Hospital VBP Program: How to Read Your FY 2024 Baseline Measures Report

Program Overview

The Hospital VBP Program is authorized by Section 1886(o) of the Social Security Act. The Hospital VBP Program is the nation's first national pay-for-performance program for acute care hospitals and serves as an important driver in redesigning how the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) pays for care and services based on the quality and value of care, not only the quantity of services provided.

Purpose of the Baseline Measures Report

The Hospital VBP Program Baseline Measures Report allows providers to review their performance for all domains and measures included in the Hospital VBP Program in comparison to the achievement threshold and benchmark performance standards that are used to determine achievement and improvement points.

FY 2024 Measurement Periods

The baseline and performance periods for FY 2024 measures are outlined below.

Domain/Measure Description	Baseline Period	Performance Period
Clinical Outcomes: 30-Day Mortality measures for Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI), Coronary Bypass Graft (CABG) Surgery, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Heart Failure (HF), and Pneumonia (PN)**	July 1, 2014– June 30, 2017	July 1, 2019– June 30, 2022*
Clinical Outcomes: Total Hip Arthroplasty (THA)/Total Knee Arthroplasty (TKA) Complication measure	April 1, 2014– March 31, 2017	April 1, 2019– March 31, 2022*
Person and Community Engagement: Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) dimensions	January 1, 2019– December 31, 2019**	January 1, 2022– December 31, 2022
Safety: Healthcare-Associated Infection (HAI) measures	January 1, 2019– December 31, 2019**	January 1, 2022– December 31, 2022
Efficiency and Cost Reduction: Medicare Spending per Beneficiary (MSPB) measure	January 1, 2019– December 31, 2019**	January 1, 2022– December 31, 2022

(*) These performance periods are impacted by the Extraordinary Circumstance Exception (ECE) granted by CMS on March 22, 2020. The CMS press release is available at https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-relief-clinicians-providers-hospitals-and-facilities-participating-quality-reporting. The CMS memorandum is available at https://www.cms.gov/files/document/guidance-memo-exceptions-and-extensions-quality-reporting-and-value-based-purchasing-programs.pdf. It was updated in the August 25, 2020, COVID-19 Interim Final Rule with Comment Period (85 FR 54820).

(**) CMS memorandum: https://www.cms.gov/files/document/guidancememo-exceptions-and-extensions-qualityreporting-and-value-based-purchasing-programs.pdf), and the update in the August 25 COVID-19 IFC (85 FR 54820). We finalized our proposal to update the baseline periods for the measures included in the Person and Community Engagement, Safety, and Efficiency and Cost Reduction domains.

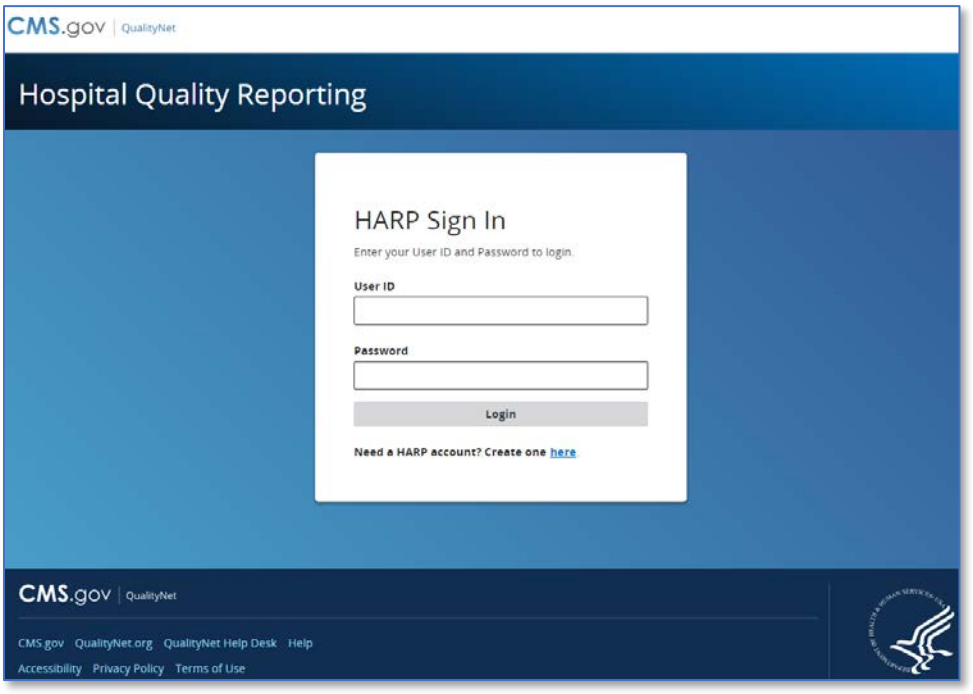
The discharge period will be updated to reflect the policy that no claims from January 1, 2020,

