

June 19, 2026

Endorsement and Maintenance Team
Partnership for Quality Measurement
PQMSupport@battelle.org

Re: Support for Endorsement of the Rate of Annual Kidney Health Evaluation Among Adults with Diabetes and/or Hypertension (CBEID 5611e)

Dear Members of the Partnership for Quality Measurement Endorsement and Maintenance Committee,

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is writing to express our strong support for endorsement of the measure, *Rate of Annual Kidney Health Evaluation Among Adults with Diabetes and/or Hypertension* (CBEID 5611e). This measure addresses a well-documented gap in the use of an annual kidney health evaluation for adults at high risk for chronic kidney disease due to its two leading causes, diabetes, and hypertension.

The Academy represents more than 112,000 registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs), nutrition and dietetic technicians, registered (NDTRs), and other credentialed nutrition and dietetics practitioners. As the world's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals, the Academy is committed to improving the health of Americans through evidence-based nutrition care, improved access to nutrition services, and chronic disease prevention and management.

RDNs are integral members of the kidney care team and play a key role in helping individuals manage their kidney health through medical nutrition therapy (MNT) and other evidence-based lifestyle interventions. Early identification of CKD is essential as it enables the timely implementation of MNT and other interventions that support blood pressure control, glycemic management, cardiovascular risk reduction, and supports efforts to slow disease progression.¹ As these strategies are most effective when initiated early, the Academy strongly supports efforts to increase the use of guideline-recommended kidney health evaluations among high-risk populations.

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a an underrecognized public health crisis affecting approximately 37 million adults in the United States. Because kidney disease often progresses silently and presents with few signs or symptoms until advanced stages, many individuals remain undiagnosed until irreversible damage has occurred. Adults with diabetes and hypertension are at particularly high risk for CKD and represent populations for whom timely screening and early intervention are critically important.

¹ Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) CKD Work Group. KDIGO 2024 Clinical Practice Guideline for the Evaluation and Management of Chronic Kidney Disease. *Kidney Int.* 2024 Apr;105(4S):S117-S314. doi: 10.1016/j.kint.2023.10.018. PMID: 38490803.

Measure performance is based on the percentage of patients aged 18–85 years with a diagnosis of diabetes and/or hypertension who received both an eGFR and uACR during the measurement period. The measure reflects current clinical guideline recommendations by Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO), the American Heart Association (AHA) and American College of Cardiology (ACC), the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) and the American Diabetes Association (ADA). Performance of the eGFR and uACR in these populations is the foundation of earlier identification of CKD, more accurate staging, and timely implementation of interventions that can slow disease progression and reduce complications.

Importantly, endorsement of this measure would help drive greater accountability and consistency in kidney health screening practices across healthcare systems. Increased uptake of evidence-based kidney health evaluation will improve screening, encourage diagnosis, support gap closure in CKD detection and treatment, and lower long-term healthcare costs associated with cardiovascular complications and kidney failure.

For these reasons, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics strongly supports endorsement of CBEID 5611e. We appreciate the Partnership for Quality Measurement's commitment to advancing high-quality, evidence-based care. Please contact Gloria Eldridge, Director, Payment and Coverage Policy at geldridge@eatright.org with any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly D. Horton".

Kelly D. Horton, MS, RDN
Senior Vice President, Public Policy and Government Relations
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics