data. The standards specify the minimum requirements that information systems should meet and criteria that are used in HEDIS data collection. Compliance with the NCQA information system capabilities standards ensures that the managed care plan has effective systems, practices, and control procedures for core business functions and for HEDIS reporting. **Table 35** displays these standards as well as the elements audited for the standard.

Table 35: NCQA’s Information System Standards

NCQA Information System (IS) Standards	Elements Audited
IS R: Data Management and Reporting	Transfer, Consolidation, and Control Procedures that Support Measure Reporting Integrity
IS C: Clinical and Care Delivery Data	Capture, Transfer, and Entry
IS M: Medical Record Review	Training, Sampling, Abstraction, and Oversight
IS A: Administrative Data	Sound Coding Methods, Data Capture, Transfer, and Entry

NCQA: National Committee for Quality Assurance; IS: information system.

The information system capabilities evaluation included the computer and software environment, data collection procedures, abstraction of medical records for hybrid measures, as well as the review of any manual processes used for HEDIS reporting. The HEDIS compliance auditor determined the extent to which the managed care plan had the automated systems, information management practices, processing environment, and control procedures to capture, access, translate, analyze, and report each HEDIS measure.

A managed care plan meeting the NCQA Information System Standards required for successful HEDIS reporting and submitting HEDIS data to the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services according to contractual requirements were considered strengths during IPRO’s external quality review. A managed care plan not meeting an Information System standard was considered an opportunity for improvement during IPRO’s review.

HEDIS Determination Standards

As part of the NCQA HEDIS Compliance Audit™, HEDIS compliance auditors assessed **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s** compliance with conventional reporting practices and HEDIS technical specifications. These standards describe required procedures for specific information such as proper identification of denominators, numerators and verifying algorithms and rate calculations. **Table 36** displays these standards as well as the elements audited for the standard.

Table 36: NCQA’s HEDIS Determination Standards

NCQA HEDIS Determination (HD) Standards	Elements Audited
HD 4.0: Algorithmic Compliance	Calculation Procedures, and Calculations
HD 5.0: Outsourced or Delegated Reporting Functions	Compliance with Data Collection and Reporting Standards, Performance, Data Collection and Reporting Coordination, and Preliminary and Final Rates

NCQA: National Committee for Quality Assurance; HD: HEDIS Determination.

The HEDIS determination evaluation included data sources, sampling methodology, application of technical specifications, numerator and denominator logic, medical record validation, supplementation data validation, and rate calculation. The HEDIS compliance auditor determined the extent to which the managed care plan and its vendors’ application of the HEDIS technical specifications resulted in the calculation of rates that are accurate and reliable.

A managed care plan meeting the NCQA HEDIS Determination Standards required for successful HEDIS reporting and submitting HEDIS data to the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services according to contractual requirements were considered strengths during IPRO’s external quality review. A managed care plan not meeting a Determination Standard was considered an opportunity for improvement during IPRO’s review.

Performance Measure Validation

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s calculated rates for the HEDIS measure set were validated as part of the NCQA HEDIS Compliance Audit and assigned one of NCQA’s outcome designations. **Table 37** presents these outcome designations and their definitions. Performance measure validation activities included but were not limited to:

- confirmation that rates were produced with certified code or automated source code review approved logic;
- medical record review validation;
- review of supplemental data sources;
- review of system conversions/upgrades, if applicable;
- review of vendor data, if applicable; and
- follow-up on issues identified during documentation review or previous audits.

Table 37: NCQA’s Performance Measure Designations

NCQA Performance Measure Outcome Designation	Outcome Designation Definition
R	Reportable. A reportable rate was submitted for the measure.
NA	Small Denominator. The organization followed the specifications, but the denominator was too small (e.g., less than 30) to report a valid rate. a. For Effectiveness of Care and Effectiveness of Care-like measures, when the denominator is less than 30. b. For utilization measures that count member months, when the denominator is less than 360 member months. c. For all risk-adjusted utilization measures, when the denominator is less than 150. d. For electronic clinical data systems measures, when the denominator is less than 30.
NB	No Benefit. The organization did not offer the health benefit required by the measure (e.g., mental health, chemical dependency).
NR	Not Reported. The organization chose not to report the measure.
NQ	Not Required. The organization was not required to report the measure.
BR	Biased Rate. The calculated rate was materially biased.
UN	Unaudited. The organization chose to report a measure that is not required to be audited. This result only applies when permitted by NCQA.

NCQA: National Committee for Quality Assurance.

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's HEDIS compliance auditor produced a final audit report and audit review table at the conclusion of the audit. Together, these documents present a comprehensive summary of the audit activities and performance measure validation results. The managed care plan submitted these documents, as well as final validated performance measure rates to the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services and IPRO.

IPRO reviewed **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's** final audit report and audit review table to confirm that all performance measures were deemed reportable by the HEDIS auditor, and that calculation of these performance measures aligned with the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services' requirements. To assess the accuracy of the reported rates, IPRO:

- Recalculated performance measure rates using denominator and numerator member-level data and compared these recalculated rates to the rates reported by the managed care plan to NCQA via the Interactive Data Submission System tool;
- Compared performance measure rates reported by the managed care plans to NCQA's Quality Compass regional Medicaid benchmarks; and
- Analyzed performance-measure-rate-level trends to identify drastic changes in performance.

Description of Data Obtained

For the 2024 external quality review, IPRO obtained **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's** final audit report and a locked copy of the audit review table that were produced by the HEDIS compliance auditor.

The final audit report included key audit dates, product lines audited, audit procedures, vendors, data sources including supplemental data sources (e.g., immunization registries, care management files, laboratory result files), descriptions of system queries used by the auditor to validate the accuracy of the data, results of the medical record reviews, results of the information systems capabilities assessment, and rate status. Rates were determined to be reportable or not reportable (small denominator, benefit not offered, not reported, not required, biased, or unaudited; **Table 37**).

The audit review table displayed performance-measure-level detail including data collection methodology (administrative or hybrid), eligible population count, exclusion count, numerator event count by data source (administrative, medical record, supplemental), and reported rate. When applicable, the following information was also displayed in the audit review table: administrative rate before exclusions; minimum required sample size, and minimum required sample size numerator events and rate; oversample rate and oversample record count; exclusions by data source; count of oversample records added; denominator; numerator events by data source (administrative, medical records, supplemental); and reported rate.

Comparative Results

Validation of Performance Measures

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's NCQA-certified HEDIS auditor determined that the HEDIS rates reported by the managed care plan for measurement year 2024 were all "reportable," indicating that the rates were calculated in accordance with the required technical specifications. There were no data collection or reporting issues identified for **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island**. **Table 38** displays results of the Information Systems review, while **Table 39** displays results of the HEDIS Determination Standards review.

Table 38: Managed Care Plan Compliance with NCQA Information System Standards, Measurement Year 2024

NCQA Information System (IS) Standards	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island
IS R: Data Management and Reporting	Met
IS C: Clinical and Care Delivery Data	Met
IS M: Medical Record Review	Met
IS A: Administrative Data	Met

NCQA: National Committee for Quality Assurance; IS: information system.

Table 39: Managed Care Plan Compliance with NCQA HEDIS Determination Standards, Measurement Year 2024

NCQA HEDIS Determination (HD) Standards	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island
HD 4.0: Algorithmic Compliance	Met
HD 5.0: Outsourced or Delegated Reporting Functions	Met

NCQA: National Committee for Quality Assurance; HD: HEDIS Determination.

Performance Measure Results

This section of the report explores the utilization of managed care plan services by examining select measures under the following domains:

- Use of Services – Two measures (three rates) examine the percentage of Medicaid child and adolescent access routine care.
- Effectiveness of Care – Five measures (seven rates) examine how well a managed care plan provides preventive screenings and care for members with acute and chronic illness.
- Access and Availability – Two measures (five rates) examine the percentage of Medicaid adults who received primary care provider or preventive care services, ambulatory care, or timely prenatal and postpartum care.

To assess managed care plan performance, IPRO compared **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s** rates to national Medicaid benchmarks reported in the *2025 Quality Compass* (measurement year 2024) for all lines of business that reported measurement year 2024 HEDIS data to NCQA. **Table 40** displays **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s** HEDIS rates for measurement years 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024, as well as the measurement year 2024 national Medicaid benchmarks achieved by the managed care plan, and the national Medicaid means.

Table 40: Managed Care Plan HEDIS Rates, Measurement Years 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024

Domain/Measures	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island Measurement Year 2021	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island Measurement Year 2022	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island Measurement Year 2023	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island Measurement Year 2024	Quality Compass Measurement Year 2024 National Medicaid Benchmark (Met/Exceeded)	Quality Compass Measurement Year 2024 National Medicaid Mean
Use of Services						
Well-Child Visits in the First 30 Months of Life						
<i>First 15 Months</i>	73.43%	77.95%	77.56%	79.41%	95th	61.92%
<i>First 15 to 30 Months</i>	79.74%	81.88%	83.77%	84.04%	90th	72.84%
Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits, Ages 3-21 Years	61.26%	62.57%	61.19%	64.97%	75th	55.41%
Effectiveness of Care						
Cervical Cancer Screening for Women (Hybrid)	71.95%	67.54%	67.49%	65.85%	75th	56.91%
Cervical Cancer Screening for Women (Electronic)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	60.35%	75th	51.82%
Chlamydia Screening for Women, Ages 16-20 Years	65.23%	65.29%	65.51%	66.35%	75th	53.32%
Childhood Immunization Status						
<i>Combination 3</i>	76.59%	80.61%	77.17%	80.78%	95th	66.18%
<i>Combination 10</i>	61.33%	59.95%	52.83%	53.04%	95th	28.17%
Follow-Up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness						
<i>7-Day, Ages 6-65+ Years</i>	54.20%	52.85%	49.75%	51.42%	75th	40.70%
<i>30-Day, Ages 6-65+ Years</i>	74.55%	71.92%	70.79%	72.61%	75th	61.25%
Glycemic Status Assessment for Patients With Diabetes - Glycemic Status <8.0%	New Measure in 2022	59.37%	64.23%	64.96%	75th	58.65%
Access and Availability						
Adults' Access to Preventive/Ambulatory Health Services						
<i>Ages 20-44 Years</i>	78.01%	76.67%	76.52%	77.43%	50th	74.39%
<i>Ages 45-64 Years</i>	87.50%	86.68%	86.53%	86.56%	66.67th	82.23%
<i>Ages 65+ Years</i>	92.74%	91.57%	93.29%	93.65%	75th	82.59%
Prenatal and Postpartum Care						
<i>Timeliness of Prenatal Care</i>	92.25%	94.89%	96.35%	95.97%	95th	84.87%
<i>Postpartum Care</i>	87.79%	88.56%	90.02%	88.76%	90th	80.76%

In accordance with *Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations 438.6(c)(2)(ii)(B)*, accountable entity quality performance must be measured and reported to the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services. For performance year 2024, rates of eight measures from the ‘Medicaid Comprehensive Accountable Entity Common Measure Slate’ were categorized as ‘P4P’ and included in the Office of Health Human Services’ calculation of shared savings distribution to the accountable entities.