through June 30, 2020, will be used in the calculation of these measures during the performance period. The baseline period dates in FY 2024 are not impacted by the ECE.

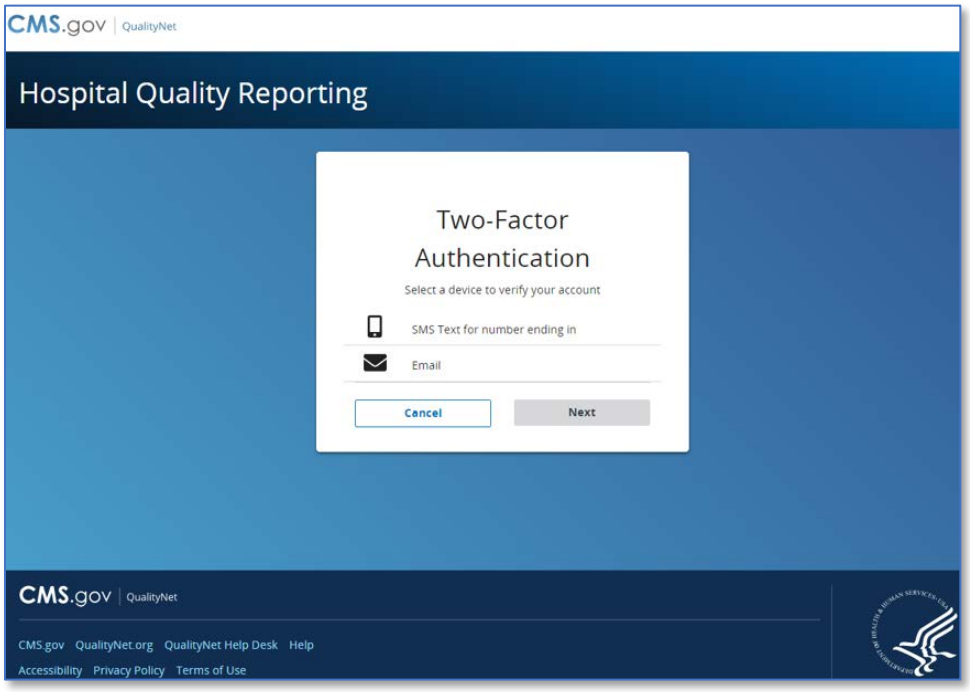
Accessing the Baseline Measures Report

Access your hospital's FY 2024 Hospital VBP Program baseline data by following these steps:

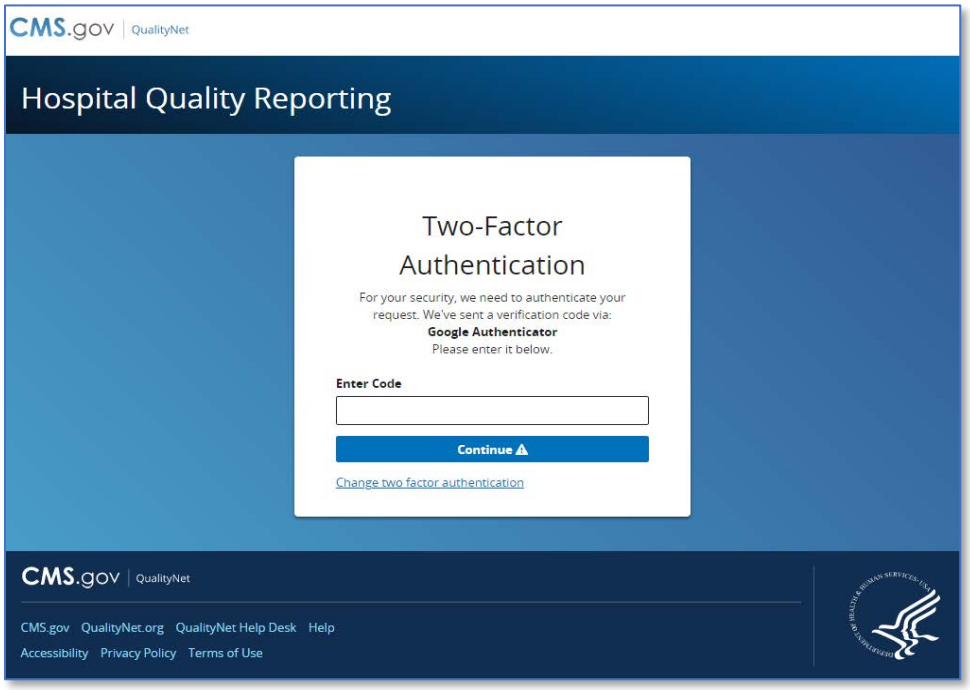
1. Navigate to the Hospital Quality Reporting (HQR) page for QualityNet at https://hqr.cms.gov/hqrng/login.
2. Enter your Health Care Quality Information Systems (HCQIS) Access Roles and Profile (HARP) User ID and Password. Then, select **Login**.



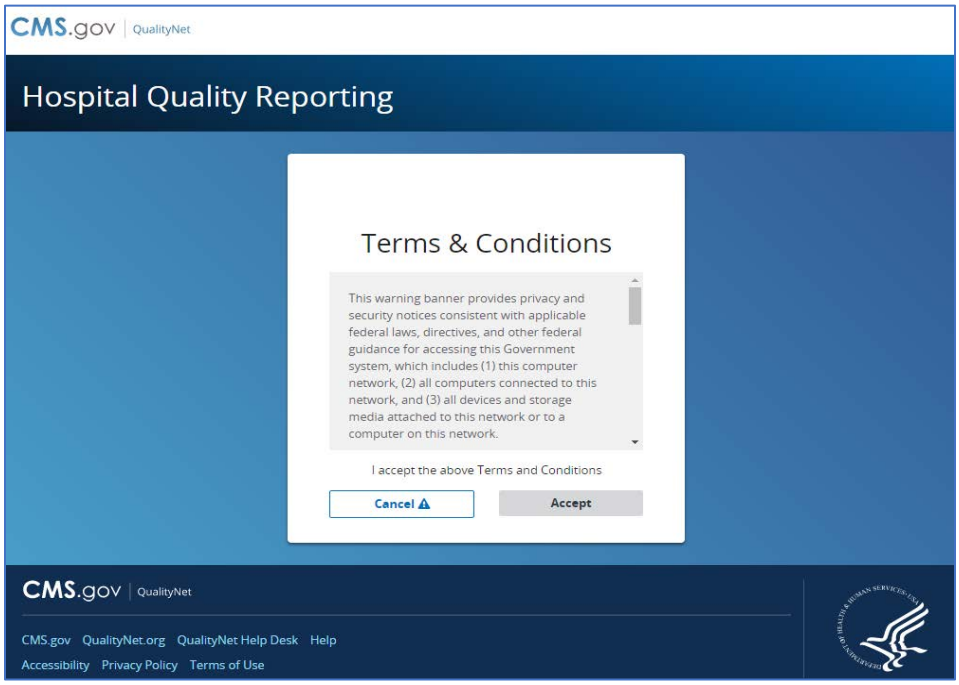
3. You will be directed to the **Two-Factor Authorization page**. Select the device you would like to retrieve the verification code. Select **Next**.



