



PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting Program Manual

Updated Winter 2021

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Section 1: PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting Program

Overview

The PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting (PCHQR) Program was established by Section 3005 of the Affordable Care Act, which added subsections (a)(1)(W) and (k) to section 1866 of the Social Security Act. Section 1866(k) of the Social Security Act establishes a quality reporting program for hospitals described in section 1886(d)(1)(B)(v) of the Social Security Act. These hospitals are excluded from payment under the inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS).

The PCHQR Program is intended to equip consumers with quality-of-care information to make informed decisions about healthcare options. It is also intended to encourage hospitals and clinicians to improve the quality of inpatient 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.

Note: This document is intended for use as a reference guide and does not contain specifications for individual measures. Each section provides detailed instructions for successful implementation of the PCHQR Program.

Program Eligibility

Eligible hospitals are described in section 1886(d)(1)(B)(v) of the Social Security Act and referred to as PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospitals (PCHs). These hospitals are excluded from payment under the IPPS. Eleven hospitals have been granted the PCH designation by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). A list of hospitals with the PCH designation is available at https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/AcuteInpatientPPS/PPS_Exc_Cancer_Hospasp.html.

Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems (IPPS) Final Rule

CMS publishes proposed program and policy changes to the PCHQR Program in April. The proposed changes are published to the *Federal Register* and are open to the public for review and comment for 60 days. CMS also provides notices through the QualityNet website to ensure broad awareness. Following the comment period, CMS summarizes the comments and responds to them in the final rule. The final rule is then published in August. Information regarding the PCHQR Program can be found in the following final rule publications:

- In the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems for Acute Care Hospitals and the Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System (IPPS/LTCH PPS) Final Rule:
 - CMS finalized five quality measures for the FY 2014 program and subsequent years. Two Safety and Healthcare-associated Infection (HAI) and three Cancer-Specific Treatment (CST) measures comprise the five measures added.
 - Information for the PCHQR Program is contained on pages 53555–53567 in the *Federal Register*, Vol. 77, No. 170, published August 31, 2012. The direct download (12.8 MB) can be accessed at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-08-31/pdf/2012-19079.pdf>.
- In the FY 2014 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule:
 - CMS finalized one additional new HAI quality measure for the FY 2015 program and subsequent years: Surgical Site Infection (SSI).

- CMS finalized 12 new quality measures, including five clinical process Oncology Care Measures (OCMs), six Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP) measures, and the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) Survey for the FY 2016 program and subsequent years.
- CMS did not remove or replace any of the previously finalized measures from the PCHQR Program for FY 2015 and FY 2016.
- Information for the PCHQR Program is contained on pages 50837–50853 in the *Federal Register*, Vol. 78, No. 160, published August 19, 2013. The direct download (12.5 MB) can be accessed at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-08-19/pdf/2013-18956.pdf>.
- In the FY 2015 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule:
 - CMS finalized one new clinical effectiveness measure for the FY 2017 program and subsequent years: External Beam Radiotherapy for Bone Metastases (EBRT).
 - CMS did not remove or replace any of the previously finalized measures from the PCHQR Program for the FY 2017 program and subsequent years.
 - Information for the PCHQR Program is contained on pages 50277–50286 in the *Federal Register*, Vol. 79, No. 163, published August 22, 2014. The direct download (5.78 MB) can be accessed at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-08-22/pdf/2014-18545.pdf>.
- In the FY 2016 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule:
 - CMS adopted three new HAI measures collected via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) and removed the six SCIP measures from the PCHQR Program for the FY 2018 program and subsequent years.
 - Information for the PCHQR Program is contained on pages 49713–49723 in the *Federal Register*, Vol. 80, No. 158, published August 17, 2015. The direct download (3.25 MB) can be accessed at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-08-17/pdf/2015-19049.pdf>.
- In the FY 2017 IPPS/LTCH Final Rule:
 - CMS adopted one new claims-based outcome measure: Admissions and Emergency Department (ED) Visits for Patients Receiving Outpatient Chemotherapy.
 - CMS updated an existing OCM, Radiation Dose Limits to Normal Tissues (National Quality Forum [NQF] #0382), to expand the patient cohort to include patients receiving 3D conformal radiation for breast and rectal cancer. This applies to patients being treated in Calendar Year (CY) 2017 and applies to the FY 2019 program and subsequent years.
 - Information for the PCHQR Program is contained on pages 57182–57193 in the *Federal Register*, Vol. 81, No. 162, published August 22, 2016. The direct download (3.43 MB) can be accessed at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-08-22/pdf/2016-18476.pdf>.
- In the FY 2018 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule:
 - CMS finalized the removal of the three CST measures (NQF #0223, #0559, and #0220) beginning with diagnoses occurring as of January 1, 2018.
 - CMS added four, new, claims-based, end-of-life (EOL) measures (NQF #0210, #0213, #0215, and #0216) to the program. These measures will first be calculated from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 and apply to the FY 2020 program and subsequent years.
 - The information specific to the PCHQR Program is on pages 38411–38425 in the *Federal Register*, Vol 82, No. 155, published August 14, 2017. The direct download (7.64 MB) can be accessed at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-08-14/pdf/2017-16434.pdf>.

- In the FY 2019 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule:
 - CMS adopted a new measure removal factor, Factor 8, to consider when evaluating potential measures for removal from the PCHQR Program measure set. Factor 8 states, “The costs associated with the measure outweigh the benefit of its continued use in the program.”
 - Four OCMs (NQF #0382, #0384, #0389, and #0390) were finalized for removal from the program for patients being treated in CY 2019. The removal applies to FY 2021 Program Year and subsequent years.
 - One new claims-based outcome measure, 30-Day Unplanned Readmissions for Cancer Patients (NQF #3188), was adopted. This measure also applies to FY 2021 Program Year and subsequent years.
 - Information for the PCHQR Program is contained on pages 41609–41624 in the *Federal Register*, Vol. 83, No. 160, published August 17, 2018. The direct download (13.3 MB) can be accessed at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-08-17/pdf/2018-16766.pdf>.
- In the FY 2020 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule:
 - CMS finalized removal of the existing pain management questions from the HCAHPS Survey.
 - Additionally, the EBRT measure (PCH-25) was also finalized for removal, under Factor 8, from the program for patients being treated in CY 2020. The removal applies to FY 2022 Program Year and subsequent years.
 - A new claims-based outcome measure, Surgical Treatment Complications for Localized Prostate Cancer, was adopted; this measure also applies to FY 2022 Program Year and subsequent years.
 - The final rule specified public reporting of the claims-based measure, Admissions and Emergency Department (ED) Visits for Patients Receiving Outpatient Chemotherapy, three HAI measures, and the Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Healthcare Personnel [HCP]) measure.
 - Confidential national reporting will be conducted for the four EOLs and NQF #3188.
 - Information for the PCHQR Program is contained on pages 42509–42524 in the *Federal Register*, Vol. 84, No. 159, published August 16, 2019. The direct download (22.2 MB) can be accessed at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-08-16/pdf/2019-16762.pdf>
- In the FY 2021 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule:
 - CMS finalized refinement of two existing National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) measures, Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI) (NQF#0138) and Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection (CLABSI) (NQF #0139), to incorporate an updated methodology developed by the CDC that uses updated HAI baseline data that is risk-adjusted to stratify results by patient location.
 - Begin to publicly report the updated versions of the CLABSI and CAUTI measures in fall CY 2022. Data collection of the updated versions of CLABSI and CAUTI will begin CY 2021 (January 1–December 31, 2021).
 - Information for the PCHQR Program is contained on pages 58959–58965 in the *Federal Register*, Vol. 85, No. 182, published September 18, 2020. The direct download (26.1 MB) can be accessed at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-09-18/pdf/2020-19637.pdf>.