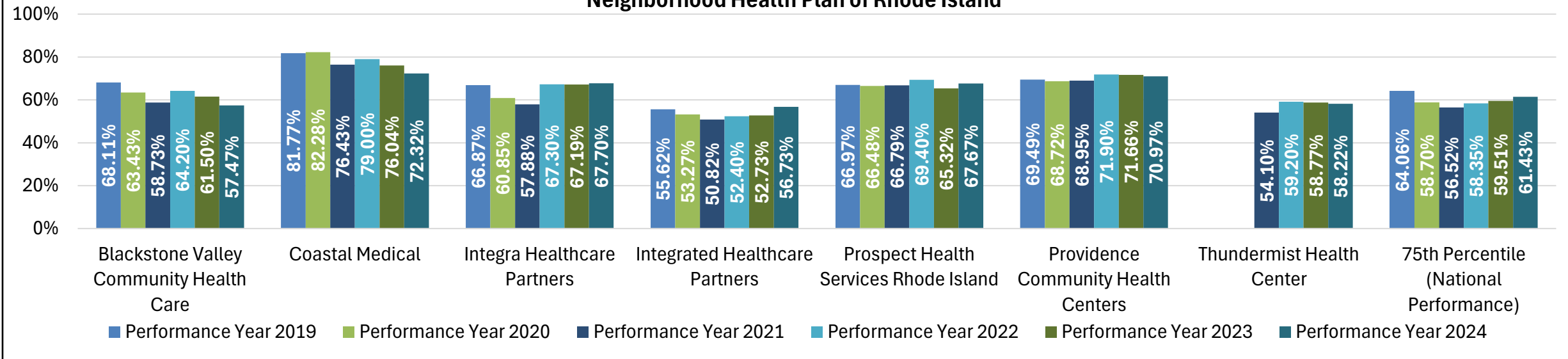
For performance year 2024, **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island** maintained contracts with accountable entities. **Table 41** displays the accountable care entities that were contracted by **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island** for performance year 2024.

Table 41: Accountable Entities, 2024

Managed Care Plan	Accountable Entity
Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Blackstone Valley Community Health Care ▪ Coastal Medical ▪ Integra Community Care Network ▪ Integrated Healthcare Partners ▪ Prospect Health Services Rhode Island ▪ Providence Community Health Centers ▪ Thundermist Health Center

When available, rates for performance years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 for **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s** accountable entities are displayed in figures that follow.

**Figure 1. Breast Cancer Screening,
Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island**



**Figure 2. Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits (Ages 3-21 Years),
Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island**

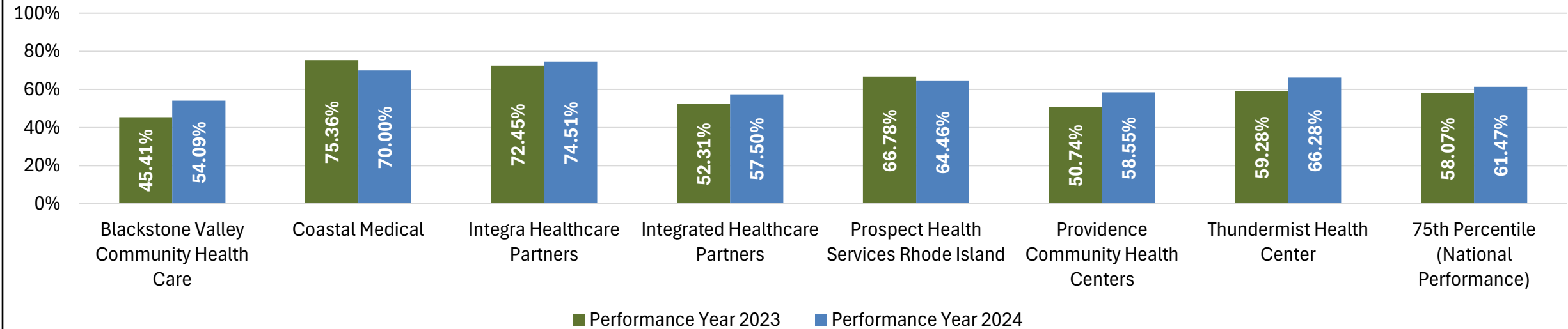


Figure 3. Controlling High Blood Pressure, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island

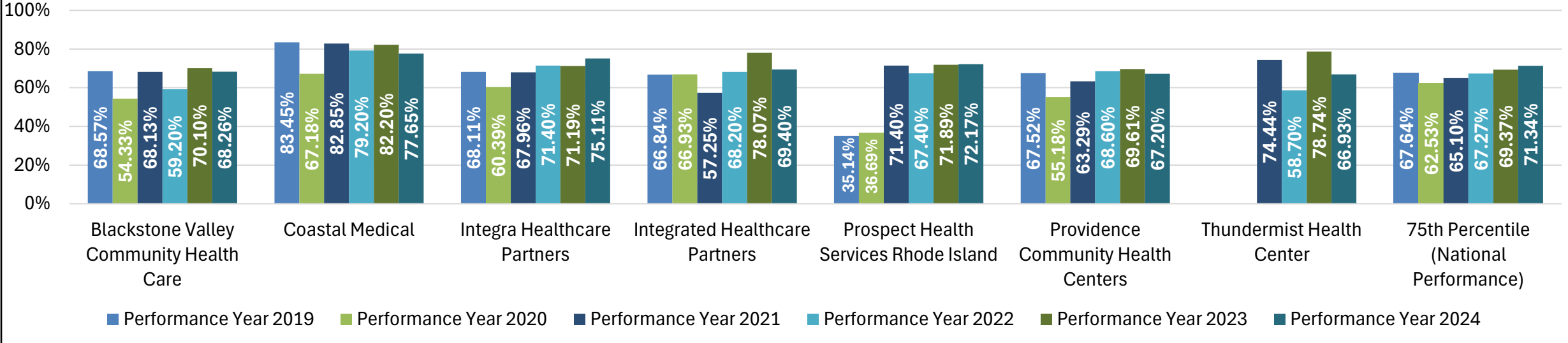
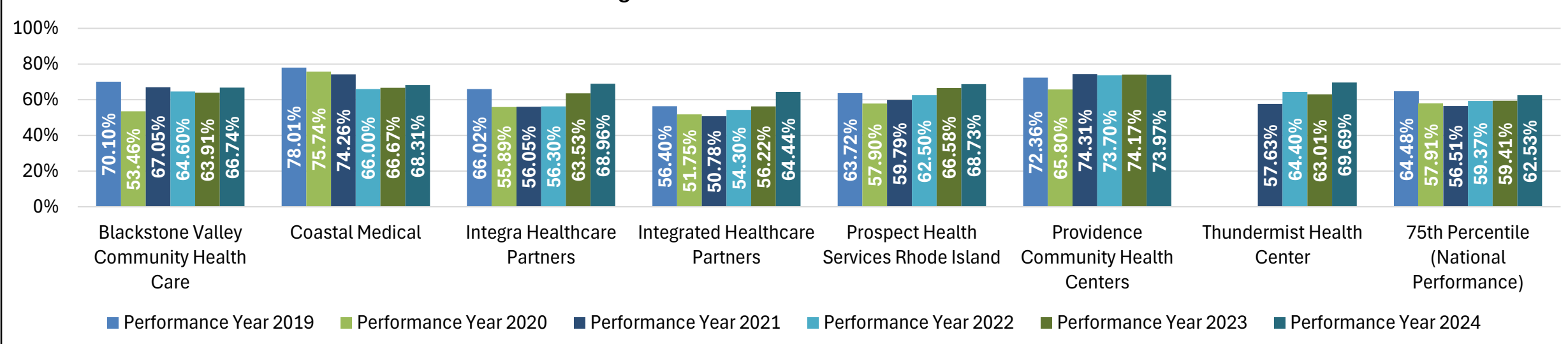
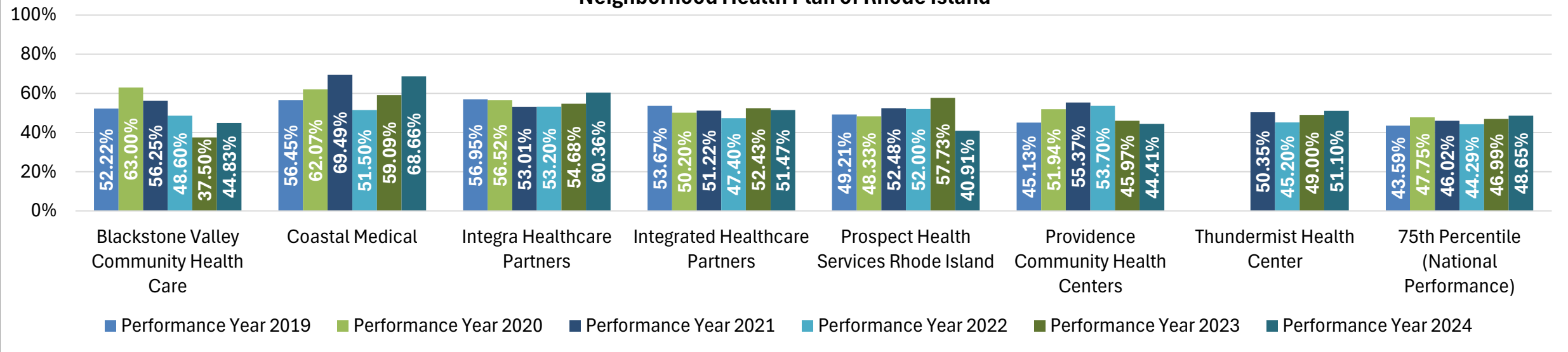