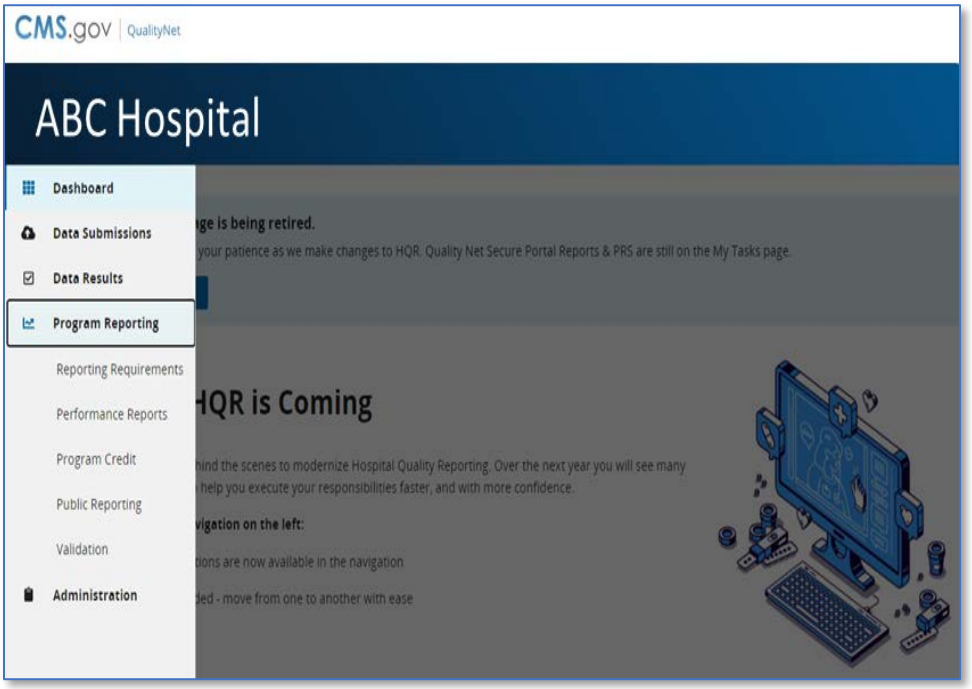
4. Once you receive the code, enter it. Select **Continue**.



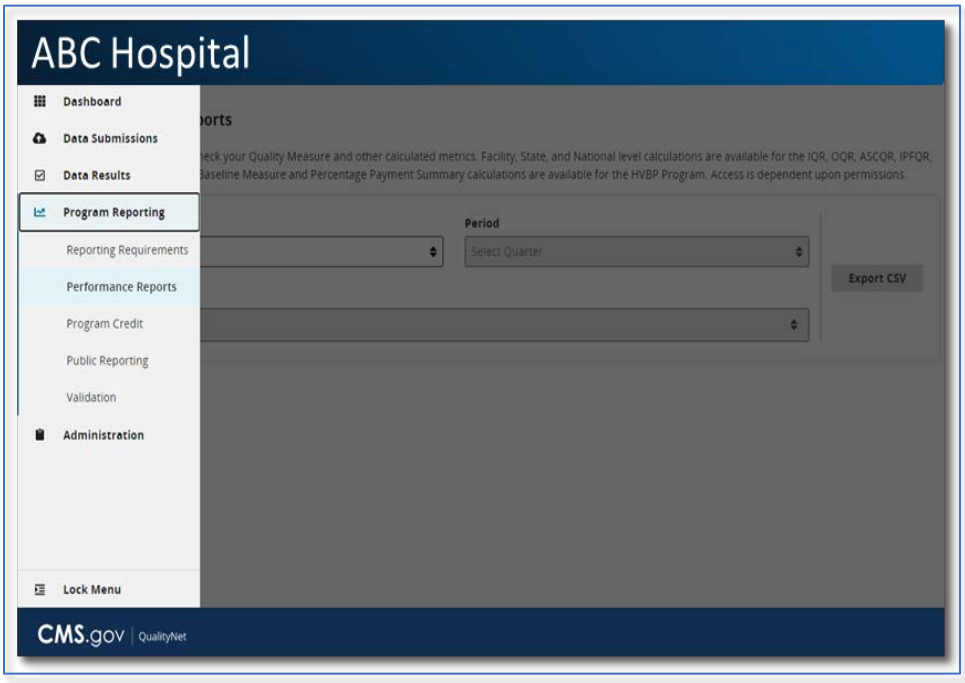
5. Read the Terms and Conditions statement. Select **Accept** to proceed. You will be directed to the **HQR Landing Page**. Note: If Cancel is selected, the program closes.