- In the FY 2022 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule:
 - CMS finalized the removal of Oncology: Plan of Care for Pain – Medical Oncology and Radiation Oncology (NQF# 0383/PCH-15).
 - A new process measure, COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among HCP, was adopted; this measure applies to FY 2023 Program Year and subsequent years.
 - The term “QualityNet Security Administrator” was replaced with “QualityNet Security Official”.
 - CMS finalized codification of existing PCHQR Program policies at 42 CFR 412.23 (f)(3) and CFR 412.24.
 - CMS included Requests for Information regarding closing the health equity gap in CMS quality reporting programs, advancing to digital quality measurement, and expanding the use of the Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) standard.
 - Information for the PCHQR Program is contained on pages 25601–25608 in the *Federal Register*, Vol. 86, No. 154, published August 13, 2021. The direct download (39 MB) can be accessed at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-08-13/pdf/2021-16519.pdf>.

Section 2: Measures

The CMS fiscal year spans two calendar years, starting October 1 of the previous year and ending September 30 of the named fiscal year (e.g., FY 2022 started October 1, 2021 and ends September 30, 2022). For the PCHQR Program, a program year is equivalent to a given fiscal year. The PCHQR Program has not included payment incentives since its inception; however, the program year (PY) structure allows CMS to receive and analyze the data of a given program year during the following calendar year.

The PCHQR Program has multiple types of measures that are collected and reported, starting with PY 2013 and subsequent years. PCHQR Program measure data are collected by participating PCHs using a variety of data collection methods. Refer to the tables in Section 3 for reporting methods, measure information, and sampling requirements.

Hospitals participating in the PCHQR Program will be required to report the measures listed below. Measures were adopted for PY 2013, with subsequent measures added and removed for PYs 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024. Refer to Appendix A for data submission dates.

The current measure set for the PCHQR Program for PYs 2023 and 2024 is listed below by category:

Safety and Healthcare-Associated Infection (HAI)

- Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection Outcome Measure (CLABSI) (NQF # 0139) (PCH-4)
- Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection Outcome Measure (CAUTI) (NQF #0138) (PCH-5)
- Harmonized Procedure Specific SSI Outcome Measure (NQF #0753) (PCH-6 [colon] and PCH-7 [hysterectomy])
- Facility-wide Inpatient Hospital-onset *Clostridium difficile* Infection (CDI) Outcome Measure (NQF #1717) (PCH-26)
- Facility-wide Inpatient Hospital-onset Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) Bacteremia Outcome Measure (NQF #1716) (PCH-27)
- Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Healthcare Personnel (HCP) (NQF #0431) (PCH-28)
- COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among HCP (PCH-38)

Clinical Process/Oncology Care Measures (OCM)

- Oncology: Plan of Care for Moderate to Severe Pain – Medical Oncology and Radiation Oncology (NQF #0383) (PCH-15) *
- Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Receiving Chemotherapy in the Last 14 Days of Life (EOL-Chemo) (NQF #0210) (PCH-32)
- Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Not Admitted to Hospice (EOL-Hospice) (NQF #0215) (PCH-34)

Intermediate Clinical Outcome Measures

- Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in the Last 30 Days of Life (EOL-ICU) (NQF #0213) (PCH-33)
- Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Admitted to Hospice for Less Than Three Days (EOL-3DH) (NQF #0216) (PCH-35)

Patient Engagement/Experience of Care

- HCAHPS Survey (NQF #0166) (PCH-29)

Claims-Based Outcome Measures

- Admissions and Emergency Department (ED) Visits for Patients Receiving Outpatient Chemotherapy (PCH-30 and PCH-31)
- 30-Day Unplanned Readmissions for Cancer Patients (NQF #3188) (PCH-36)
- Surgical Treatment Complications for Localized Prostate Cancer (PCH-37)

*Measure finalized for removal in the FY 2022 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule, effective for PY 2024.

Measure Information

The sections below provide a summary of each measure set and the location of additional measure information. In electronic versions of this document, the blue measure numbers in the headings provide a direct link to the NQF website page for the specified measure. The NQF measure descriptions can be found at <http://www.qualityforum.org/QPS>.

Healthcare-Associated Infection (HAI)

For PY 2014, CMS initially adopted two HAI measures, CLABSI and CAUTI, that are stewarded by the CDC. The measure data are reported on a quarterly basis through the NHSN.

Beginning with PY 2015, CMS adopted the SSI measure for the PCHQR Program. This measure assesses the incidence of SSIs following colon surgeries and abdominal hysterectomies performed by PCHs. Users reporting CAUTI, CLABSI, and SSI data must adhere to the definitions and reporting requirements as specified in the NHSN Patient Safety Component Protocol.

For PY 2018, CMS adopted the following three new measures: NHSN Facility-wide Inpatient Hospital-onset CDI Outcome Measure, NHSN Facility-wide Inpatient Hospital-onset MRSA Bacteremia Outcome Measure, and NHSN Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among HCP. The CDC published operational guidance documents for PCHs, which are located on the NHSN website under the CMS Requirements link. The CDI operational guidance document is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/cms/pchqr/pchqr-cdi-op-guidance.pdf>. The MRSA operational guidance document is available at http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/cms/pchqr/pchqr-mrsa_op-guidance.pdf.

For PY 2023, CMS adopted the COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among HCP measure for the PCHQR Program. The CDC published the measure specifications at <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/nqf/index.html>.

The [2022 NHSN Patient Safety Component Manual](#) is posted on the NHSN website. The surveillance protocols and definitions contained within the 2022 manual should be used for surveillance and data collection beginning on January 1, 2022. Previous versions are available on the NHSN website in the [Data Validation](#) section of the website.

0138: Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI) (PCH-5)

The NHSN analysis output option, “Rate Table - CAUTI Data for CMS PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospitals,” was created to allow facilities to review those CAUTI data that will be submitted to CMS on their behalf. This report only includes in-plan CAUTI data for each oncology ICU, ward, and step-down unit.

The numerator is defined as the total number of observed healthcare associated CAUTIs among patients in bedded inpatient care locations. The denominator is the total number of indwelling urinary catheter days for each location under surveillance for CAUTI during the data period.

0139: Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection (CLABSI) (PCH-4)

The NHSN Analysis Output Option, “Rate Table - CLABSI Data for CMS PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospitals,” was created to allow facilities to review those data that will be submitted to CMS on their behalf. This report includes only in-plan CLABSI data for each oncology ICU, ward, and step-down unit beginning with 2013 data.

The numerator is the total number of observed healthcare-associated CLABSI among patients in bedded inpatient care locations. The denominator is the total number of central line days for each location under surveillance for CLABSI during the data period. Note that for the purposes of the PCHQR Program, the CLABSI data that are sent by the CDC (via NHSN) to CMS do not have the Mucosal Barrier Infection-Laboratory-Confirmed Bloodstream Infections (MBI-LCBI) removed because there is not yet a predictive model for the PCHs that allows for the calculation of a standardized infection ratio (SIR). Please continue to monitor program communications for possible changes related to this issue.

0753: Harmonized Procedure Specific Surgical Site Infection (SSI) (PCH-6 [colon] and PCH-7 [hysterectomy])

The SIR of an SSI is calculated by dividing the number of observed infections by the number of expected infections for an operative procedure category. The number of expected infections, in the context of statistical prediction, is derived from a logistic regression model using a baseline time period.