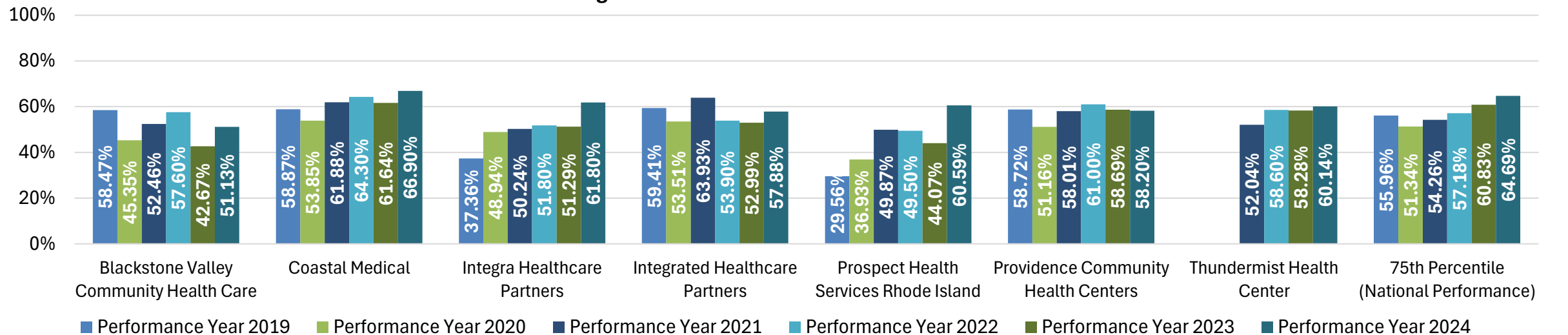
Figure 4. Eye Exam for Patients With Diabetes, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island



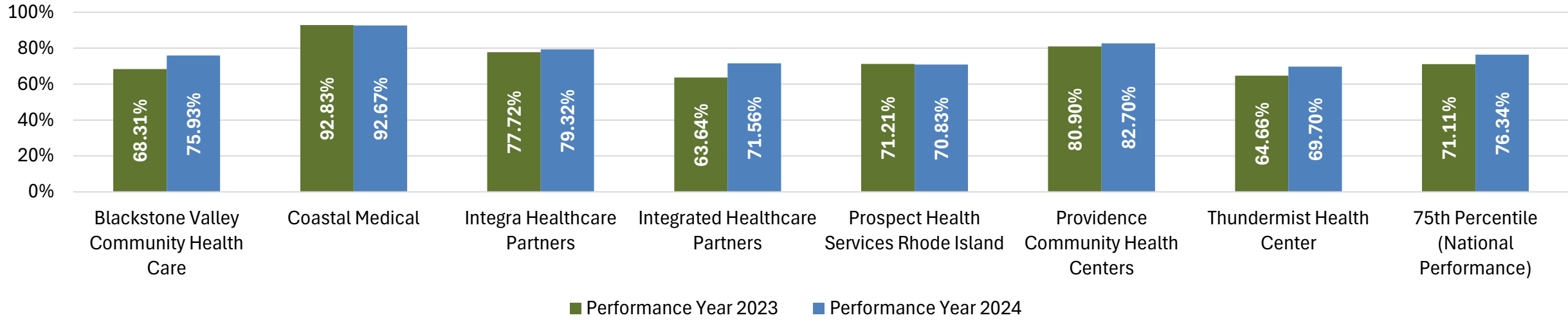
**Figure 5. Follow-up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness (7 Days),
Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island**



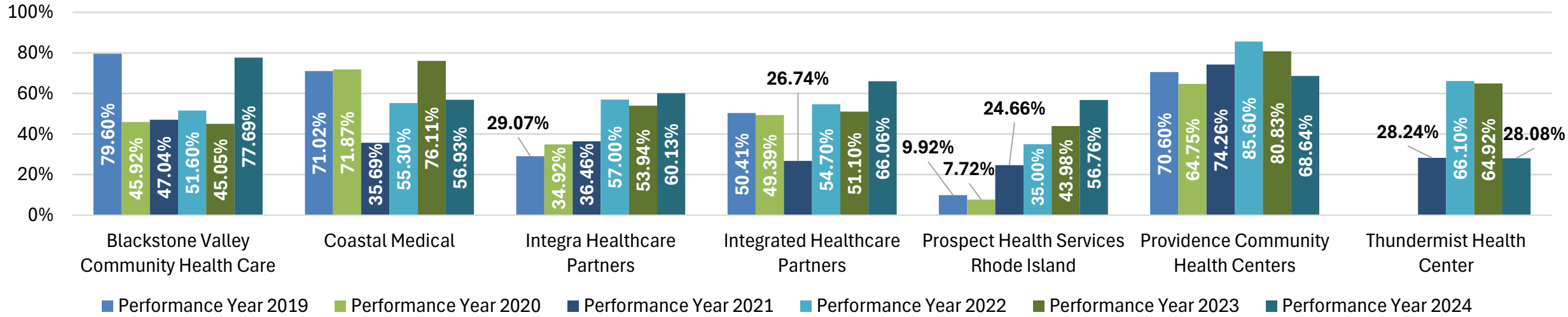
**Figure 6. Glycemic Status Assessment for Patients With Diabetes - Glycemic Status <8.0%,
Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island**



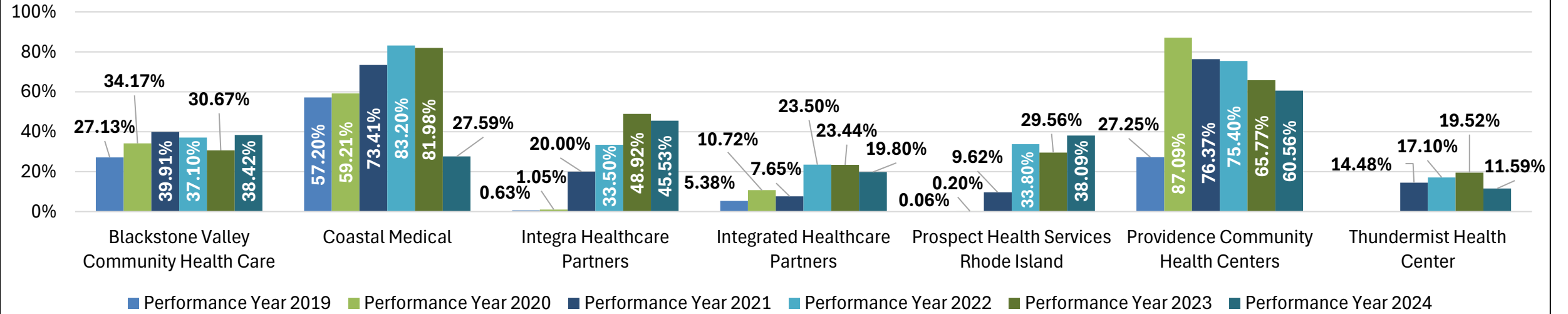
**Figure 7. Lead Screening in Children,
Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island**



**Figure 8. Screening for Depression and Follow-up Plan,
Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island**



**Figure 9. Social Determinants of Health Screening,
Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island**



External Quality Review Activity 3. Review of Compliance with Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program Standards – Technical Summary

Objectives

Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations 438.358 Activities related to external quality review (b)(1)(iii) establishes that a review of a managed care plan’s compliance with federal Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program standards is a mandatory external quality activity. Further, the state, its agent, or the external quality review organization must conduct this review within the previous 3-year period.

As required by section 3.02.01 *Conformance with State and Federal Regulations* of the *Medicaid Managed Care Services Agreement*, Rhode Island managed care plans are required to meet all regulations specified in *Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations Part 438 Managed Care*.

Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations 438.358 Activities related to external quality review (a)(1) mandates that the state or an external quality review organization must perform the review to determine managed care compliance with federal Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program standards. Per *Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations 438.360 Nonduplication of mandatory activities with Medicare or accreditation review*, in place of a review by the state, its agent or external quality review organization, states can use information obtained from a national accrediting organization review for the external quality review activities. Through this authority, the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services uses the results of each managed care plans’ NCQA Accreditation Survey to verify managed care plan compliance with state and federal standards. Section 2.02 *Licensure and Accreditation* of the *Medicaid Managed Care Services Agreement* requires that each Rhode Island health maintenance organization seek and maintain NCQA Accreditation.

On behalf of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, IPRO reviewed the results of each managed care plan’s most recent NCQA Accreditation Survey to verify managed care plan compliance with state and federal Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program requirements.

Technical Methods of Data Collection and Analysis

IPRO received NCQA Accreditation Survey results from **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island** and reviewed these results to verify managed care plan compliance with federal Medicaid standards of under *Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations Part 438 Managed Care*.

Description of Data Obtained

The *Score Summary Overall Results* presented Accreditation Survey results by category code, standard code, review category title, self-assessed score, current score, issues not met, points received and possible points. The crosswalk provided to IPRO by the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services included instructions on how to use the crosswalk, a glossary, and detailed explanations on how the NCQA accreditation standards support federal Medicaid standards.

Comparative Results

Table 42 displays **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's** compliance with federal Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program standards captured during the most recent NCQA Accreditation Survey. **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's** accreditation was granted by NCQA on November 20, 2023 with an expiration date of October 20, 2026.

Table 42: Evaluation of Managed Care Plan Compliance with Federal Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program Standards, 2024

Federal Medicaid Standard	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island
438.56 Disenrollment requirements and limitations	Met
438.100 Enrollee rights and requirements	Met
438.114 Emergency and poststabilization services	Met
438.206 Availability of services	Met
438.207 Assurances of adequate capacity and services	Met
438.208 Coordination and continuity of care	Met
438.210 Coverage and authorization of services	Met
438.214 Provider selection	Met
438.224 Confidentiality	Met
438.228 Grievance and appeal system	Met
438.230 Sub-contractual relationships and delegation	Met
438.236 Practice guidelines	Met
438.242 Health information systems	Met
438.330 Quality assessment and performance improvement program	Met

External Quality Review Activity 4. Validation of Network Adequacy – Technical Summary

Objectives

Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations 438.68 Network adequacy standards requires states that contract with a managed care plan to develop and enforce time and distance standards for the following provider types: adult and pediatric primary care, obstetrics/gynecology, adult and pediatric behavioral health (for mental health and substance use disorder), adult and pediatric specialists, hospitals, pediatric dentists, and long-term services and support. The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services enforces managed care adoption of the Rhode Island time and distance standards through the *Medicaid Managed Care Services Agreement*.

Section 2.09 *Service Accessibility Standards* of the *Medicaid Managed Care Services Agreement* requires Rhode Island managed care plans to ensure that network providers comply with access and timely appointment availability requirements, and to monitor access and availability standards of the network to determine compliance and take corrective action if there is a failure to comply. The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services-established access standards are presented in **Table 43**.