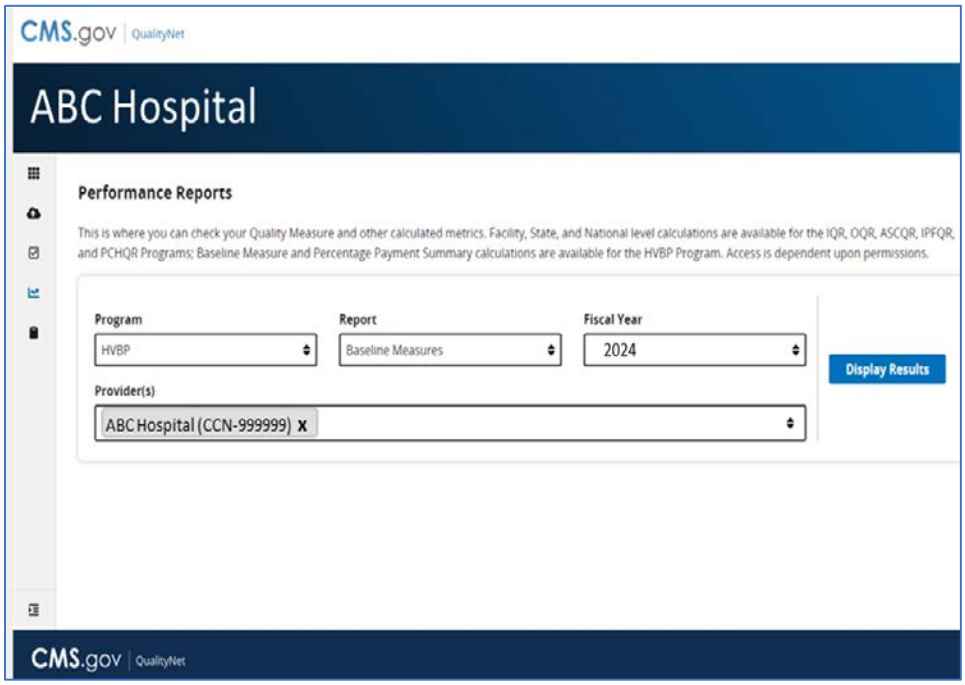
6. On the HQR Landing page, select **Program Reporting** from the left-side navigation menu to expand the menu options.