The numerator is the deep incisional primary (DIP) and organ/space SSIs during the 30-day postoperative period among patients at least 18 years of age, who undergo inpatient colon surgeries or abdominal hysterectomies. SSIs will be identified before discharge from the hospital, upon readmission to the same hospital, or during outpatient care or admission to another hospital (post-discharge surveillance). The denominator is the expected number of SSIs obtained using multivariable logistic regression models for colon surgeries and abdominal hysterectomies. These expected numbers are summed by facility and surgical procedure and used as the denominator of this measure.

1717: Facility-wide Inpatient Hospital-onset Clostridium difficile Infection (CDI) (PCH-26)

CMS published final rules in the *Federal Register* on August 17, 2015, for the PCHQR Program that include a requirement for PCHs to report CDI laboratory-identified (LabID) events that occur in their EDs, 24-hour observation units, and all inpatient care locations to the CDC’s NHSN. The reporting requirement is for events that occur on or after January 1, 2016.

The SIR of hospital-onset CDI LabID events will be calculated among all inpatients in the facility. The numerator is the total number of observed hospital-onset CDI LabID events among all inpatients in the facility. The denominator is the expected number of hospital-onset CDI LabID events, calculated using the facility’s number of inpatient days, bed size, affiliation with medical school, microbiological test used to identify *C. difficile*, and community-onset CDI admission prevalence rate.

NHSN users reporting Facility-wide Inpatient (FacWideIN) CDI LabID event data to the system must adhere to the definitions and reporting requirements for those events as specified in the NHSN *Multidrug-Resistant Organism & Clostridium difficile Infection (MDRO/CDI) Module* protocol found at http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/PDFs/pscManual/12pscMDRO_CDADcurrent.pdf. This includes individually mapping all inpatient locations from the entire cancer hospital in NHSN.

Facilities must also map and report from EDs (adult and pediatric) and 24-hour observation locations. Facilities will report a single monthly FacWideIN denominator summed for all inpatient locations (total facility patient days and total facility admissions), as well as separate denominators, to capture ED and 24-hour observation location(s) encounters for each mapped location.

1716: Facility-wide Inpatient Hospital-onset Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) Bacteremia (PCH-27)

CMS published a final rule in the *Federal Register* on August 17, 2015, for the PCHQR Program. The final rules include a requirement for PCHs to report MRSA blood specimen (bacteremia) LabID events that occur in their EDs, 24-hours observation units, and all inpatient care locations to the CDC's NHSN. The reporting requirement is for events that occur on or after January 1, 2016.

The SIR of hospital-onset unique blood source MRSA LabID events will be calculated among all inpatients in the facility. The numerator is the total number of observed hospital-onset unique blood source MRSA LabID events among all inpatients in the facility. The denominator is the expected number of hospital-onset unique blood source MRSA LabID events, calculated using the facility's number of inpatient days, bed size, affiliation with medical school, and community-onset MRSA bloodstream infection admission prevalence rate.

NHSN users reporting FacWideIN MRSA bacteremia LabID event data to the system must adhere to the definitions and reporting requirements for those events, as specified in the NHSN MDRO/CDI Module protocol at http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/PDFs/pscManual/12pscMDRO_CDADcurrent.pdf. This includes individually mapping all inpatient locations from the entire cancer hospital in NHSN. Hospitals must also map and report from EDs (adult and pediatric) and 24-hour observation locations. Facilities will report a single monthly FacWideIN denominator summed for all inpatient locations (total facility patient days and total facility admissions), as well as separate denominators to capture ED and 24-hour observation location(s) encounters for each mapped location.

0431: Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Healthcare Personnel (HCP) (PCH-28)

The Influenza HCP measure assesses the percentage of HCP who receive the influenza vaccination. The measure is designed to ensure that reported HCP influenza vaccination percentages are consistent over time within a single healthcare facility and comparable across facilities.

The denominator includes the number of HCPs working in the healthcare facility for at least one working day between October 1 and March 31 of the subsequent year, regardless of clinical responsibility or patient contact, and is calculated separately for employees, licensed independent practitioners, and adult students/trainees and volunteers. The measure has no exclusions.

The numerator includes the HCP from the denominator population who met the following criteria between October 1 (or when the vaccine became available) and March 31 of the subsequent year and:

- Received an influenza vaccination administered at the healthcare facility, reported in writing (paper or electronic), or provided documentation that influenza vaccination was received elsewhere.
- Had a medical contraindication/condition of severe allergic reaction to eggs or to other component(s) of the vaccine or has a history of Guillain-Barre syndrome within six weeks after a previous influenza vaccination.
- Declined influenza vaccination.
- Had an unknown vaccination status or did not otherwise fall under any of the above-mentioned numerator categories.

NA: COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Healthcare Personnel (HCP) (PCH-38)

The COVID-19 HCP measure assesses the percentage of HCP who received a complete COVID-19 vaccination course. A completed vaccination course may require one or more doses depending on the specific vaccine used. Vaccination coverage is defined as a measure of the estimated percentage of people in a sample or population who received a specific vaccine or vaccines.

The denominator includes the number of HCP eligible to work in the healthcare facility for at least one day during the reporting period, excluding persons with contraindications to SARS-CoV-2 vaccination.

Denominator data are to be collected for three required categories of HCP and can also be collected for a fourth category:

1. Employees (required): This includes all persons receiving a direct paycheck from the reporting facility (i.e., on the facility's payroll), regardless of clinical responsibility or patient contact.
2. Licensed independent practitioners (LIPs) (required): This includes physicians (MD, DO), advanced practice nurses, and physician assistants who are affiliated with the reporting facility, but are not directly employed by it (i.e., they do not receive a paycheck from the facility), regardless of clinical responsibility or patient contact. Post-residency fellows are also included in this category if they are not on the facility's payroll.
3. Adult students/trainees and volunteers (required): This includes medical, nursing, or other health professional students, interns, medical residents, or volunteers aged 18 or older who are affiliated with the healthcare facility, but are not directly employed by it (i.e., they do not receive a paycheck from the facility), regardless of clinical responsibility or patient contact.
4. Other contract personnel (optional): Contract personnel are defined as persons providing care, treatment, or services at the facility through a contract who do not fall into any of the other denominator categories.

Denominator exclusions include HCP who were determined to have a medical contraindication or condition specified by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) labeling or authorization, CDC, or [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) recommendations. As of March 2021, the CDC considers [contraindications](#) to vaccination with COVID-19 vaccines to be:

- Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine
- Immediate allergic reaction of any severity to a previous dose or known (diagnosed) allergy to a component of the vaccine

The numerator is the cumulative number of HCP eligible to work in the hospital or facility for at least one day during the reporting period and who received a complete vaccination course against SARS-CoV-2.

Sampling

There is no sampling for the NHSN measures.

HAI Measures Reporting Period and Submission Deadlines

Hospitals are encouraged to submit their data monthly (within 30 days of the end of the month in which it is collected) to have the greatest impact on infection prevention activities. It is important to review the data that is entered to ensure it is complete and accurate. Data must be reported to NHSN by means of manual data entry into the web-based application or via file imports.

For data to be shared with CMS, each quarter's data must be entered into the NHSN by the CMS data submission deadline, which is approximately four and a half months after the end of the quarter. For example, quarter one data (January 1–March 31) must be entered into NHSN by 23:59 p.m. Pacific Time (PT), on August 15. (*If a deadline falls on a weekend or federal holiday, it will be moved to the next business day.)