Table 43: Rhode Island Medicaid Managed Care Network Standards

Rhode Island Medicaid Managed Care Access Standards
Time and Distance Standards
▪ Primary Care, Adult and Pediatric Within 20 Minutes or 20 Miles
▪ OB/GYN Within 45 Minutes or 30 Miles
▪ Top 5 Adult Specialties Within 30 Minutes or 30 Miles
▪ Top 5 Pediatric Specialties Within 45 Minutes or 45 Miles
▪ Hospital Within 45 Minutes or 30 Miles
▪ Pharmacy Within 10 Minutes or 10 Miles
▪ Imaging Within 45 Minutes or 30 Miles
▪ Ambulatory Surgery Centers Within 45 Minutes or 30 Miles
▪ Dialysis Within 30 Minutes or 30 Miles
▪ Outpatient Behavioral/Mental Health Adult Prescribers Within 30 Minutes or 30 Miles
▪ Outpatient Behavioral/Mental Health Pediatric Prescribers Within 45 Minutes or 45 Miles
▪ Outpatient Behavioral/Mental Health Adult Non-Prescribers Within 20 Minutes or 20 Miles
▪ Outpatient Behavioral/Mental Health Pediatric Non-Prescribers Within 20 Minutes or 20 Miles
▪ Outpatient Behavioral Health Substance Use Prescribers Within 30 Minutes or 30 Miles
▪ Outpatient Behavioral Health Substance Use Non-Prescribers Within 20 Minutes or 20 Miles
Appointment Standards
▪ After-Hours Care (telephone) Available 24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a Week
▪ Emergency Care Available Immediately
▪ Urgent Care Within 24 Hours
▪ Routine Care Within 30 Calendar Days
▪ Physical Exam Within 180 Calendar Days
▪ EPSDT Within 6 Weeks
▪ New Member Within 30 Calendar Days
▪ Non-Emergent or Non-Urgent Mental Health or Substance Use Services Within 10 Calendar Days
Member-to-Primary Care Provider Ratio Standards
▪ No more than 1,500 members to any single primary care provider

Rhode Island Medicaid Managed Care Access Standards

- No more than 1,000 members per single primary care provider within a primary care provider team

24 Hour Coverage Standard

- On a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week basis access to medical and behavioral health services must be available to members either directly through the managed care plan or primary care provider

Other Standards

- Each Medicaid network should include Patient Centered Medical Homes that serve as primary care providers

Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations 438.356 State contract options for external quality review and Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations 438.358 Activities related to external quality review establish that state agencies must contract with an external quality review organization to perform the annual validation of network adequacy. To meet these federal regulations, the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services contracted IPRO to perform the 2024 validation of network adequacy for each managed care plan.

Technical Methods of Data Collection and Analysis

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island monitors its provider network for accessibility and network adequacy using a Geo Access software program. This program assigns geographic coordinates to addresses so that the distance between providers and members can be assessed to determine whether members have access to care within a reasonable distance from their homes.

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island monitors its network's ability to provide timely routine and urgent appointments through secret shopper surveys. The data includes the number of providers surveyed, the number of appointments made and not made, the total number of appointments meeting the timeframe standards and appointment rates.

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's access standard for primary care providers is one provider within 20 miles and one provider within 30 miles for obstetricians/gynecologists. Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's goal is to have 95% of its network of providers meet the established distance requirements. The distance requirements differ by provider type and county designation.

Description of Data Obtained

IPRO's evaluation was performed using network data submitted by **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island** in the *quarterly Network Adequacy Summary Report* for 2024 and in **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's Access Survey Report** for January 2024 and July 2024.

Comparative Results

Network Adequacy Validation Results

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island evaluated network adequacy using acceptable methodologies. Table 44 displays the results of IPRO’s validation of network adequacy for Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program network.

Table 44: Managed Care Plan Network Adequacy Validation Results, Measurement Year 2024

Information Systems Capabilities Assessment Results Issued by IPRO	
Topic Under Review	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island
Validation of Network Adequacy Data Collection and Reporting	Met

Met means that the managed care plan met or exceeded standards.

Compliance with State Access Requirements

Table 45 shows the percentage of members for whom the geographic access standards were met. The results of this analysis show that Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island exceeded the 95% goal for member geographic access for all provider types reported.

Table 45: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Geo Access Analysis, 2024

Provider Type	Access to Provider Standard	% of Members With Access 2024 Quarter 1	Goal = 95% Met/Not Met	% of Members With Access 2024 Quarter 2	Goal = 95% Met/Not Met	% of Members With Access 2024 Quarter 3	Goal = 95% Met/Not Met	% of Members With Access 2024 Quarter 4	Goal = 95% Met/Not Met
Primary Care									
Family Medicine	1 in 20 Miles	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
	1 in 20 Minutes	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
Internal Medicine	1 in 20 Miles	99.9%	Met	99.9%	Met	99.9%	Met	99.9%	Met
	1 in 20 Minutes	99.9%	Met	99.9%	Met	99.9%	Met	99.9%	Met
Pediatrics	1 in 20 Miles	99.9%	Met	99.9%	Met	99.9%	Met	99.9%	Met
	1 in 20 Minutes	99.9%	Met	99.9%	Met	99.9%	Met	99.9%	Met
OB/GYN	1 in 30 Miles	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
	1 in 45 Minutes	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
Specialty Care									
Cardiology	1 in 30 Miles	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
	1 in 30 Minutes	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
Gastroenterology	1 in 30 Miles	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
	1 in 30 Minutes	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
Neurology	1 in 30 Miles	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
	1 in 30 Minutes	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
Oncology	1 in 30 Miles	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
	1 in 30 Minutes	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
Optometry	1 in 30 Miles	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
	1 in 30 Minutes	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
Orthopedic Surgery	1 in 30 Miles	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
	1 in 30 Minutes	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
Gastroenterology	1 in 45 Miles	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
	1 in 45 Minutes	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
Optometry	1 in 45 Miles	99.9%	Met	99.9%	Met	99.9%	Met	99.9%	Met
	1 in 45 Minutes	98.0%	Met	98.0%	Met	98.0%	Met	97.9%	Met
Orthopedic Surgery	1 in 45 Miles	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
	1 in 45 Minutes	99.9%	Met	99.9%	Met	99.9%	Met	99.9%	Met
Otolaryngology	1 in 45 Miles	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met

Provider Type	Access to Provider Standard	% of Members With Access 2024 Quarter 1	Goal = 95% Met/Not Met	% of Members With Access 2024 Quarter 2	Goal = 95% Met/Not Met	% of Members With Access 2024 Quarter 3	Goal = 95% Met/Not Met	% of Members With Access 2024 Quarter 4	Goal = 95% Met/Not Met
	1 in 45 Minutes	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
Speech Therapy	1 in 45 Miles	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
	1 in 45 Minutes	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
Other									
Ambulatory Surgery	1 in 30 Miles	98.8%	Met	98.8%	Met	98.8%	Met	100%	Met
	1 in 45 Minutes	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
Dialysis Center	1 in 30 Miles	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
	1 in 30 Minutes	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
Hospital	1 in 30 Miles	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
	1 in 45 Minutes	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
Imaging	1 in 30 Miles	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
	1 in 45 Minutes	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met	100%	Met
Pharmacy	1 in 10 Miles	99.8%	Met	99.8%	Met	99.8%	Met	99.8%	Met
	1 in 10 Minutes	99.7%	Met	99.7%	Met	99.7%	Met	99.7%	Met

¹ The Access Standard is measured in travel time from a member's home to provider offices.

Table 46 displays aggregate results of the secret shopper appointment availability surveys conducted by **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island** in January 2024 and July 2024. Availability of both routine and urgent care appointments was assessed for a variety of provider types.

Table 46: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Appointment Availability Survey Results, January 2024 and July 2024

Appointment Type/Provider Specialty	Number of Providers Surveyed	Number of Appointments Made	Appointment Rate	Rate of Timely Appointments Made ¹
Primary Care Routine Appointments				
Family/General/Internal	20	7	35.0%	20.0%
Pediatricians	20	5	25.0%	15.0%
Obstetrics/Gynecology	20	9	45.0%	25.0%
Primary Care Urgent Appointments				
Family/General/Internal	20	12	60.0%	25.0%
Pediatricians	20	4	20.0%	5.0%
Obstetrics/Gynecology	20	12	60.0%	20.0%
Adult Specialty Care Routine Appointments				
Cardiology	12	4	33.3%	25.0%
Dermatology	12	7	58.3%	16.7%
Endocrinology	12	2	16.7%	25.0%
Gastroenterology	12	8	66.7%	33.3%
Pulmonary	12	5	41.7%	16.7%
Adult Specialty Care Urgent Appointments				
Cardiology	12	1	8.3%	8.3%
Dermatology	12	5	41.7%	8.3%
Endocrinology	12	2	16.7%	0.0%
Gastroenterology	12	7	58.3%	8.3%
Pulmonary	12	6	50.0%	0.0%
Pediatric Specialty Care Routine Appointments				
Allergy/Immunology	12	5	41.7%	16.7%
Gastroenterology	12	5	41.7%	41.7%
Neurology	12	6	50.0%	41.7%
Orthopedics	12	9	75.0%	75.0%
Otolaryngology/Ear, Nose and Throat	12	6	50.0%	50.0%
Pediatric Specialty Care Urgent Appointments				
Allergy/Immunology	12	5	41.7%	0.0%
Gastroenterology	12	7	58.3%	41.7%
Neurology	12	5	41.7%	0.0%
Orthopedics	12	7	58.3%	0.0%
Otolaryngology/Ear, Nose and Throat	12	3	25.0%	25.0%
Behavioral Health Care Routine Appointments				
Adult Behavioral Health	30	15	50.0%	3.3%
Pediatric/Adolescent Behavioral Health	30	16	53.3%	0.0%

¹The Number of Providers Surveyed is the denominator for Rate of Timely Appointments Made.

External Quality Review Activity 6. Validation of Quality-of-Care Surveys, Member Satisfaction – Technical Summary

Objectives

Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations 438.358(c)(2) establishes that for each managed care plan, the administration or validation of consumer or provider surveys of quality of care may be performed by using information derived during the preceding 12 months. Further, *Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations 438.358(a)(2)* requires that the data obtained from the quality-of-care survey(s) be used for the annual external quality review.

Section 2.13.05 *Member Satisfaction Report* of the *Medicaid Managed Care Services Agreement* requires the Medicaid managed care plan to sponsor a member satisfaction survey for all Medicaid product lines annually. The goal of the survey is to get feedback from these members about how they view the health care services they receive. The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services uses results from the survey to determine variation in member satisfaction among the managed care plans. Further, section 2.13.04 *EOHHS Quality Assurance* of the *Medicaid Managed Care Services Agreement* requires that the CAHPS survey tool be administered.

