

NC InCK Alternative Payment Model (APM) Data Companion Guide for Providers:

Primary Care Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle

Measure at a Glance

Measure Name	Primary Care Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle
Measure Abbreviation	N/A
Measure Type	Process
Data Source	Claims Data
Measure Description	% of NC InCK-attributed children birth through 5 years (up until the 6th birthday) who received the kindergarten readiness bundle defined as a minimum of 5 universal and need-based interventions.
Numerator	# of children birth through 5 years old with a CPT 1003F code documented in claims data for a well-child visit during the measurement year.
Denominator	Children birth through 5 years old with continuous enrollment in Medicaid for at least 90 days and at least one visit with a primary care provider in the measurement year.

Note: The billing code used to capture Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle data was opened in September 2022, so data from calendar year 2022 is not necessarily representative of future years.

Kindergarten Readiness: Clinical and Public Health Significance

Kindergarten readiness is a meaningful measure of overall child well-being. Currently, only half of children in North Carolina are assessed as fully ready for kindergarten. Although children's primary care providers try to foster kindergarten readiness, they often do not have adequate information about resources or community programs that support children.

Why does this measure matter to NC InCK?

The goal of the Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle is to promote actions that foster the academic readiness of all children upon school entry. By linking the bundle's activities with financial incentives, NC InCK aims to encourage enrollment of children in all applicable health and early learning supports.

How will this data be measured?

The data for this measure is captured using [non-reimbursable codes](#). While there is no reimbursement for the Bundle code, many of the individual services can be coded and reimbursed. For the Primary Care

Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle, CPT code 1003F is used to indicate that at least 5 of 12 bundle components were provided during a well-child visit. The bundle is composed of **6 universal interventions and 6 need-based interventions listed** in the table below.

Modifiers can be added to the Bundle code if the provider included Office-based Literacy Promotion and/or Referral to PreK services under the Bundle as shown below. A CPT code of 1003F alone is sufficient for inclusion in the numerator of this measure and modifiers are not required.

CPT 1003F with no modifier – Bundle without Office-based Literacy Promotion or Referral to PreK

CPT 1003F + modifier SE – Bundle including Office-based Literacy Promotion

CPT 1003F + modifier TS – Bundle including Referral to PreK

CPT 1003F + modifiers SE and TS – Bundle including BOTH Office-based Literacy Promotion and Referral to PreK

Use of the Bundle CPT and modifier codes by themselves will not give a complete picture of which services were provided during a visit. Practices interested in tracking the provision of specific bundle services, any resulting referrals, and/or follow-up may consider creating their own internal systems for documentation.

What data will I be receiving on this measure for the NC InCK APM?

In Fall 2023, Prepaid Health Plans (PHPs), Clinically Integrated Networks (CINs), and Advanced Medical Homes (AMHs) will receive data on results from calendar year 2022. CINs will be expected to share member-level data with AMHs. In future years, metrics from the performance year will be provided on an annual basis. These first reports are shared for awareness and will not be tied to quality payments until performance year 2023.

Your CIN will receive member-level information, generated by the Department, indicating whether the Bundle was provided for each NC InCK member. CINs will calculate the percentage of the AMH's population that received the bundle. Payment will be based on an AMHs' performance, pooled across PHPs. CINs will distribute member-level information and quality performance rates to each AMH. The member-level information will also include numerator and denominator indicators, demographic information, and billing provider information so that CINs and practices can use the data to support further opportunities for action.

How should I interpret the data I receive?

The billing codes used to capture the Primary Care Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle for the NC InCK APM were implemented in September 2022, so there is no reliable baseline available yet. The baseline report being sent at this time will cover September - December 2022.

How is this data linked to quality payments?

To earn incentive payments, an AMH must meet the following targets set by the NC InCK External APM Workgroup that includes representatives from PHPs, CINs, NC Medicaid, physicians, and NC InCK Please note that this measure will not be tied to quality payments until performance year 2023, with the data shared in 2024.

Tier 1 (50% Quality Payment)	Tier 2 (75% Quality Payment)	Tier 3 (100% Quality Payment)
Documented on 20% of panel	Documented on 40% of panel	Documented on 60% of panel

How can I improve my practice's performance on this measure?

Listed below are options that have improved performance across several settings. Different interventions may work for different patient groups or clinic settings.

- Refer patients to the county-specific [Kindergarten Readiness resources](#) listed on the NC InCK website as appropriate.
- Update EHRs to include prompts for screening.
- Work with your billing team members to ensure that the non-reimbursable Bundle code is being submitted on Medicaid claims. Consult the [Quick Implementation Guide](#) for more guidance.
- Provide a referral menu that is offered to all caregivers, regardless of screening, which has been shown to increase identification of families in need of support and increase the likelihood of positive screenings in future visits ([Bottino et al.; 2017](#))

The Primary Care Kindergarten Readiness Promotion Bundle is associated with [the Education Related Awareness measures](#) of Kindergarten Readiness Rate and Chronic Absenteeism. More information on these measures and their significance can be found on the NC InCK website.