For HAI measures' reporting periods and submission deadlines, refer to Appendix A.

Additional Resources

For questions specific to the HAI measures, refer to the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/index.html>.

Clinical Process/Oncology Care Measures (OCM)

The OCM, endorsed by the NQF, was initially derived from the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) and is part of the CMS Quality Payment Program (QPP) and the PCHQR Program. The OCM assess the quality of medical assessment, treatment, and diagnostics of cancer by PCHs. The PCHs will collect, and report aggregated numerators and denominators by quarter, with an annual submission period of July 1 through August 15.

0383: Oncology: Plan of Care for Moderate to Severe Pain – Medical Oncology and Radiation Oncology (PCH-15)

Once pain in a cancer patient is identified, it is imperative that, due to the physical, emotional, and quality of life implications, a plan of care for the pain is undertaken. The NIH has reported that up to 90 percent of cancer pain can be managed through relatively simple means. Others have cited research that proposes that 70–90 percent of cancer patients should be able to be effectively treated for their pain. Clinicians must respond to reported pain in a manner appropriate to the type of pain and setting. The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) and others provide guidelines for opioids, non-opioid analgesics, and adjuvant analgesics. It should be noted that appropriate responses may not always include more opioids, but rather more detailed assessments, use of non-opioid analgesics or techniques, or non-pharmacologic interventions (e.g., education, relaxation, and use of heat or cold).

The numerator is defined as the number of patients for whom a plan of care to address moderate to severe pain is documented on or before the date of the second visit with a clinician. The denominator includes patients, regardless of age, with a diagnosis of cancer currently receiving chemotherapy or radiation therapy who report having pain. This measure was originally paired with NQF #0384; however, NQF #0384 was finalized for removal in the FY 2019 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule.

0210: Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Receiving Chemotherapy in the Last 14 Days of Life (EOL-Chemo) (PCH-32)

Chemotherapy may be used for both the treatment of cancer and for palliation. However, some studies have shown that administering palliative chemotherapy to terminally ill cancer patients may not be beneficial and may be associated with higher rates of interventions such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation in the last week of life, being admitted to an ICU, and dying in a place other than the one they preferred.

The available evidence indicated that receiving chemotherapy, for either treatment or palliation, toward the end of life may be associated with increased costs, increased hospitalizations, and a reduced quality of life. The intent of this measure is to evaluate how often chemotherapy is administered near the end of life in PCHs.

This measure is a claims-based process measure, for Medicare patients, which evaluates the proportion of patients of patients who died of cancer and received chemotherapy at a PCH in the last 14 days of life. The numerator is defined as patients who received chemotherapy (regardless of intent) in the last 14 days of life. The denominator is defined as all patients who died from cancer. There are no exclusions, risk adjustments, or risk stratifications because the measure is intended to

evaluate the quality of life provided to all cancer patients at the end of life. A lower rate is better.

0215: *Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Not Admitted to Hospice (EOL-Hospice) (PCH-34)*

Research studies have determined that cancer care can become more aggressive towards the end of life. Such aggressive care has been identified to include the underutilization of hospice, which is due to either a lack of referral or late referral to hospice services. In contrast, studies have shown that patients enrolled in hospice are hospitalized less frequently, receive fewer procedures, and may demonstrate significant cost savings if enrolled in a timely manner. A factor leading to this aggressive treatment may be that end-of-life discussions are not being held with patients and their families. It is not expected that PCHs will achieve perfect rates with this measure, as there may be mitigating reasons that preclude enrollment in hospice. The intent of this measure is to evaluate whether patients were admitted to hospice. This measure is linked to another program measure, NQF #0216 (below).

This is a claims-based process measure which includes all Medicare beneficiaries at the PCH. The denominator for this measure is defined as all Medicare beneficiaries of the PCH who died of cancer in the defined timeframe. The numerator is those patients included in the denominator who were not enrolled in hospice. The measure specifications include no denominator exclusions nor any risk adjustment or risk stratification. A lower rate is better.

OCM Reporting Period and Submission Deadlines

For OCM NQF #0383, refer to Appendix A for the reporting period and submission deadline. The end-of-life OCMs (NQF #0210 and #0215) are claims-based measures and, as such, no data submission is required by the program participants. The CMS analytics contractor will calculate these performance rates based upon Medicare administrative claims data and report them to CMS on behalf of the PCHs.

Intermediate Clinical Outcome Measures

0213: *Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Admitted to the ICU in the Last 30 Days of Life (EOL-ICU) (PCH-33)*

As discussed with measure NQF #0210, numerous research studies have determined that cancer care can become more aggressive towards the end of life, which can lead to a lower quality of care and quality of life. Aggressive care may include admission to an ICU. Studies have shown that these ICU admissions may lead to more interventions, may be potentially ineffective, and may exact a toll on patients, families, and caregivers. ICU admissions at the end of life are also costly.

As with the other end-of-life metrics included in the program, this measure seeks to evaluate end-of-life care at PCHs. NQF #0213 is a claims-based intermediate clinical outcome measure that uses Medicare billing data.

The measure denominator is defined as the Medicare patients in the PCH who died of cancer. The numerator consists of those patients in the denominator who were admitted to the ICU in the last 30 days of life. As with the other end-of-life measures, there are no exclusions, nor is there a provision for risk adjustment or risk stratification. A lower rate is better.

0216: *Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Admitted to Hospice for Less Than Three Days (EOL-3DH) (PCH-34)*

The potential impact of hospice care on quality of life and cost is outlined in the discussion of NQF #0215. While over time there has been an increasing trend to admit cancer patients to hospice, the number of patients admitted close to death was also seen to be increasing.

With cancer patients being identified as the largest users of hospice, it is also noted that they are the cohort with the highest rates of hospice stays of less than three days. Research shows the importance of an early admission to hospice and indicates that, when hospice was initiated earlier than three days prior to death, patients’ families were more likely to indicate that end-of-life care was excellent. The researchers noted that enhancing counseling of patients and families and early referral to palliative care services could result in more “preference-sensitive care for patients” (FY 2018 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule [82 FR 38419]) and overall improvement in the quality of care for cancer patients at the end of life.

This measure, closely related to NQF #0215, seeks to incentivize timely discussions and admissions to hospice within the PCH setting, which in turn may lead to improved quality of care. This is a claims-based intermediate clinical outcome measure for Medicare beneficiaries within PCHs. The denominator consists of those patients who died from cancer and were admitted to hospice. The numerator is the number of patients from the denominator who spent three or less days in hospice. There are no exclusions from the denominator, nor risk adjustment or risk stratification. as the goal of the measure is to assess the quality of care provided to all cancer patients at the end of life. A lower rate is better.

Intermediate Clinical Outcome Measures Reporting Period and Submission Deadlines

The end-of-life intermediate clinical outcome measures (NQF #0213 and #0216) are claims-based measures, and no data submission is required by the program participants. The CMS analytics contractor will calculate these performance rates based upon Medicare administrative claims data and report them to CMS on behalf of the PCHs.

Additional Resources

- For detailed measure specifications regarding the OCM and intermediate clinical outcome measures, refer to the materials located in the zip file entitled “*Quality Measure Specifications*” located at the [2022 Quality Payment Program Resource Library](#). As further measure specifications for the claims-based measures (NQF #0210, #0213, #0215, and #0216) become available, this information will be disseminated to the program participants.
- For an overview of the topic of palliative and end-of-life care, participants may refer to the NQF publication [Palliative and End-of-Life Care 2015–2016 and the NQF Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care page](#) at https://www.qualityforum.org/topics/palliative_care_and_end-of-life_care.aspx.