The overall objective of the CAHPS study is to capture accurate and complete information about consumer-reported experiences with health care. Specifically, the survey aims to measure how well plans are meeting their members' expectations and goals; to determine which areas of service have the greatest effect on members' overall satisfaction; and to identify areas of opportunity for improvement, which can aid plans in increasing the quality of provided care.

Each managed care plan independently contracted with a certified CAHPS vendor to administer an adult and child survey for measurement year 2024. On behalf of the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, IPRO validated satisfaction surveys sponsored by the managed care plans for measurement year 2024.

Technical Methods of Data Collection and Analysis

The CAHPS Health Plan Survey 5.1H survey instruments selected for measurement year 2024 were the Adult Version for Medicaid, and the Child Version – Children With Chronic Conditions for Medicaid or Child Version – Children Without Chronic Conditions for Medicaid.

HEDIS specifications require that the managed care plan provide a list of all eligible members for the sampling frame. Following HEDIS requirements, each managed care plan included members in their respective sample frames who were 18 years of age or older for adult members or 17 years of age or younger for child members as of December 31, 2024, continuously enrolled for at least five of the last six months of 2024, and currently enrolled in the managed care plan.

Table 47 provides a summary of the **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's** technical methods of data collection for each survey.

Table 47: CAHPS Technical Methods of Data Collection, Measurement Year 2024

Managed Care Plan/Methodology Element	Adult CAHPS Survey	Child CAHPS Survey
Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island		
Survey Tool	5.1H Medicaid Adult	5.1H Medicaid Child with Chronic Conditions Supplemental Items Set
Survey Timeframe	2/14/2025 to 5/07/2025	2/14/2025 to 5/07/2025
Method of Collection	Mail, Telephone, Internet	Mail, Telephone, Internet
Sample Size	3,375	2,475
Response Rate	13.11%	9.23%

Results were calculated in accordance with HEDIS specifications for survey measures. According to HEDIS specifications, results for the adult and child populations were reported separately, and no weighting or case-mix adjustment was performed on the results.

For the global ratings, composite measures, composite items, and individual item measures the scores were calculated using a 100-point scale. Responses were classified into response categories. **Table 48** displays these categories and the measures which these response categories are used.

Table 48: CAHPS Categories and Response Options

Category/Measure	Response Options
Composite Measures	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Getting Needed Care ▪ Getting Care Quickly ▪ How Well Doctors Communicate ▪ Coordination of Care ▪ Customer Service 	Never, Sometimes, Usually, Always <i>(Top-level performance is considered responses of “usually” or “always.”)</i>
Global Rating Measures	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rating of All Health Care ▪ Rating of Personal Doctor ▪ Rating of Specialist Talked to Most Often ▪ Rating of Health Plan 	0-10 Scale <i>(Top-level performance is considered scores of “8” or “9” or “10.”)</i>

To assess managed care plan performance, IPRO compared **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s** scores to national Medicaid performance reported in the *2025 Quality Compass* (measurement year 2024) for all lines of business that reported measurement year 2024 CAHPS data to NCQA.

Description of Data Obtained

For each managed care plan, IPRO received a copy of the final measurement year 2024 study reports produced by the certified CAHPS vendor. These reports included comprehensive descriptions of the project objectives and methodology, as well as managed care plan-level results and analyses.

Comparative Results

Table 49 displays **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's** results of the 2025 CAHPS Adult Medicaid Survey for measurement years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 while **Table 50** displays t **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's** results of the 2025 CAHPS Child Medicaid Survey for measurement years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024. The national Medicaid benchmarks displayed in these tables come from *NCQA's 2025 Quality Compass* for measurement year 2024 and represent all lines of business.

Table 49: Managed Care Plan Medicaid Adult Population CAHPS Results, Measurement Years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024

Measures	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island Measurement Year 2020	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island Measurement Year 2021	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island Measurement Year 2022	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island Measurement Year 2023	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island Measurement Year 2024	Quality Compass Measurement Year 2024 National Medicaid Benchmark (Met/Exceeded)	Quality Compass Measurement Year 2024 National Medicaid Mean
Rating of All Health Care ¹	82.10%	75.74%	80.57%	76.47%	77.85%	50th	76.48%
Rating of Personal Doctor ¹	83.19%	85.34%	86.17%	81.01%	87.21%	75th	84.56%
Rating of Specialist ¹	88.36%	87.16%	85.00%	85.86%	84.26%	50th	83.06%
Rating of Health Plan ¹	90.15%	87.31%	86.81%	88.55%	86.64%	95th	77.61%
Getting Care Quickly ²	85.93%	83.43%	86.48%	82.58%	87.92%	95th	81.57%
Getting Needed Care ²	88.14%	84.71%	86.06%	83.81%	86.32%	75th	82.05%
How Well Doctors Communicate ²	92.00%	92.72%	94.11%	92.98%	94.37%	66.67th	93.37%
Customer Service ²	89.17%	88.92%	91.85%	91.73%	92.38%	75th	89.27%
Coordination of Care ²	84.32%	86.21%	88.26%	90.17%	89.18%	75th	85.94%

¹ Rates reflect respondents who gave a rating of 8, 9, or 10 (with 10 being the “best possible”).

² Rates reflect responses of “always” or “usually.”

Small Sample means that the denominator is less than 100 members.

Table 50: Managed Care Plan Medicaid General Child Population CAHPS Results, Measurement Years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024

Measures	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island Measurement Year 2020	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island Measurement Year 2021	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island Measurement Year 2022	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island Measurement Year 2023	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island Measurement Year 2024	Quality Compass Measurement Year 2024 National Medicaid Benchmark (Met/Exceeded)	Quality Compass Measurement Year 2024 National Medicaid Mean
Rating of All Health Care ¹	89.29%	88.27%	88.89%	91.15%	83.70%	10th	87.35%
Rating of Personal Doctor ¹	91.59%	90.79%	91.48%	91.52%	90.00%	33.33rd	90.59%
Rating of Specialist ¹	Small Sample	Small Sample	Small Sample	Small Sample	Small Sample	Not Applicable	87.36%
Rating of Health Plan ¹	92.21%	89.80%	91.67%	88.59%	89.19%	75th	86.50%
Getting Care Quickly ²	90.81%	85.74%	83.40%	Small Sample	85.38%	33.33rd	86.20%
Getting Needed Care ²	89.38%	88.19%	81.85%	Small Sample	Small Sample	Not Applicable	83.95%
How Well Doctors Communicate ²	95.51%	93.21%	93.05%	97.17%	91.11%	<10th	93.95%
Customer Service ²	Small Sample	Small Sample	Small Sample	Small Sample	Small Sample	Not Applicable	88.21%
Coordination of Care ²	Small Sample	86.21%	Small Sample	Small Sample	Small Sample	Not Applicable	84.90%

¹ Rates reflect respondents who gave a rating of 8, 9, or 10 (with 10 being the “best possible”).

² Rates reflect responses of “always” or “usually.”

Small Sample means that the denominator is less than 100 members.

External Quality Review Activity 6. Validation of Quality-of-Care Surveys, Provider Satisfaction – Technical Summary

Objectives

Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations 438.358(c)(2) establishes that for each managed care plan, the administration or validation of consumer or provider surveys of quality of care may be performed by using information derived during the preceding 12 months. Further, *42 Code of Federal Regulations 438.358(a)(2)* requires that the data obtained from the quality-of-care survey(s) be used for the annual external quality review.

Section 2.13.06 *Provider Satisfaction Report* of the *Medicaid Managed Care Services Agreement* requires the Medicaid managed care plan to sponsor a satisfaction survey for all Medicaid network providers. The goal of the survey is to get feedback from these providers about how they view the Medicaid program and the managed care plan. The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services uses results from the survey to determine variation in provider satisfaction among the managed care plans.

To meet the requirements of the *Medicaid Managed Care Services Agreement*, the managed care plans administer the provider satisfaction surveys annually. The general objective of these surveys is to assess provider perception of the managed care plan’s Medicaid operations and services to better understand strengths, pain points, and opportunities.

On behalf of the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, IPRO validated satisfaction surveys sponsored by the managed care plans for measurement year 2024.

Technical Methods of Data Collection and Analysis

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island contracted an NCQA-certified CAHPS vendor to conduct the measurement year 2024 provider satisfaction survey. Primary care providers, specialist, and ancillary providers who had visits with at least 100 or more unique members between March 2024 and September 2024 were surveyed. **Table 51** provides a summary of the technical methods of data collection.

Table 51: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Provider Satisfaction Survey Technical Methods of Data Collection, Measurement Year 2024

Methodology Element	Provider Satisfaction Survey
Survey Tool	Non-standard
Survey Timeframe	9/10/2024 to 11/11/2024
Method of Collection	Mail, Telephone, Internet
Program	Medicaid
Eligible Provider Types	Primary Care, Specialists, and Ancillary
Sample Size	1,497
Response Rate	7.8%

The 52-question 2024 survey instrument was similar to the 2023 instrument. **Table 52** displays the survey’s measure and possible response options.

Table 52: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Provider Satisfaction Survey Categories and Response Options

Measure Category	Response Options
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All Other Plans (Comparative Rating) ▪ Finance Issues ▪ Utilization and Quality Management ▪ Network/Coordination of Care ▪ Pharmacy ▪ Health Plan Call Center Service Staff ▪ Provider Relations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Well Below Average ▪ Somewhat Below Average ▪ Average ▪ Somewhat Above Average ▪ Well Above Average
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overall Satisfaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completely Dissatisfied ▪ Someone Dissatisfied ▪ Neither ▪ Somewhat Satisfied ▪ Completely Satisfied

Summary rates generally represent the most favorable response percentages. For comparison purposes, results are presented by summary rates. Composite scores are calculated by taking the average summary rates of the attributes in the specified section. Summary rates include the following categories: Well Below Average, Somewhat Below Average, Average, Somewhat Above Average, Well Above Average.

Where possible, the survey vendor compared **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s** performance to Press Ganey Associates LLC’s *2023 PG Medicaid Book of Business* benchmarks.

Description of Data Obtained

IPRO received a copy of **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s** final study report produced by Press Ganey LLC for the managed care plan and utilized the reported results to evaluate the administration of the 2024 provider satisfaction survey. The report included detailed descriptions of the survey objectives, methodology, and results.

Comparative Results

Table 53 displays provider survey questions and results for measurement years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 for **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island**.

