

CMS Inpatient Value, Incentives, and Quality Reporting Programs Overview

What is the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program?

IQR

Under the inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS), CMS gives hospitals a financial incentive to report on the quality of their services and to provide data to consumers to help them make informed healthcare decisions. Hospitals in the Hospital IQR Program must meet quarterly and annual quality measure submission deadlines and other requirements. Hospitals that do not participate, or that participate but do not comply with program requirements, will receive a one-fourth reduction of the applicable percentage increase in their annual payment update (APU) for the applicable fiscal year (FY).

What are electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs)?

eCQMs

An eCQM is a clinical quality measure (CQM) that is expressed and formatted to use data from electronic health records (EHRs) and/or health information technology systems to measure healthcare quality, specifically data captured in structured formats during patient care. The reporting of eCQMs allows hospital EHR systems to configure, extract, and submit CQMs. This reduces the need for manual abstraction and allows for consistency in measure reporting. Both the Hospital IQR and Medicare Promoting Interoperability Programs use eCQMs. Check requirements for both programs to confirm your hospital has successfully completed data submission to meet the respective requirements.

What is the Hospital Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) Program?

VBP

Under the Hospital VBP Program, payment is directly linked to the quality of care provided. The program was designed to promote better clinical outcomes for patients and improve their experience of care within the acute care setting. Measure data are evaluated and scored based on a specific methodology that compares baseline and performance periods and results in individual measure scores, domain scores, and an overall performance score for each hospital. This score equates to an incentive payment to the hospital based on the adjustment factor applied to the base Diagnosis-Related Group rate and affects payment for each discharge in the relevant FY. The resulting payment adjustment could increase or reduce payments to the hospital for that FY. Hospitals not participating in the Hospital IQR Program or not complying with program requirements are excluded from the Hospital VBP Program.

What is the Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR) Program?

IPFQR

Under the IPFQR Program, eligible inpatient psychiatric facilities (IPFs) are excluded from payment under the IPPS because they submit claims to CMS under the inpatient psychiatric facility prospective payment system. The IPFQR Program is a pay-for-reporting program that requires IPFs to collect and submit quality data to CMS and meet procedural requirements by the annual submission deadline. Eligible IPFs that do not meet one or more program requirements will be at risk of a 2.0 percentage point reduction of their APU for the applicable FY.

What is the PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting (PCHQR) Program?

PCHQR

Under the PCHQR Program, eligible hospitals are excluded from payment under the IPPS. CMS has designated 11 hospitals nationwide as prospective payment system (PPS)-exempt cancer hospitals. The program is intended to encourage hospitals and clinicians to improve the quality of care provided to Medicare beneficiaries by ensuring that providers are aware of and reporting on best practices for their respective facilities and type of care. The PCHQR Program comprises multiple types of measures, including Safety and Healthcare-Associated Infection, Clinical Process/Oncology Care Measures, Intermediate Clinical Outcome, Patient Engagement/Experience of Care, Clinical Effectiveness, and Claims-Based Outcome.

What is Public Reporting (PR)?

PR

Public reporting uses quality data, either submitted by the hospitals or collected from submitted Medicare claims, and displays the data on *Hospital Compare*. *Hospital Compare* is a consumer-oriented website with information on how well hospitals provide recommended care to their patients. *Hospital Compare* allows consumers to select multiple hospitals and directly compare performance measure information and payment comparisons for like conditions and procedures. Required measure data from IQR-eligible hospitals are automatically displayed on *Hospital Compare*. Hospitals that are not IQR-eligible, such as critical access hospitals, have the option to publicly report their data. Beginning with the July 2019 release, IPFQR Program measures will appear on *Hospital Compare* pages. PCHQR Program measures are available for review via a link on the *Hospital Compare* Home page.