Sampling (PCH-15/NQF #0383)

The sampling methodology allows for different numbers of cases to be reported based on each PCH’s cancer patient population size. Sampling should be systematic to ensure that all eligible cases have an equal chance of inclusion. PCHs must submit aggregate data for the required quarters during the data submission period.

Average Quarterly Initial Population Size “N”	Minimum Required Sample Size “N”
>125	25 cases
51–125	20 percent of the Initial Patient Population
10–50	10 cases
<10	No sampling; 100 percent of the Initial Patient Population

NQF measures #0210, #0213, #0215, and #0216 are claims-based measures and, therefore, there is no sampling provision.

Patient Engagement/Experience of Care

The intent of the HCAHPS initiative is to provide a standardized survey instrument and data collection methodology for measuring patients' perspectives on hospital care. The HCAHPS Survey is a core set of questions that can be combined with a broader, customized set of hospital-specific items. HCAHPS Survey items complement the data that hospitals currently collect to support improvements in internal customer services and quality related activities. For detailed information, refer to www.hcahpsonline.org.

0166: Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) (PCH-29)

The HCAHPS Survey produces 10 reported measures. Six measures are multi-item measures, including: communication with doctors, communication with nurses, responsiveness of hospital staff, communication about medicines, discharge information, and how well patients understood the care they would need after leaving the hospital. Four measures are single-item measures, including: cleanliness of the hospital environment, quietness of the hospital environment, overall rating of the hospital, and recommendation of the hospital.

Sampling

The [HCAHPS specifications](#) describe a precise method for sampling, with patients surveyed throughout each month of the year. As stated in the FY 2014 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule (76 FR 50845), PCHs must target at least 300 completed surveys over four calendar quarters in order to attain the reliability criterion CMS has set for publicly reported HCAHPS scores. Additionally, for PCHs who obtain fewer than 100 completed surveys, an appropriate footnote will be applied on the *Hospital Compare* website. The footnote will alert individuals to review the data cautiously as the number of surveys may be too low to reliably assess a PCH's performance.

HCAHPS Measure Reporting Period and Submission Deadlines

For the HCAHPS measure reporting period and submission deadlines, refer to Appendix A.

Additional Resources

For detailed information regarding the HCAHPS measures, refer to the specifications located at <http://www.hcahpsonline.org/en/technical-specifications/>.

Claims-Based Outcome Measures

3490: Admissions and Emergency Department (ED) Visits for Patients Receiving Outpatient Chemotherapy (PCH-30 and PCH-31)

Admission and Emergency Department (ED) Visits for Patients Receiving Outpatient Chemotherapy (referred to as the outpatient chemotherapy measure) estimates hospital-level, risk-adjusted rates of inpatient admissions or ED visits for cancer patients greater than or equal to 18 years of age for at least one of the following diagnoses: anemia, dehydration, diarrhea, emesis, fever, nausea, neutropenia, pain, pneumonia, or sepsis (within 30 days of hospital-based outpatient chemotherapy treatment). Rates of admission and ED visits are calculated and reported separately.

Additional background information about the measure can be found in the Measure Technical

Report and Data Dictionary (Appendix A of the Measure Technical Report), located at the following link: <https://qualitynet.cms.gov/pch/measures/chemotherapy/methodology>

Chemotherapy treatment can have severe, predictable side effects, which, if inappropriately managed, can reduce patients' quality of life and increase healthcare utilization and costs. This measure aims to assess the care provided to cancer patients and encourage quality improvement efforts to reduce the number of potentially avoidable inpatient admissions and ED visits among cancer patients receiving chemotherapy in a hospital outpatient setting. Improved management of these potentially preventable clinical conditions that are frequent side effects of chemotherapy treatment (e.g., anemia, dehydration, diarrhea, emesis, fever, nausea, neutropenia, pain, pneumonia, or sepsis) could reduce admissions and ED visits and increase patients' quality of care and quality of life. This measure encourages hospitals to use guidelines from the ASCO, NCCN, Oncology Nursing Society, Infectious Diseases Society of America, and other professional societies to integrate and promote use of evidence-based interventions to prevent and treat common side effects and complications of chemotherapy.

The measure denominator includes Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) patients, aged 18 years and older at the start of the performance period, with a diagnosis of any cancer (except leukemia), who received at least one outpatient chemotherapy treatment at the reporting hospital during the performance period. The measure does not include procedure codes for oral chemotherapy, so patients receiving oral chemotherapy are not captured in the cohort. The measure excludes the following patients from the cohort:

- Patients with a diagnosis of leukemia at any time during the performance period
- Patients who were not enrolled in Medicare FFS Parts A and B in the year prior to the first outpatient chemotherapy treatment during the performance period
- Patients who do not have at least one outpatient chemotherapy treatment followed by continuous enrollment in Medicare FFS Parts A and B in the 30 days after the procedure

The Measure Technical Report (referenced above) contains rationale and complete coding for exclusions.

The numerator for this measure is a risk-adjusted outcome measure and does not have a traditional numerator like a process measure. We use this field to define the measured outcomes of interest, given that this measure reports the hospital rates of two outcomes separately: admission and ED visits. The outcomes for this measure are one or more inpatient admissions, and one or more ED visits without an admission, for one of the following diagnoses: anemia, dehydration, diarrhea, emesis, fever, nausea, neutropenia, pain, pneumonia, or sepsis (within 30 days of receiving hospital-based outpatient chemotherapy treatment for cancer). The qualifying diagnosis on the admission or ED visit claim must be either the principal diagnosis or a secondary diagnosis accompanied by a principal diagnosis of cancer.

3188: 30-Day Unplanned Readmissions for Cancer Patients (PCH-36)

The 30-Day Unplanned Readmissions for Cancer Patients measure is a cancer-specific measure. It provides the rate at which all adult cancer patients covered as Fee-for-Service Medicare beneficiaries have an unplanned readmission within 30 days of discharge from an acute care hospital. The unplanned readmission is defined as a subsequent inpatient admission to a short-term acute care hospital, which occurs within 30 days of the discharge date of an eligible index admission and has an admission type of "emergency" or "urgent."

This outcome measure demonstrates the rate at which adult cancer patients have unplanned

readmissions within 30 days of discharge from an eligible index admission. The numerator includes all eligible unplanned readmissions to any short-term acute care hospital – defined as admission to the PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital (PCH), a short-term acute care Prospective Payment (PPS) hospital, or Critical Access Hospital (CAH) – within 30 days of the discharge date from an index admission that is included in the measure denominator.

Readmissions with an admission type (UB-04 Uniform Bill Locator 14) or “emergency = 1” or “urgent = 2” are considered unplanned readmissions within this measure. Readmissions for patients with progression of disease (using principal diagnosis of metastatic disease as proxy) and for patients with planned admissions for treatment (defined as a principal diagnosis of chemotherapy or radiation therapy) are excluded from the measure numerator.

The denominator includes inpatient admission for all adult Fee-for-Service Medicare beneficiaries where the patient is discharged from a short-term acute care hospital (PCH, short-term care PPS hospital, or CAH) with a principal or secondary diagnosis (i.e., not admitting diagnosis) of malignant cancer within the defined measurement period. The measure excludes the following index admissions from the measure denominator:

1. Less than 18 years of age;
2. Patients who died during the index admission;
3. Patients discharged AMA;
4. Patients transferred to another acute care hospital during the index admission;
5. Patients discharged with a planned readmission;
6. Patients having missing or incomplete data; and
7. Patients not admitted to an inpatient bed.