Table 53: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Provider Satisfaction Survey Results, Measurement Years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024

Measures	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Provider Satisfaction Survey Results					
	Measurement Year 2019 (n=unknown)	Measurement Year 2020 (n=108)	Measurement Year 2021 (n=105)	Measurement Year 2022 (n=104)	Measurement Year 2023 (n=91)	Measurement Year 2024 (n=117)
Overall Satisfaction ¹	52%	73.0%	69.6%	64.7%	68.9%	57.7%
Would Recommend	Not Available	Not Available	26.7%	22.3%	29.9%	25.5%
Finance Issues ²	19%	32%	34.0%	32.3%	34.5%	28.2%
Utilization and Quality Management ²	25%	38%	39.8%	37.7%	36.6%	26.4%
Network/Coordination of Care ²	21%	28%	32.7%	25.7%▼	23.0%	18.0%
Pharmacy ²	11%	24%	26.1%	19.4%▼	22.2%	16.3%
Health Plan Call Center Staff ^{2,3}	35%	51%	45.5%	45.1%	48.0%	36.6%
Provider Relations ²	16%	24%	42.5%▲	41.6%	59.0%▲	34.2%▼

¹ Proportion represent percentage of “completely” or “somewhat satisfied” responses.

² Proportion represent percentage of “well above average” or “somewhat above average” responses.

³ Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s call center staff represent provider services.

n=denominator.

▲ Rate is statistically significantly better than the previous measurement year’s rate.

▼ Rate is statistically significantly worse than the previous measurement year’s rate.

Accreditation – Technical Summary

Objectives

Section 2.02 *Licensure and Accreditation* of the *Medicaid Managed Care Services Agreement* requires that each health maintenance organization seek and maintain NCQA Accreditation. Health maintenance organizations participating in the Rhode Island Medicaid managed care program must provide the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services evidence of full accreditation. Failure to obtain and maintain accreditation would result in the suspension of enrollment and/or termination of the *Medicaid Managed Care Services Agreement*.

NCQA’s Health Plan Accreditation program is considered the industry’s gold standard for assuring and improving quality care and patient experience. It reflects a commitment to quality that yields tangible, bottom-line value. It also ensures essential consumer protections, including fair marketing, sound coverage decisions, access to care, and timely appeals.

The accreditation process is a rigorous, comprehensive, and transparent evaluation process through which the quality of key systems and processes that define a health plan are assessed. Additionally, accreditation includes an evaluation of the actual results the health plan achieved on key dimensions of care, service, and efficacy. Specifically, NCQA reviews the health plan’s quality management and improvement, utilization management, provider credentialing and re-credentialing, members’ rights and responsibilities, standards for member connections, and HEDIS and CAHPS performance measures.

Beginning with Health Plan Accreditation 2020 and the 2020 HEDIS reporting year, the health plan ratings and accreditation were aligned to improve consistency between the two activities and to simplify the scoring methodology for accreditation. An aggregate summary of managed care plan performance on these two activities is summarized in the NCQA Health Plan Report Cards.

In July 2022, NCQA introduced health equity–focused updates that emphasized the collection and reporting of member demographic data. Beginning with HEDIS Measurement Year 2023, NCQA renamed the Equity category to Description of Membership to better reflect the descriptive nature of the member demographic measures included, such as race, ethnicity, and language preferences. In September 2025, NCQA further updated its terminology by renaming the Health Equity Accreditation program as the Health Outcomes Accreditation program, reflecting an expanded focus on improving health outcomes while maintaining an emphasis on equity.

Technical Methods of Data Collection and Analysis

To earn NCQA accreditation, each managed care plan must meet at least 80% of applicable points in each standards category, submit HEDIS and CAHPS data during the reporting year after the first full year of accreditation, and submit HEDIS and CAHPS data annually thereafter. The standards categories include quality management, population health management, network management, utilization management, credentialing and re-credentialing, and member experience.

To earn points in each standards category, managed care plans are evaluated on the factors satisfied in each applicable element and earn designation of “met,” “partially met,” or “not met” for each element. Elements are worth 1 or 2 points and are awarded based on the following:

- Met = Earns all applicable points (either 1 or 2)
- Partially Met = Earns half of applicable points (either 0.5 or 1)
- Not Met = Earns no points (0)

Within each standards category, the total number of points is added. The managed care plans can achieve 1 of 3 accreditation levels based on how they score on each standards category. **Table 54** displays the accreditation determination levels and points needed to achieve each level.

Table 54: NCQA Accreditation Status Levels and Points

Accreditation Status	Points Needed
Accredited	At least 80% of applicable points
Accredited with Provisional Status	Less than 80% but no less than 55% of applicable points
Denied	Less than 55% of applicable points

To distinguish quality among the accredited managed care plans, NCQA calculates an overall rating for each managed care plan as part of its Health Plan Ratings program. The overall rating is the weighted average of a managed care plan’s HEDIS and CAHPS measure ratings, plus accreditation bonus points (if the plan is accredited by NCQA), rounded to the nearest half point and displayed as stars.

Overall ratings are recalculated annually and presented in the *Health Plan Ratings* report that is released every September. The *Health Insurance Plan Ratings 2024* methodology used to calculate an overall rating is based on managed care plan performance on dozens of measures of care and is calculated on a 0–5 scale in half points, with five being the highest. Performance includes these three subcategories (also scored 0–5 in half points):

1. **Patient Experience:** Patient-reported experience of care, including experience with doctors, services, and customer service (measures in the Patient Experience category).
2. **Rates for Clinical Measures:** The proportion of eligible members who received preventive services (prevention measures) and the proportion of eligible members who received recommended care for certain conditions (treatment measures).
3. **NCQA Health Plan Accreditation:** For a plan with an accredited or provisional status, 0.5 bonus points are added to the overall rating before being rounded to the nearest half point and displayed as stars. A plan with an Interim status receives 0.15 bonus points added to the overall rating before being rounded to the nearest half point and displayed as stars.

The rating scale and definitions for each are displayed in **Table 55**.

Table 55: NCQA Health Plan Star Rating Scale

Ratings	Rating Definition
5	The top 10% of health plans, which are also statistically different from the mean.
4	Health plans in the top one-third of health plans that are not in the top 10% and are statistically different from the mean.
3	The middle one-third of health plans and health plans that are not statistically different from the mean.
2	Health plans in the bottom one-third of health plans that are not in the bottom 10% and are statistically different from the mean.
1	The bottom 10% of health plans, which are also statistically different from the mean.

Description of Data Obtained

IPRO accessed the NCQA Health Plan Reports website¹³ to review the *Health Plan Report Cards 2025* for the Rhode Island Medicaid managed care plans. For each managed care plan, star ratings, accreditation status, plan type, and distinctions were displayed. At the managed care plan-specific pages, information displayed was related to membership size, accreditation status, survey type and schedule, and star ratings for each measure and overall. The data presented here were current as of September 2025.

IPRO also received from each managed care plan, the accreditation survey decision letter issued by NCQA, the certificate of accreditation issued by NCQA, and the NCQA 2024 Renewal Survey Summary for Medicaid. The accreditation decision survey decision letter included information about the managed care plan's accreditation status and level achieved, the effective dates of the accreditation, and tentative dates of future accreditation surveys. The certificate of accreditation issued by NCQA displayed the managed care plan's accreditation status and level achieved, as well as the effective dates of the accreditation. The NCQA 2024 Renewal Survey Summary for Medicaid listed all the elements reviewed by NCQA during the managed care plan's accreditation survey and determinations of 'Met' or 'Not Met' issued to the managed care plan by element.

Comparative Results

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island was compliant with the state's requirement to achieve and maintain NCQA Accreditation. **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's** *Accredited* status is effective December 6, 2023 to December 6, 2026. **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island** achieved overall health plan star ratings of 4.5 out of 5 for the *Health Plan Ratings 2025*.

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island also achieved Health Equity Accreditation Status, recognizing the managed care plan's efforts to improve culturally and linguistically appropriate services and reduce health care disparities.

Table 56 displays **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's** overall health plan star rating, as well as the ratings for the three overarching categories (patient experience, prevention and equity, and treatment) and their subcategories under review.

¹³ NCQA Health Plan Report Cards Website: <https://reportcards.ncqa.org/health-plans>.

Table 56: Managed Care Plan NCQA Rating by Category, Measurement Year 2024

Overarching and Subcategories <i>(Number of Measures Included in Subcategory)</i>	NCQA Star Rating Achieved <i>(out of 5 stars)</i>
	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island 4.5 Stars Overall (out of 5 stars)
Patient Experience	4.0 Stars
Getting Care (2)	4.5 Stars
Satisfaction with Plan Physicians (1)	3.0 Stars
Satisfaction with Plan and Plan Services (2)	4.5 Stars
Prevention and Equity	4.5 Stars
Children and Adolescent Well Care (3)	4.5 Stars
Women’s Reproductive Health (3)	5.0 Stars
Cancer Screening (2)	4.5 Stars
Description of Membership (2)	5.0 Stars
Other Preventive Services (5)	
Chlamydia Screening	4.0 Stars
Influenza Immunizations for Adults	4.0 Stars
Td/Tdap Immunizations for Adults	3.0 Stars
Zoster Immunizations for Adults	3.0 Stars
Pneumococcal Immunizations for Adults	3.0 Stars
Treatment	3.5 Stars
Respiratory (5)	3.0 Stars
Diabetes (6)	4.0 Stars
Heart Disease (3)	4.5 Stars
Behavioral Health-Care Coordination (4)	4.0 Stars
Behavioral Health-Medication Adherence (3)	3.5 Stars
Behavioral Health-Access, Monitoring and Safety (5)	3.0 Stars
Risk-Adjusted Utilization (1)	1.0 Star
Other Treatment Measures (1)	3.0 Stars

Gray shading means that an aggregate score for the subcategory is not available.

Managed Care Plan Responses to the 2023 External Quality Review Recommendations

Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations 438.364 External quality review results (a)(6) require each annual technical report include “an assessment of the degree to which each MCO, PIHP, PAHP, or PCCM entity has effectively addressed the recommendations for quality improvement made by the external quality review organization during the previous year’s external quality review.” **Table 57** displays the assessment categories used by IPRO to describe managed care plan progress towards addressing the to the 2023 external quality review recommendations.

Table 58 displays **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s** progress related to the recommendations made in the *2023 External Quality Review Aggregate Annual Technical Report* as well as IPRO’s assessment of the managed care plan’s response.