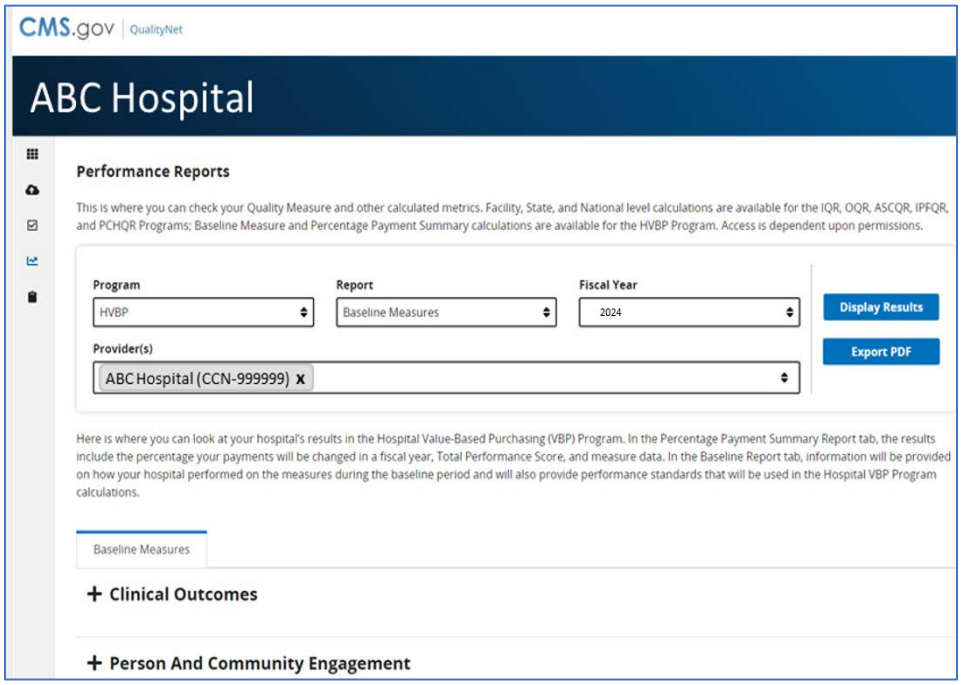
7. From the expanded Program Reporting drop-down menu, select **Performance Reports**.



8. Select **Hospital Value-Based Purchasing (HVBP)** from the Program selection menu; select **Baseline Measures** from the Report selection menu; select **2024** from the Fiscal Year selection menu; and select your hospital from the Provider(s) selection menu if the option is displayed. Select **Display Results**.



9. To export the data displayed, select the **Export PDF** option available on the User Interface. The exported data will be available in a PDF format to save and print.



Baseline Measures Report

The hospital's **Baseline Measures Report** includes the following sections:

1. The **Clinical Outcomes Domain** provides details on the Clinical Outcomes measures, including the number of eligible discharges and the baseline period rates. The achievement threshold and benchmark for each Clinical Care measure also display.
2. The **Person and Community Engagement Domain** provides details on the eight HCAHPS dimensions, including baseline period rates, floor values, achievement thresholds, and benchmarks. The number of completed surveys also displays.
3. The **Safety Measures Domain** provides details on the HAI measures, including Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI), Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection (CLABSI), Clostridium difficile Infection (CDI), Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) Bacteremia, Surgical Site Infection (SSI)-Abdominal Hysterectomy, and SSI-Colon Surgery. These details include the number of observed infections, number of predicted infections, as well as standardized infection ratios (SIRs), achievement thresholds, and benchmarks.

   Note: The SSI measure is a single measure stratified by surgery site for colon surgeries and abdominal hysterectomies. For the purpose of the Hospital VBP Program, CMS scores the measure as a weighted average of each of the stratum's measure scores by predicted infections per stratum.
4. The **Efficiency and Cost Reduction Domain** provides details on the MSPB measure, including the MSPB amount, median MSPB amount, MSPB measure ratio, and number of episodes of care in the baseline period.

Note: Hospitals not meeting the minimum number of eligible discharges, surveys, predicted infections, underlying cases, or episodes of care for a measure during the baseline period will not be scored improvement points for that measure and will be indicated with a double asterisk (**). Only achievement points can be earned for such measures, if the minimums are met during the performance period. Achievement points will be displayed on the Percentage Payment Summary Report (PPSR).

Note: The report mockups in this document are meant to be used as a visual representation (layout) of the report only and may not be an exact replication of actual report calculations.

Clinical Outcomes Domain

This displays your hospital's performance on the six Clinical Outcomes measures. Each measure is listed by the measure name.