N/A: Surgical Treatment Complications for Localized Prostate Cancer (PCH-37)

The Surgical Treatment Complications for Localized Prostate Cancer measure addresses complications of a prostatectomy. The outcomes selected for this measure are urinary incontinence (UI) and erectile dysfunction (ED). Specifically, the measure uses claims to identify UI and ED among patients undergoing localized prostate cancer surgery and uses this information to derive hospital-specific rates. This measure will be calculated using Medicare FFS claims, resulting in no new data reporting for the PCHs.

This outcome measure analyzes hospital/facility-level variation in patient-relevant outcomes during the year after prostate-directed surgery. The outcomes are rescaled to a 0-100 scale, with 0=worst and 100=best. The numerator includes patients with diagnosis claims that could indicate adverse outcomes following prostate-directed surgery. The numerator is determined by:

1. Calculating the difference in a number of days with claims for UI or ED in the after versus the year before prostate surgery for each patient;
2. Truncating (by Winsorizing) to reduce the impact of outliers;
3. Rescaling the difference from 0 (worst) to 100 (best); and
4. Calculating the mean score of each hospital based on all of the different values for all of the patients treated at that hospital.

The denominator is determined by the following:

1. Men age 66 or older at the time prostate cancer diagnosis with at least two ICD diagnosis codes for prostate cancer separated by at least 30 days;
2. Men who survived at least one year after prostate-directed therapy;
3. Codes for prostate cancer surgery (either open or minimally invasive/robotic prostatectomy) at

- any time after the first prostate cancer diagnosis; and
4. Continuous enrollment in Medicare Parts A and B (and no Medicare Part C [Medicare Advantage]) enrollment) from one year before through one year after prostate-directed therapy.

This measure excludes patients with metastatic disease, patients with more than one nonhematologic malignancy, patients receiving chemotherapy, patients receiving radiation, and/or patients who die within one year after prostatectomy.

Section 3: Data Reporting

To meet program requirements, PCHs are required to submit specific quality measures to CMS, beginning with the FY 2013 payment determination year. Participating facilities must comply with the program requirements, including public reporting of the measure rates in the *Provider Data Catalog* (<https://data.cms.gov/provider-data/>).

Data for the PCHQR Program measures are collected by participating PCHs using a variety of methods. PCHs participating in the PCHQR Program must submit the required data via the acceptable methods of transmission no later than 11:59 p.m. PT on the submission deadline date as established by the CMS. Only data submitted according to the established deadlines of CMS qualify for inclusion in the PCHQR Program.

Appendix A provides specific data submission deadlines for the required PCHQR Program measures by data collection period due date. The reference periods noted for CLABSI, CAUTI, SSI, CDI, and MRSA refer to event dates; the reference periods for the other measures denote designated measure periods (diagnosis cohort, patient visit, inpatient discharge dates, etc.).

The document displaying the program requirements by fiscal year, PCHQR Program Measure Crosswalk, is located on the [PCHQR Program Resources tab](#) of QualityNet.

Reporting Methods

The PCHQR Program measures are collected by participating PCHs using a variety of data collection methods. The table below provides an overview of the measure types and reporting methods.

Measure Topic/Names	Method of Reporting
Safety/HAI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLABSI CAUTI Harmonized Procedure Specific SSI CDI MRSA HCP Influenza Vaccination HCP COVID-19 	Via the CDC NHSN
Clinical Process/Oncology Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncology: Plan of Care for Moderate to Severe Pain 	Data entered annually, stratified by quarter, via Simple Data Entry (SDE) Tool within the Hospital Quality Reporting (HQR) System.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Admitted to the ICU in the Last 30 Days of Life Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Not Admitted to Hospice 	These measures are collected by CMS through claims data. There is no action required by facilities to collect and submit data for them.
Intermediate Clinical Outcome Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Admitted to the ICU in the Last 30 Days of Life Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Admitted to Hospice for Less Than Three Days 	These measures are calculated by CMS through claims data. There is no action required by facilities to collect and submit data for this measure.
Patient Engagement/Experience of Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCAHPS 	Submitted via vendor or uploaded via the HQR System using the online data entry tool or in XML format.

Measure Topic/Names	Method of Reporting
<p>Claims-Based Outcome Measure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admissions and Emergency Department (ED) Visits for Patients Receiving Outpatient Chemotherapy • 30-Day Unplanned Readmissions for Cancer Patients • Surgical Treatment Complications for Localized Prostate Cancer 	<p>These measures are calculated by CMS through claims data. There is no action required by facilities to collect and submit any additional data for these measures.</p>

In an effort to modernize QualityNet, the HQR SDE Tool launched in July 2020. This tool replaced the Web-Based Data Collection Tool within the *QualityNet Secure Portal*. Specific instructions for submitting measures using the HQR SDE Tool can be found on the [PCHQR Program Events On Demand page](#) of *QualityReportCenter.com*.

Extraordinary Circumstances

A facility can request an exception of various quality reporting program requirements due to extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the facility. To request an exception, complete and submit the Extraordinary Circumstances Exceptions (ECE) Request Form located on the QualityNet [PCHQR Program Resources tab](#) (under Forms) within 90 days of the disaster or extraordinary circumstance.

Measure Exception Form

For the CDC NHSN measures, some hospitals may not have locations that meet the NHSN criteria for CLABSI or CAUTI reporting. Other hospitals may perform so few procedures requiring surveillance under the SSI measure that the data may not be sufficiently reliable for the Provider Data Catalog or sufficiently reliable to be utilized for quality reporting purposes in a Program Year. Reporting will not be required for the NHSN SSI measures if the PCH performed a combined total of nine or fewer colon and abdominal hysterectomy procedures in the calendar year prior to the reporting year. To indicate that the NHSN SSI data is not being reported, the Measure Exception Form should be completed using the top portion of the form.

The Measure Exception Form is located on QualityNet on the [PCHQR Program Resources page](#).

Section 4: Hospital Quality Reporting (HQR) System Registration Process

On November 13, 2020, CMS implemented the Access Management process, which is a new and improved way to manage users and their access directly within HQR System (formerly known as the *QualityNet Secure Portal*).

To participate and submit data for reporting in the PCHQR Program, facilities must register for access to the HQR System. More information regarding this process can be found on the [PCHQR Program Registration](#) page.

All users requesting access to the HQR System must complete identify proofing to verify their identity. This mandatory registration process is used to maintain the confidentiality and security of healthcare information and data transmitted via the HQR System. These are CMS-approved sites for secure healthcare quality data exchange to enable facility reporting.

On April 14, 2020, CMS launched the “One Login” functionality to allow QualityNet account holders to start transitioning their QualityNet accounts to the Health Care Quality Information Systems (HCQIS) Access Roles, and Profile (HARP) system.

HARP is a secure identity management portal for users of the HQR System, and it streamlines the login process by allowing access to all CMS Quality organizations with one login.

The following resources are available on the [QualityNet Registration page](#) to provide more information about HARP:

- [HARP User Guide](#)
- [HARP Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)
- [HARP Registration Training Video](#)
- [HARP Manual Proofing Training Video](#)

PCHQR Program Requirements

The PCHQR Program requirements are listed below. Click on the hyperlink imbedded within the text for detailed instructions for each step, as necessary.

1. Register for a [HARP Account](#).
2. Maintain an active [Security Official \(SO\)](#).
3. Have a [Notice of Participation](#).
4. Submit data based on the data collection and submission timelines.
5. Complete the Data Accuracy and Completeness Acknowledgement (DACA) by the submission deadline.