Table 57: Managed Care Plan Response to Recommendation Assessment Levels

Assessment Determinations and Definitions
Addressed
Managed care plan’s quality improvement response resulted in demonstrated improvement.
Remains an Opportunity for Improvement
Managed care plan’s quality improvement response was appropriate; however, more time is needed to observe for performance improvement.
Not Addressed
Managed care plan’s quality improvement response did not address the recommendation; or performance declined.

Table 58: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Response to the 2023 External Quality Review Recommendations

External Quality Review Activity	2023 External Quality Review Recommendation	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Response to the 2023 External Quality Review Recommendation	IPRO’s Assessment of Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Response
Quality Improvement Projects	<p>Opportunities for improvement remain for four of the six quality improvement projects, as Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island did not achieve the established project goals. Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island should consider tailored interventions for subpopulations that have yet to achieve improved outcomes related to the quality improvement topics.</p>	<p>Neighborhood will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the interventions implemented for all quality improvement projects and adjust where appropriate. Since the reporting period, Neighborhood has implemented several interventions for the following quality improvement projects:</p> <p><u>Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits</u> All member and provider interventions reported have continued. In addition, Neighborhood has provided ongoing education on scheduling appointments as provider offices continue to use “a year and a day” scheduling practices, causing well visits to fall outside of the HEDIS measurement period.</p> <p><u>Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication</u> All member and provider interventions reported have continued. In addition, analysis of the telephonic outreach to providers intervention showed positive results. When members have a follow-up scheduled with a provider outside of the measurement timeframe, providers were able to move the appointment back and meet the 30 day follow-up measure.</p> <p><u>Transitions for Rhode to Home Eligible Members</u> All interventions reported continued. There are significant barriers to transitioning members within the Rhode to Home Program including lack of housing, members deemed as unsafe to transition, members wishing to stay in facility and lack of caregiver support. Neighborhood continues to reassess members more frequently than required to help members transition back to the community.</p> <p><u>The Lead Screening in Children, Care for Older Adults and Developmental</u></p>	<p>Remains an opportunity for improvement.</p>

External Quality Review Activity	2023 External Quality Review Recommendation	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's Response to the 2023 External Quality Review Recommendation	IPRO's Assessment of Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's Response
		Screening quality improvement projects all met the goal. Since Developmental Screening sustained high performance for several years, Neighborhood proposed Child and Adolescent Immunizations as a new quality improvement project effective in measurement year 2024.	
Performance Measures	None.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Compliance with Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program Standards	None.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Network Adequacy	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island should continue monitoring access to care, specifically Medicaid member access to timely appointments. Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island should consider establishing a routine schedule for reminding network providers of state appointment standards and their contractual obligation to meet those standards, promoting provider use of scheduling tools, and proactively seeking feedback from members paneled to providers with access deficiencies or concerns.	Neighborhood completes quarterly surveys to measure access to routine and urgent care and supplements survey data with complaint data. Access standards were included in annual provider trainings, Provider Manual and New Provider Orientations. Access Survey results are shared with our Clinical Affairs Committee, which includes network providers. Access concerns are also discussed at Member Advisory Committees and Neighborhood's Member Advocates are available to help with any member concerns around access to care.	Remains an opportunity for improvement.

External Quality Review Activity	2023 External Quality Review Recommendation	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's Response to the 2023 External Quality Review Recommendation	IPRO's Assessment of Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's Response
Quality of Care Surveys – Member Satisfaction	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island should share the results of the member experience surveys with network providers, along with recommendations on how providers can positively impact member experience.	Neighborhood's Customer Experience Work Group prioritized sharing member experience surveys with network providers and developed a plan for disseminating the information. Survey results will be shared via Provider Newsletters and during collaborative meetings with Community Health Centers. The presentation will also include recommendations on how providers can impact member experience.	Remains an opportunity for improvement.
Quality of Care Surveys – Provider Satisfaction	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island identify a method to collect in-depth provider feedback the perceived issues related to network/coordination of care and utilization/quality management.	<p>Neighborhood has several ways to collect in-depth provider feedback. Timely issues are investigated and addressed through Provider Contracting and Provider Relations during the quarterly meetings with key provider groups (large hospital, community health centers) who care for a majority of members. The Customer Experience team also has intercept surveys embedded to pop-up post completing transactions to collect feedback and are coordinated as part of a process change initiative.</p> <p>Survey feedback is reviewed at the monthly Provider Experience Workgroup and interventions are implemented, as needed.</p>	Remains an opportunity for improvement.

Managed Care Plan 2024 Strengths, Opportunities and Recommendations Related to Quality, Timeliness, and Access

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's strengths and opportunities for improvement identified during IPRO's external quality review of the activities described are enumerated in this section. For areas needing improvement, recommendations to improve the **quality** of, **timeliness** of and **access** to care are presented. These three elements are defined as:

- **Quality** is the degree to which a managed care plan increases the likelihood of desired health outcomes of its enrollees through: (1) its structural and operational characteristics. (2) The provision of health services that are consistent with current professional, evidence-based knowledge. (3) Interventions for performance improvement. (*Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations 438.320 Definitions.*)
- **Timeliness** is the managed care plan's capacity to provide care quickly after a need is recognized. (Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)
- **Access** is the timely use of services to achieve health optimal outcomes, as evidenced by managed care plans successfully demonstrating and reporting on outcome information for the availability and timeliness elements. (*Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations 438.320 Definitions.*)

The strengths and opportunities for improvement based on the managed care plan's 2024 performance, as well recommendations for improving quality, timeliness, and access to care are presented in **Table 59** for **Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island**. In the table, links between strengths, opportunities, and recommendations to quality, timeliness and access are made by IPRO (indicated by a checkmark ✓). In some cases, IPRO determined that there were no links between these elements (indicated by gray shading).

Table 59: Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s Strengths, Opportunities, and Recommendations, Measurement Year 2024

External Quality Review Activity	External Quality Review Organization Assessment/Recommendation	Quality	Timeliness	Access
NCQA Accreditation				
Strengths	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island maintained NCQA Accreditation status in 2024.	✓	✓	✓
	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island achieved NCQA Health Outcomes Accreditation.	✓	✓	✓
	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s overall star rating was 4.5 out of 5.	✓	✓	✓
Opportunities	While Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island demonstrated strong overall performance, opportunities for improvement include enhancing risk-adjusted utilization outcomes, strengthening performance in respiratory care and behavioral health access, monitoring, and safety, and increasing rates for selected adult preventive immunizations to promote more consistent performance across quality domains.	✓	✓	✓
Recommendation	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island should implement targeted utilization management and care coordination strategies (e.g., reviewing utilization patterns for high-volume services and strengthening transitions of care), enhance respiratory and behavioral health monitoring and follow-up processes (e.g., improving follow-up after hospitalization and ongoing condition monitoring), and expand outreach and reminder activities to increase adult preventive immunization rates.	✓	✓	✓
Performance Improvement Projects				
Strengths	Two (2) of Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s quality improvement projects met all validation elements reviewed: Improve Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits, Ages 3 to 21 Years and Improve <i>HEDIS Care for Older Adults</i> Performance.			
	Improve Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits – Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island demonstrated performance improvement from baseline to measurement year 2024 on all four (4) indicators, with one (1) indicator rate exceeding the performance goal.	✓	✓	✓
	Improve the <i>HEDIS Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Medication (ADHD) Medication Rate</i> –	✓	✓	✓

External Quality Review Activity	External Quality Review Organization Assessment/Recommendation	Quality	Timeliness	Access
	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island demonstrated performance improvement from baseline to measurement year 2024 on one (1) of two (2) indicators.			
	Improve HEDIS Care for Older Adults Performance – Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island demonstrated performance improvement from baseline to measurement year 2024 on all three (3) performance indicators, with all three indicator rates exceeding performance goals established for measurement year 2024.	✓	✓	✓
Opportunities	Three (3) of Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s quality improvement projects did not meet all validation elements reviewed. Issues related to improvement strategies for the following quality improvement topics were identified: Improving Adolescent Immunization Rates, Improve the HEDIS <i>Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Medication (ADHD) Medication</i> Rate, and Social Determinant of Health Measure – Improve the Rate of Lead Screening in Children.			
	Improve Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits – Although Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island demonstrated performance improvement from baseline to measurement year 2024 on all four (4) indicators, three (3) indicators did not meet the performance goal established for measurement year 2024.	✓	✓	✓
	Improving Adolescent Immunization Rates – Although Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island demonstrated performance improvement from baseline to measurement year 2024 on two (2) of four (4) indicators, all four (4) indicators did not meet the performance goal established for measurement year 2024.	✓	✓	✓
	Improve the HEDIS <i>Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Medication (ADHD) Medication</i> Rate – Although Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island demonstrated performance improvement from baseline to measurement year 2024 on one (1) of two (2) indicators, both indicators did not meet the performance goal established for measurement year 2024.	✓	✓	✓

External Quality Review Activity	External Quality Review Organization Assessment/Recommendation	Quality	Timeliness	Access
	Social Determinant of Health Measure – Improve the Rate of Lead Screening in Children – Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s single performance indicator demonstrated performance decline from baseline to measurement year 2024 and did not meet the performance goal established for measurement year 2024.	✓	✓	✓
	Increase the Percentage of Transitions from the Nursing Home to the Community - Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island demonstrated performance decline from baseline to measurement year 2024 on one (1) indicator and did not meet the performance goal established for measurement year 2024. While Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island demonstrated performance improvement from baseline to measurement year 2024 for the remaining indicator, rates for this indicator have trended down for five consecutive measurement periods.	✓		✓
Recommendation	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island should ensure that each performance improvement project includes the implementation of a clearly defined intervention that represents a meaningful test of change. Interventions should be designed to differ from activities implemented in prior measurement periods and from strategies used across other performance improvement projects, particularly when prior approaches have not resulted in sustained or statistically meaningful improvement. For each performance improvement project, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island should implement targeted interventions informed by analysis of prior performance results and evaluate whether the change in approach results in measurable improvement in the selected performance indicators, consistent with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ expectations for performance improvement project methodology.	✓	✓	✓
Performance Measures				
Strengths	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island met all Information System and HEDIS Determination Standards reviewed during the HEDIS audit for measurement year 2024.			

