



The **Medicare and Essential Plan CAHPS surveys** are in the field now through June, and patients are actively reflecting on their recent care experiences. This is the moment when everyday interactions such as access, follow-up, and communication matter most. Providers have the greatest influence on several CAHPS measures, and small actions can make a big difference. The table below highlights where your impact is strongest and what you can do today to help shape patient experience.

CAHPS Measure	What Members Are Asked	Why This Is Provider-Driven	What Providers Can Do
<p><b>Getting Appointments and Care Quickly</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When you needed care right away, how often did you get care as soon as you needed?</li> <li>• How often did you get an appointment for a check-up or routine care as soon as you needed?</li> </ul>	<p>Member experience reflects how effectively practices offer timely appointments, respond to urgent needs, and support efficient scheduling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer same-day or next-day appointments for urgent needs</li> <li>• Reserve daily “urgent access” slots</li> <li>• Answer phones promptly and return messages quickly</li> <li>• Use clear triage protocols so staff know when to escalate care</li> </ul>
<p><b>Care Coordination</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How often did your personal doctor seem informed about care you received from specialists?</li> <li>• Did your doctor’s office help you manage care across different providers?</li> <li>• How often did you and your doctor talk about all your medications?</li> <li>• How often did your doctor have your records or other care info during visits?</li> <li>• How often did you get test results as soon as you needed them?</li> <li>• How often did the office follow up with test results?</li> </ul>	<p>Driven by provider communication, follow-up, information sharing, and office workflows</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review specialist notes before visits</li> <li>• Close referral and test result loops consistently</li> <li>• Proactively call or message patients with results</li> <li>• Reconcile medications at every visit</li> <li>• Clearly explain next steps and who will follow up</li> </ul>

<p><b>Getting Needed Care</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How often was it easy to get the care, tests, or treatment you needed?</li> <li>• How often did you get an appointment with a specialist as soon as you needed it?</li> </ul>	<p>Member experience improves when providers actively guide referrals, support scheduling, and help patients move smoothly through the care process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate referrals promptly and track completion</li> <li>• Help patients schedule specialty care</li> <li>• Communicate realistic timelines and next steps</li> <li>• Partner with specialists to reduce delays</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rating of Health Care Quality</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On a scale from 0 to 10, how would you rate all your health care in the last 6 months?</li> </ul>	<p>This rating reflects the trust, communication, and relationships built across all interactions with the care team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen carefully and allow time for questions</li> <li>• Explain conditions and treatments clearly</li> <li>• Show respect and empathy during visits</li> <li>• Ensure continuity with the personal doctor whenever possible</li> </ul>
<p><b>Annual Flu Vaccine</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have you had a flu shot since July 1?</li> </ul>	<p>While coverage is plan-based, vaccination uptake is strongly influenced by provider recommendation and availability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strongly recommend the flu vaccine at every appropriate visit</li> <li>• Offer flu shots in-office whenever possible</li> <li>• Remind patients during visits, calls, and portal messages</li> <li>• Document vaccination status clearly</li> </ul>