Hospital Quality Reporting (HQR) System Access – Getting Started with HARP

Creating an account via HARP provides users with User ID a password that can be used to sign into multiple CMS applications. It also provides a single location for users to modify their user profile, change their password, update their challenge question, and add and remove two-factor authentication devices.

Before logging in to the HQR System for the first time, a user must establish a HARP Account. Please refer to the [HARP for HQR User Guide](#) for detailed instructions.

For security reasons, all users creating a HARP account are required to complete identify proofing to verify their identity. Your identify is verified remotely via a series of personal questions.

- **Remote Proofing**

1. Click on the following link: <https://harp.cms.gov/register>
 - HARP will verify your identity through personal information, such as Date of Birth and Social Security Number, which utilized Experian to generate a list of personal questions that will verify your identity.
2. Enter your profile information and select **Next**.
 - Because your HARP ID can be used to login to several CMS applications which access sensitive information such as PHI or PII, identity proofing is required. This includes providing your SSN. If you do not wish to provide your SSN, a manual proofing option is available. Manual proofing may, however, delay the process.
3. Choose your user ID, password, and challenge question and select **Next**.
4. If remote proofing questions were successfully generated, answer the five identity proofing questions to verify your identity and select **Next**.
 - If you were unable to generate remote proofing questions OR you answered your remote proofing questions incorrectly, you have two options:
 - If you think you know what you entered incorrectly, you can retry remote proofing by returning to the Profile Information screen and selecting **Retry Remote Proofing**. This will pre-populate the fields below.
 - Call Experian to verify your identity over the phone and then enter your reference number on the Profile Information screen by selecting **Enter Reference Number**. This will pre-populate the fields below.
5. Your account has been created and you will receive a confirmation email.
6. For security reasons, all HARP accounts are required to have two-factor authentication. Select **Login to Complete Setup** to log into HARP and set up two-factor authentication. Once you have set up two-factor authentication, feel free to log into your respective CMS application. Follow your application's instructions for how to request a role.

If you are unable to successfully complete remote proofing, then you will need to initiate manual proofing.

- **Manual Proofing**

1. Click on the following link: <https://harp.cms.gov/register>
 - If you were unable to successfully complete remote proofing or you do not want to enter your full SSN, then you will need to initiate manual proofing.
2. Enter your profile information and select **Initiate Manual Proofing** below the SSN field.
 - SSN field is optional if you initiate manual proofing.
3. Choose your user ID, password, and challenge question and select **Next**.
 - **Note:** You will not be able to change your user ID after registration.
4. Send the following documents to your application's help desk via email, fax, or mail.
 - **One** of three approved forms of Government Photo IDs:
 - Current driver's license issued by state or territory; OR
 - Federal or State government issued photo identification card; OR
 - U.S. Passport

- **Two** copies of financial institution official bills or statements addressed to the address used during the registration process. Payroll information is also accepted.
 - If you choose not to fill out the HARP SSN field, you will need to provide only the **last four digits of your SSN** to your application's help desk.
5. The help desk will contact you via email if they need to request additional information. When your documents have been verified, you will receive an email confirming your account creation.
 6. For security reasons, all HARP accounts are required to have two-factor authentication. Select **Login to Complete Setup** to log into HARP and set up two-factor authentication. Once you have set up two-factor authentication, feel free to log into your respective CMS application. Follow your application's instructions for how to request a role.

Questions related to manual proofing should be directed to the Identity Access Management (IAM) team at (888) 559-0426 or identityproofing@hcqis.org.

QualityNet Security Official (SO)

The PCHQR Program strongly recommends every facility to have at least one QualityNet SO. As a best practice, it is also recommended that facilities designate a minimum of two QualityNet SOs, one to serve as the primary *QualityNet* SO and the other to serve as the alternate SO. To keep your facility's account active, your SO should sign into the HQR System at least every 60 days and change the password at least every 60 days. More frequent access and updating are encouraged to keep your account active. If it becomes necessary to reactivate your account, call the QualityNet Service Center at (866) 288-8912.

Security Official Responsibilities

The PCH SO has the following responsibilities:

- Creating, approving, editing, and terminating HARP accounts for their PCH
- Assigning user roles for basic users within their PCH to ensure users' access to the secure web-based applications
- Monitoring HQR System usage at the PCH to ensure security and confidentiality is maintained
- Serving as a point of contact for information regarding the HQR system.

Non-Administrative/Basic User

Any user not designated as a QualityNet SO or a QualityNet Security Designate is considered a non-administrative user, or Basic User. Various roles to fit job needs can be assigned to the non-administrative user.

If assigned the appropriate roles, the user may perform one or more of the following tasks:

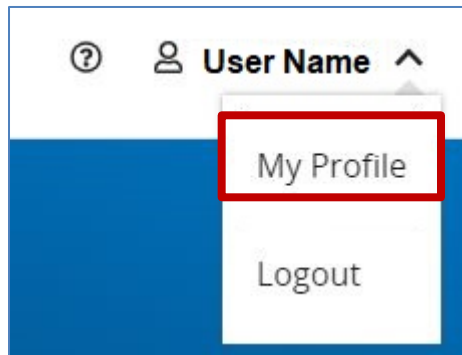
- Access reports
- Authorize vendors to submit data
- Manage measures
- Manage Notice of Participation
- Manage security
- View/edit online forms

Requesting the Security Official (SO) Role in HARP

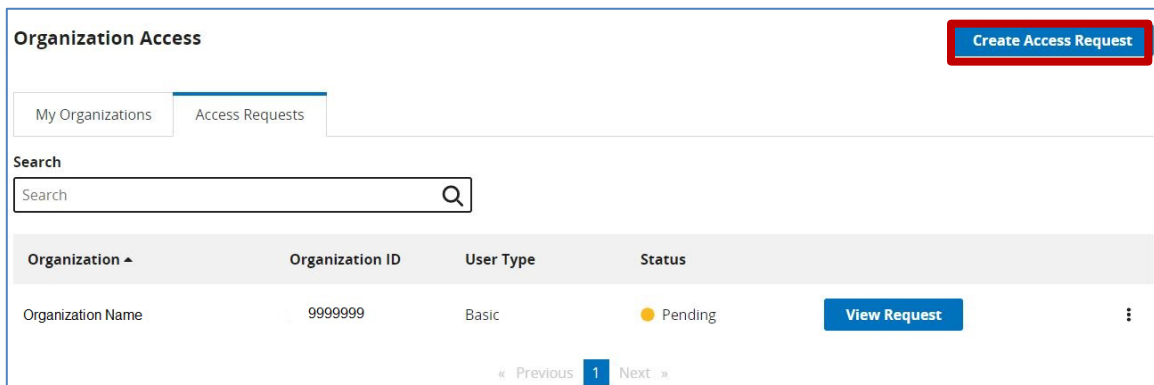
Each organization needs to designate a SO who will be responsible for approving individuals for access to various programs within their organization.

For new users (those with no current affiliation to any organization) to HQR: You must contact your SO to request access. If there is no current SO at their organization, you will need to contact the QualityNet Service Center for all access requests.

