



Prospective Payment System-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting (PCHQR) Program

Inpatient Value, Incentives, and Quality Reporting (VIQR) Outreach and Education Support Contractor

PCHQR Program: Documentation of Goals of Care Discussions Among Cancer Patients (PCH-42) Measure Overview Question and Answer Summary Document

Speakers

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Subject-matter experts researched and answered the following questions during the live webinar. The questions may have been edited for grammar.

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Question 1: How is cancer diagnosis defined?

Please refer back to slide 15. It includes the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code list for cancer diagnoses. It's an inclusive definition of cancer.

Question 2: Is there a time limit on the conversation with the provider? The patient died this month, but goals of care conversations may have taken place a year ago. Does the timing matter if we documented the conversation?

In terms of timing, there is not a specific timing definition. The cadence of these discussions should be tailored to a patient's clinical progression and journey. Some centers may want to create minimum timing expectations that they'll use locally.

Question 3: Is the measure only approved for fiscal year (FY) 2026 or FY 2026 and beyond?

Per the FY 2024 Inpatient Prospective Payment System/Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System final rule, the Documentation of Goals of Care Discussions Among Cancer Patients (Goals of Care) measure was finalized beginning with the FY 2026 program year and for subsequent years for annual reporting. For example, the FY 2026 program year applies to calendar year 2024 data, which will be reported by PCHs to CMS in the summer of 2025.

Question 4: What if the patient was being treated at the cancer center, but he/she died due to another circumstance, like an accident?

The denominator is limited to patients with a cancer diagnosis who die while admitted to a PCH.