Baseline Measures

— Clinical Outcomes

Risk-Standardized Complication Measures	Number of Eligible Discharges	Baseline Period Rate	Achievement Threshold	Benchmark
Baseline Period: 04/01/2013 - 03/31/2016				
Elective Primary Total Hip Arthroplasty/Total Knee Arthroplasty Complication Rate**	0	-	0.027428	0.019779

30-Day Risk-Standardized Mortality Measures	Number of Eligible Discharges	Baseline Period Rate	Achievement Threshold	Benchmark
Baseline Period: 07/01/2013 - 06/30/2016				
Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI) 30-Day Mortality Rate**	5	0.861821	0.866548	0.885499
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) 30-Day Mortality Rate	33	0.928280	0.919769	0.936349
Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG) 30-Day Mortality Rate**	0	-	0.968747	0.979620
Heart Failure (HF) 30-Day Mortality Rate	49	0.891818	0.881939	0.906798
Pneumonia (PN) 30-Day Mortality Rate	123	0.860265	0.840138	0.871741

Explanation of Clinical Outcomes Domain Report Fields

The **number of eligible discharges** is a count of how many eligible discharges occurred at your hospital during the baseline period. A minimum of 25 eligible discharges during the baseline period are required for improvement point calculations.

The **baseline period rate** is your hospital's rate on the measure during the baseline period. A dash (-) will be displayed if your hospital had no eligible discharges during the baseline period.

The **achievement threshold** is the 50th percentile (median) in the measure of hospitals during the baseline period. The Achievement Threshold is used in determining a hospital's achievement points.

Benchmarks are the mean of the top decile (average of the top 10%) in the measure of hospitals during the baseline period. The Benchmark is used in determining a hospital's achievement points and improvement points.

Note: The **30-Day Risk Standardized Mortality Measures** use survival rates instead of mortality rates, so higher values indicate better results.

Person and Community Engagement Domain

This displays your hospital's performance on the eight dimensions of the Person and Community Engagement Domain. Each dimension is listed by the dimension title.

Baseline Measures

+ Clinical Outcomes

− Person And Community Engagement

HCAHPS Surveys Completed During the Baseline Period: 93

HCAHPS Dimensions	Baseline Period Rate	Floor	Achievement Threshold	Benchmark
Baseline Period: 01/01/2019 - 12/31/2019				
Communication with Nurses**	93.1726%	53.50%	79.42%	87.71%
Communication with Doctors**	98.3185%	62.41%	79.83%	87.97%
Responsiveness of Hospital Staff**	80.8197%	40.40%	65.52%	81.22%
Communication about Medicines**	75.3211%	39.82%	63.11%	74.05%
Cleanliness and Quietness of Hospital Environment**	82.6216%	45.94%	65.63%	79.64%
Discharge Information**	89.1859%	66.92%	87.23%	92.21%
Care Transition**	58.7432%	25.64%	51.84%	63.57%
Overall Rating of Hospital**	76.3093%	36.31%	71.66%	85.39%

Explanation of Person and Community Engagement Domain Report Fields

The **HCAHPS surveys completed during the baseline period** is a count of how many complete HCAHPS surveys were submitted for your hospital during the baseline period. A minimum of 100 complete HCAHPS surveys during the baseline period are required for improvement point calculations.

The **baseline period rate** is your hospital's rate for the dimension during the baseline period. A dash (-) will be displayed if the baseline period rate could not be calculated for the dimension.

The **floor** is the performance rate for the worst performing hospital during the baseline period, which defines the 0 percentile for the dimension. The floor is used in determining your hospital's Lowest HCAHPS Dimension Score used in calculating your hospital's HCAHPS Consistency Score.

The **achievement threshold** is the 50th percentile (median) in the measure of hospitals during the baseline period. The Achievement Threshold is used in determining a hospital's achievement points.

The **benchmark** is the mean of the top decile (average of the top 10%) in the measure of hospitals during the baseline period. The Benchmark is used in determining a hospital's achievement points and improvement points.

Safety Domain

This displays your hospital's performance on the HAI measures. Each measure is listed by the measure name.