External Quality Review Activity	External Quality Review Organization Assessment/Recommendation	Quality	Timeliness	Access
	For measurement year 2024, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island reported four (4) rates that benchmarked at the 95th percentile, two (2) rates at the 90th percentile, and eight (8) rates at the 75th percentile.	✓	✓	✓
Opportunities	For measurement year 2024, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island reported two (2) rates below the national Medicaid 75th percentile.	✓	✓	✓
	Year-to-year comparisons show slight declines in performance for cervical cancer screening, adult access to preventive and ambulatory services, and postpartum care, indicating potential emerging risks to maintaining stable performance across these measures.	✓	✓	✓
Recommendation	Neighborhood Health Plan should conduct targeted analyses to identify potential drivers of the observed performance declines in preventive, access, and postpartum care measures and determine whether focused quality improvement actions are needed to stabilize performance and prevent further decline.	✓	✓	✓
Network Adequacy				
Strengths	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s network analyses for measurement year 2024 were determined to be reliable.			
	In 2024, approximately 100% of Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s membership had appropriate distance access to primary and specialty care providers.	✓	✓	✓
Opportunities	Among primary care and specialty providers surveyed for routine and urgent appointment availability in 2024 by Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, results indicate limited success securing timely appointments across multiple provider types, with particularly low timely access for urgent services, select specialty care, and behavioral health.	✓	✓	✓
Recommendation	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island should prioritize focused review of appointment scheduling and network capacity for primary care, specialty care, and behavioral health services where timely appointment rates were limited. Particular attention should be given to urgent care and behavioral health access to identify potential barriers to timely care and determine whether targeted actions are needed to improve access across provider types.	✓	✓	✓

External Quality Review Activity	External Quality Review Organization Assessment/Recommendation	Quality	Timeliness	Access
Review of Compliance with Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program Standards				
Strengths	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island is compliant with the standards reviewed under <i>42 Code of Federal Regulations Part 438 Managed Care</i> .	✓	✓	✓
Opportunities	None.			
Recommendation	None.			
Validation of Quality-of-Care Survey, Adult Medicaid Member Experience Survey				
Strengths	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island demonstrated strong performance across nearly all measurement year 2024 CAHPS Adult Medicaid Survey scores. Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s performance against national Medicaid benchmarks for measurement year 2024 was particularly strong for Rating of Health Plan (95th percentile), Getting Care Quickly (95th percentile), and Getting Needed Care (75th percentile). Ratings related to providers, including Personal Doctor, Specialist, and Doctor Communication, were consistently at or above the national Medicaid mean, indicating a positive member experience across multiple domains.	✓	✓	✓
Opportunities	While Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island’s overall performance on the measurement year 2024 CAHPS Adult Medicaid Survey exceeded national Medicaid benchmarks for measurement year 2024, Rating of All Health Care and Rating of Specialist were at the 50th percentile and closer to the national Medicaid mean compared to other domains.	✓	✓	✓
Recommendation	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island should continue to monitor consumer experience results and implement targeted quality improvement activities focused on specialty care interactions and overall perceptions of care. Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island should use stratified CAHPS analyses to identify sub-populations or service areas with relatively lower performance and integrate findings into its quality assessment and performance improvement program to sustain high performance and support continued improvement.	✓	✓	✓
Validation of Quality of Care Survey, Child Medicaid Member Experience Survey				
Strengths	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island demonstrated strong performance on a single CAHPS Child Medicaid Survey measure.	✓	✓	✓

External Quality Review Activity	External Quality Review Organization Assessment/Recommendation	Quality	Timeliness	Access
	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island benchmarked at the measurement year 2024 national Medicaid 75th percentile for Rating of Health Plan.			
Opportunities	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island demonstrated limited performance relative to national Medicaid benchmarks on reported CAHPS measures. Rating of All Health Care ranked at the 10th percentile, and How Well Doctors Communicate performed below national benchmarks. In addition, interpretation of several key domains, including access, customer service, and coordination of care, was constrained due to small sample sizes, limiting the ability to fully assess member experience across required areas.	✓	✓	✓
Recommendation	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island should implement targeted quality improvement activities focused on improving overall perceptions of care and provider–member communication. The plan should evaluate provider education, communication standards, and member outreach efforts and incorporate findings into its Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement Program. Efforts should also focus on improving survey response rates to support more complete and reliable assessment of member experience across all required CAHPS domains.	✓	✓	✓
Validation of Quality of Care Survey, Provider Satisfaction Survey				
Strengths	None.			
Opportunities	Between Measurement Years 2023 and 2024, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island experienced consistent declines across most provider satisfaction survey measures, including overall satisfaction and willingness to recommend the plan, as well as finance, utilization management, provider relations, and call center staff. Although response counts were modest, the breadth of year-over-year declines suggests worsening provider experience during this period.	✓	✓	✓
Recommendation	Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island should implement targeted quality improvement actions to address the year-over-year declines observed between measurement years 2023 and 2024. Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island should identify root causes across affected	✓	✓	✓

External Quality Review Activity	External Quality Review Organization Assessment/Recommendation	Quality	Timeliness	Access
	operational areas and incorporate corrective actions into the Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement Program, with ongoing monitoring to assess improvement in provider satisfaction.			

Appendix A – NCQA Quality Improvement Activity Form

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FORM NCQA Quality Improvement Activity Form

Activity Name:	
Section I: Activity Selection and Methodology	
A. Rationale. Use objective information (data) to explain your rationale for why this activity is important to members or practitioners <i>and</i> why there is an opportunity for improvement.	
B. Quantifiable Measures. List and define <i>all</i> quantifiable measures used in this activity. Include a goal or benchmark for each measure. If a goal was established, list it. If you list a benchmark, state the source. Add sections for additional quantifiable measures as needed.	
Quantifiable Measure #1:	
Numerator:	
Denominator:	
First measurement period dates:	
Baseline Benchmark:	
Source of benchmark:	
Baseline goal:	
Quantifiable Measure #2:	
Numerator:	
Denominator:	
First measurement period dates:	
Benchmark:	
Source of benchmark:	
Baseline goal:	
Quantifiable Measure #3:	
Numerator:	
Denominator:	

First measurement period dates:	
Benchmark:	
Source of benchmark:	
Baseline goal:	
C. Baseline Methodology.	
C.1 Data Sources.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Medical/treatment records <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative data: <input type="checkbox"/> Claims/encounter data <input type="checkbox"/> Complaints <input type="checkbox"/> Appeals <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone service data <input type="checkbox"/> Appointment/access data <input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid (medical/treatment records and administrative) <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy data <input type="checkbox"/> Survey data (attach the survey tool and the complete survey protocol) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (list and describe): _The Plan also uses a local access database to track all pregnant members as part of our Healthy First Steps Program. Although this database was not used as an administrative database from NCQA perspective, it was used by local Plan team members to identify and outreach to pregnant members. In addition, we used this database to track number of members who participated in our Diaper Reward Program.	
C.2 Data Collection Methodology. Check all that apply and enter the measure number from Section B next to the appropriate methodology.	
If medical/treatment records, check below: <input type="checkbox"/> Medical/treatment record abstraction If survey, check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Personal interview <input type="checkbox"/> Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Phone with CATI script <input type="checkbox"/> Phone with IVR <input type="checkbox"/> Internet <input type="checkbox"/> Incentive provided <input type="checkbox"/> Other (list and describe):	If administrative, check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Programmed pull from claims/encounter files of all eligible members <input type="checkbox"/> Programmed pull from claims/encounter files of a sample of members <input type="checkbox"/> Complaint/appeal data by reason codes <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy data <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated entity data <input type="checkbox"/> Vendor file <input type="checkbox"/> Automated response time file from call center <input type="checkbox"/> Appointment/access data <input type="checkbox"/> Other (list and describe):

C.3 Sampling. If sampling was used, provide the following information.							
Measure	Sample Size	Population	Method for Determining Size (describe)			Sampling Method (describe)	
C.4 Data Collection Cycle.				Data Analysis Cycle.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Once a year <input type="checkbox"/> Twice a year <input type="checkbox"/> Once a season <input type="checkbox"/> Once a quarter <input type="checkbox"/> Once a month <input type="checkbox"/> Once a week <input type="checkbox"/> Once a day <input type="checkbox"/> Continuous <input type="checkbox"/> Other (list and describe): Annual HEDIS data collection in Spring, and interim measure in Summer preceding close of the HEDIS 2008 year (Summer 2007)				<input type="checkbox"/> Once a year <input type="checkbox"/> Once a season <input type="checkbox"/> Once a quarter <input type="checkbox"/> Once a month <input type="checkbox"/> Continuous <input type="checkbox"/> Other (list and describe): _____ _____			
C.5 Other Pertinent Methodological Features. Complete only if needed.							
D. Changes to Baseline Methodology. Describe any changes in methodology from measurement to measurement.							
Include, as appropriate: I. Measure and time period covered II. Type of change III. Rationale for change IV. Changes in sampling methodology, including changes in sample size, method for determining size, and sampling method V. Any introduction of bias that could affect the results							
Section II: Data/Results Table							
Complete for each quantifiable measure; add additional sections as needed.							
#1 Quantifiable Measure:							
Time Period Measurement Covers	Measurement	Numerator	Denominator	Rate or Results	Comparison Benchmark	Comparison Goal	Statistical Test and Significance*
	<i>Baseline:</i>						

#2 Quantifiable Measure:							
Time Period Measurement Covers	Measurement	Numerator	Denominator	Rate or Results	Comparison Benchmark	Comparison Goal	Statistical Test and Significance*
	<i>Baseline:</i>						

#3 Quantifiable Measure:							
Time Period Measurement Covers	Measurement	Numerator	Denominator	Rate or Results	Comparison Benchmark	Comparison Goal	Statistical Test and Significance*
	<i>Baseline:</i>						

* If used, specify the test, p value, and specific measurements (e.g., baseline to remeasurement #1, remeasurement #1 to remeasurement #2, etc., or baseline to final remeasurement) included in the calculations. NCQA does not require statistical testing.

Section III: Analysis Cycle
 Complete this section for EACH analysis cycle presented.

A. Time Period and Measures That Analysis Covers.

B. Analysis and Identification of Opportunities for Improvement. Describe the analysis and include the points listed below.

B.1 For the quantitative analysis:

B.2 For the qualitative analysis:

- Opportunities identified through the analysis

Impact of interventions

- Next steps

Section IV: Interventions Table

Interventions Taken for Improvement as a Result of Analysis. List chronologically the interventions that have had the most impact on improving the measure. Describe only the interventions and provide quantitative details whenever possible (e.g., “hired 4 UM nurses” as opposed to “hired UM nurses”). Do not include intervention planning activities.

Date Implemented (MM / YY)	Check if Ongoing	Interventions	Barriers That Interventions Address

Section V: Chart or Graph (Optional)

Attach a chart or graph for any activity having more than two measurement periods that shows the relationship between the timing of the intervention (cause) and the result of the remeasurements (effect). Present one graph for each measure unless the measures are closely correlated, such as average speed of answer and call abandonment rate. Control charts are not required, but are helpful in demonstrating the stability of the measure over time or after the implementation.