



Quality Connect is a monthly newsletter from Stratis Health designed to support your critical access hospital (CAH), providing updates and resources related to quality reporting and improvement efforts. To share your feedback or request to have another team member added to the list, please contact Jodi Winters – [jwinters@stratishealth.org](mailto:jwinters@stratishealth.org).

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## Reporting Reminders/Updates

### Upcoming Reporting Deadlines

- EDTC Q4 2025 due by February 2, 2026 (via MHA Portal)
- OP-18 Q3 2025 due by February 2, 2026 (via HQR)
- Antibiotic Stewardship CY 2025 due by March 1, 2026 (via NHSN)
- Safe Use of Opioids CY 2025 due by March 2, 2026 (via HQR)
- Population and Sampling is optional but encouraged

For more information on submitting MBQIP measures, refer to the [MBQIP Minnesota Quality Reporting Guide](#). Additionally, consult the [MBQIP Core Measure Set and Data Submission Deadlines](#) for upcoming submission deadlines, now updated to reflect reporting for Q3 2025 through Q2 2026.

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## Resources

### Resources Available from the Minnesota Department of Health's Long COVID Program

Long COVID and other post-viral infection-associated chronic conditions can

significantly impact daily life and are a leading cause of new disabilities. These tools help address gaps in care for this population by providing practical, up-to-date guidance on diagnosing, managing, and supporting patients experiencing Long COVID.

In conjunction with Stratis Health, MDH has released four evidence-informed tools to support providers in caring for patients with Long COVID:

- [COVID Booster Vaccination and the Prevention of Long COVID](#) (PDF)
- [Low Dose Naltrexone for Treatment of Long COVID](#) (PDF)
- [Long COVID and Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Informational Tool for Primary Care Providers](#) (PDF)
- [Paxlovid for Prevention of Long COVID](#) (PDF)

### **Opportunity for CAHs to Improve Behavioral Health in the Emergency Department**

The Stroudwater Associates team is offering a 10-week program, Improving Behavioral Health in the Rural Emergency Department Sprint, launching in mid-January. The Sprint is designed to provide your CAH's ED team with tools and ideas to make real-time improvements in your ED over the course of the three-month program. This program is free for CAHs to participate in. This 10-week sprint offers a virtual learning and action program that blends expert-led content, individualized coaching, and structured improvement work.

The program launched on Thursday, January 22, at 11 a.m. CT, with a content call each week for 10 weeks. If you missed the first session, but still want to sign up for the sprint, contact [zdargonne@stroudwater.com](mailto:zdargonne@stroudwater.com) to register.

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **MBIQIP Open Call for MN CAHs | April 8, 2026, 1-2 p.m. CT**

[Register](#)

Stratis Health hosts open discussion calls for Minnesota CAHs to support CAHs in submitting data for core MBQIP measures, sharing promising practices with other CAHs, and having a chance to ask questions of Stratis Health staff and each other. CAHs are encouraged to review their MBQIP reports before the calls and to come with questions.

Additional 2026 calls and registration, as well as past calls, [can be found on the Stratis Health website](#).

### **Expert to Expert eCQM Annual Update Webinars**

Register now to attend Expert to Expert webinars offered in collaboration by the Joint Commission, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and eCQM stewards. The webinars address the eCQM Annual Updates for 2026 implementation and offer CE credit for the live broadcast. Frequently asked questions will be addressed, and the audience can submit questions for response during a Q&A segment. Slides, Recordings, and Transcripts will be available on the Joint Commission Webinars & Videos webpage - scroll down and use the checkbox to sort for Expert to Expert webinars.

Register for the two upcoming events:

- [February 26, 2026](#) | Annual Updates for PC-02 and PC-07 eQMs for 2026 Reporting Year
- [March 5, 2026](#) | Annual Updates for STK-2, STK-3, STK-5, VTE-1, and VTE-2 eQMs for 2026 Reporting Year

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## Contact

For support with your quality reporting and improvement needs, please contact Jodi Winters at [jwinters@stratishealth.org](mailto:jwinters@stratishealth.org).

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### About Stratis Health

Stratis Health is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to collaborate and innovate to improve health. Stratis Health delivers data-driven insights, evidence-based interventions, and leading-edge improvement methodologies that inspire organizations and communities to achieve solutions to their most complex health improvement challenges. Visit the Stratis Health website at [www.stratishealth.org](http://www.stratishealth.org) for more information.



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