



# PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting Program

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## Support Contractor

### PCHQR Program: An Overview of Best Practices to Mitigate Chemotherapy-Related Adverse Events

#### Questions & Answers

#### Moderator/Speaker

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**May 25, 2017**

**2 p.m. ET**

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**Question 1:**      **In addition to acute care inpatient admissions, visits does the measure capture observation stays/admissions within 30 days?**

No, the outcome does not include observation stays. CMS did not include observation stays in the outcome for two reasons. First, patients admitted for observation stays nearly always first seek care at an Emergency Department (ED) and are, therefore, captured within the ED outcome of the measure. Similarly, if a patient is first admitted into observation care and later gets admitted to the hospital, the patient is captured within the inpatient admission outcome.

Second, the measure is calculated separately in support of the PCHQR Program and the Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting Program and including observation stays as a third, separately reported rate may bias the outcome measure in favor of one type of billing practice over another due to differences among PCHs' hospital capabilities and billing practices.

Several PCHs do not have emergency departments, requiring them to treat observation stays and inpatient admissions differently from other PCHs. CMS recognizes that other CMS outcome measures are beginning to incorporate observation stays within the outcome of interest and will continue to reassess this decision in future measure reevaluation.