— Safety

Healthcare Associated Infections	Number of Observed Infections (Numerator)	Number of Predicted Infections (Denominator)	Standardized Infection Ratio (SIR)	Achievement Threshold	Benchmark
Baseline Period: 01/01/2019 - 12/31/2019					
Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection	3	1.291	2.324	0.650	0.000
Central Line-Associated Blood Stream Infection	0	1.242	0.000	0.589	0.000
Clostridium difficile Infection	2	5.837	0.343	0.520	0.014
Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus Bacteremia**	1	0.619	-	0.726	0.000
SSI-Abdominal Hysterectomy**	0	0.111	-	0.738	0.000
SSI-Colon Surgery	1	1.160	0.862	0.717	0.000

Explanation of Safety Domain Report Fields

The **number of observed infections (numerator)** is the number of actual infections that were reported by your hospital in the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). This value is the numerator for the SIR calculation. 'N/A' will display if your hospital did not have data for the measure in NHSN.

The **number of predicted infections (denominator)** is the number of predicted infections that were calculated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This value is the denominator for the SIR calculation. A minimum of 1.000 predicted infections is the minimum for a SIR to be calculated. 'N/A' will display if your hospital did not have data for the measure in NHSN.

The **SIR** is your hospital's number of observed infections (numerator) divided by your hospital's number of predicted infections (denominator) during the baseline period. A SIR being calculated during the baseline period is required for improvement point calculations. A dash (-) will be displayed if a SIR was unable to be calculated.

The **achievement threshold** is the 50th percentile (median) in the measure of hospitals during the baseline period. The Achievement Threshold is used in determining a hospital's achievement points.

The **benchmark** is the mean of the top decile (average of the top 10%) in the measure of hospitals during the baseline period. The Benchmark is used in determining a hospital's achievement points and improvement points.

Efficiency and Cost Reduction Domain

Baseline Measures

+ Clinical Outcomes

+ Person And Community Engagement

+ Safety

− Efficiency And Cost Reduction

Efficiency Measures	MSPB Amount (Numerator)	Median MSPB Amount (Denominator)	MSPB Measure	# of Episodes
Baseline Period: 01/01/2019 - 12/31/2019				
Medicare Spending per Beneficiary (MSPB)	$19,938.20	$22,212.62	0.897607	146

Calculated values were subject to rounding

N/A indicates no data available, no data submitted, or the value was not applicable for this measure

A dash (-) indicates that the minimums were not met for calculations, or the value was not applicable.

A double asterisk (**) indicates that the hospital did not meet the minimum requirements for the measure in the Baseline Period.

Explanation of Efficiency and Cost Reduction Measures Report Fields

The **MSPB amount (numerator)** is the average standardized spending level for your hospital divided by the average expected spending level for your hospital, multiplied by the average standardized spending over all episodes across all hospitals during the baseline period. 'N/A' will display if your hospital had no eligible episodes of care during the baseline period.

The **median MSPB amount (denominator)** is the episode-weighted median MSPB amount across all hospitals during the baseline period.

The **MSPB measure** is calculated as the ratio of your hospital's MSPB amount (numerator) to the median MSPB amount (denominator). 'N/A' will display if your hospital had no eligible episodes of care during the baseline period.

The **# of episodes** is a count of the episodes of care that were evaluated for the MSPB measure during the baseline period. A minimum of 25 episodes of care are required for improvement point calculations.

The **benchmark** and **achievement threshold** values are calculated for the MSPB measure using performance period data instead of baseline period data. As a result, these values will be available when the Percentage Payment Summary Report is added to the user-interface.

Questions

For further assistance with the Hospital VBP Program, please contact the Hospital Inpatient Value, Incentives, and Quality Reporting Outreach and Education Support Contractor via the QualityNet Question and Answer Tool or by calling, toll free, (844) 472-4477 or (866) 800-8765, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time (ET).

For questions regarding technical issues, contact the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ) Service Center at qnetsupport@hcqis.org.