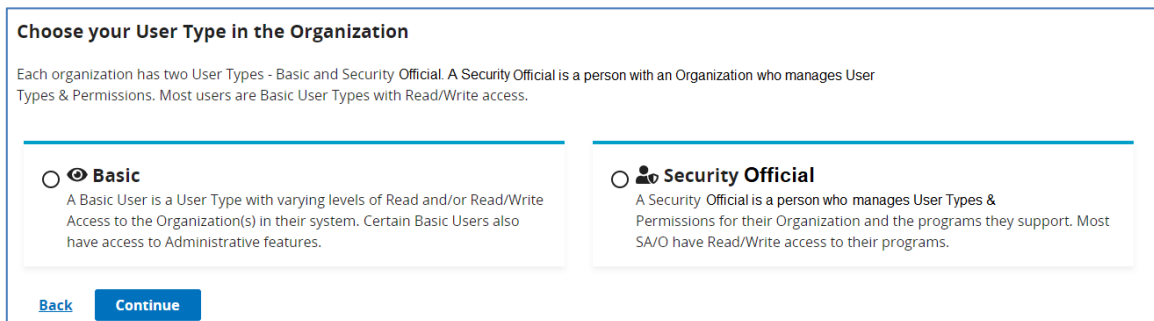
1. Log into HQR (<http://hqr.cms.gov>) – from the Home page select **My Profile** from the drop-down under your **User Name** in the upper right hand corner.



2. From this page, you can request access or view access - select **Create Access Request**.



3. Select either **Basic User** or **Security Official** when prompted to **Choose Your User Type in the Organization**.



4. Select your required permissions, **Review** then, and click **Continue** when ready.
5. You will be notified via email when your role request has been approved or rejected. For additional information on the HARP Process, please visit the Getting Started with Quality Net page at: <https://qualitynet.cms.gov/getting-started#tab1>.

Logging In to the Hospital Quality Reporting (HQR) System

After establishing your HARP credentials, a user will have access to the HQR System.

To access the HQR System:

1. Go to the [HQR Sign In](#) page and enter your HARP **User ID** and **Password**, then select **Login**.

CMS.gov | QualityNet

Hospital Quality Reporting

HARP Sign In

Enter your User ID and Password to login.

User ID

Password

Login

Need a HARP account? Create one [here](#).

2. For the Two-Factor Authentication, select a device to verify your account, then select **Next**.

Hospital Quality Reporting

Two-Factor Authentication

Select a device to verify your account

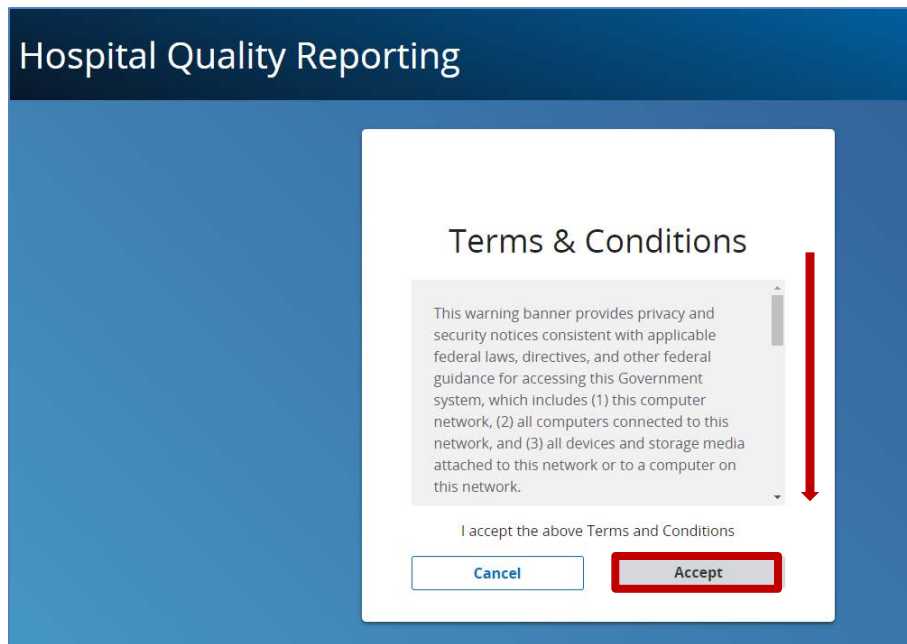
SMS Text for number ending in 1234

Email

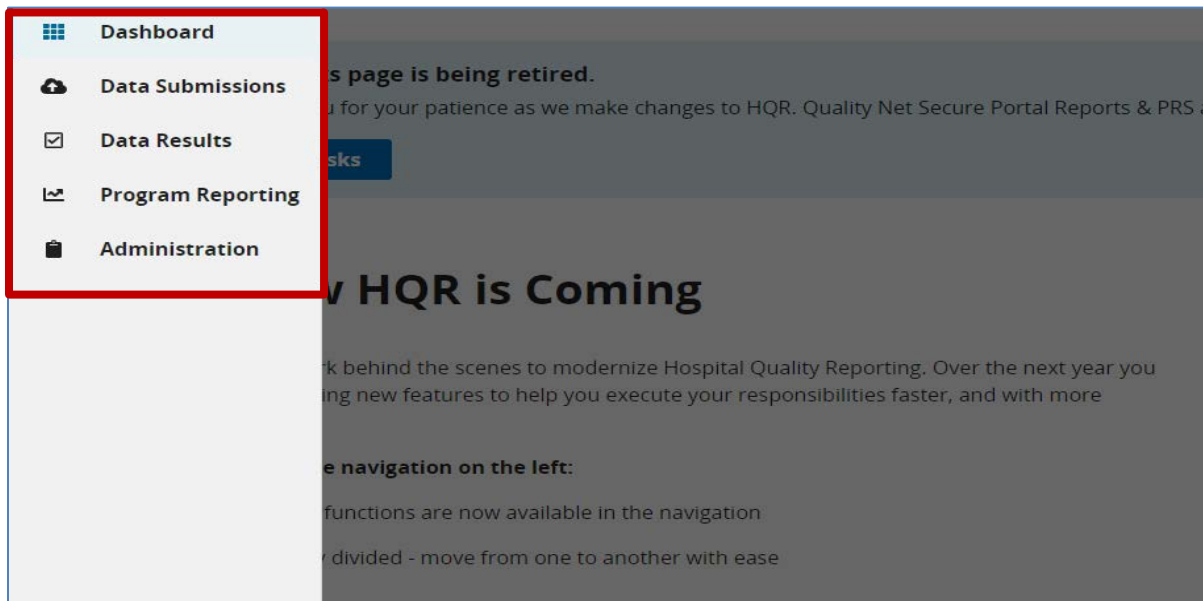
Cancel Next



3. Enter the six-digit code sent to your device and then select **Continue**.
4. The Term and Conditions box will appear. Scroll down and then **Accept** the terms to be granted access to the HQR System.



5. The Hospital Quality Reporting Homepage appears, and you can make selections from the navigation pane on the left-hand side



The user may perform one or more of the following tasks:

- Access reports
- Manage measures
- Manage Notice of Participation
- Manage security
- View/edit online forms

User Permissions

For the PCHQR Program, there are only two types of user designations for any of the authorized permissions listed below: **Update** and **Read Only**. The **Update** designation permits a user to edit information within the application; the **Read Only** designation just permits the user to browse information. Below is a list of permissions that may be assigned to a user participating in the PCHQR Program.

Notice of Participation

- PCHQR Notice of Participation Read
- PCHQR Notice of Participation Update

Web-Based Measure/DACA Application

- PCHQR Web-Based MSR DACA Read
- PCHQR Web-Based MSR DACA Update

Reports

- PCHQR Reports Read
- PCHQR Reports Update
- PCHQR Feedback Reports
- PCHQR Preview Reports
- HCAHPS Warehouse Feedback Reports (accessed under IQR)

Vendor Management

- PCH Vendor Management

File Exchange

- File Search and Exchange

Manage Security Settings

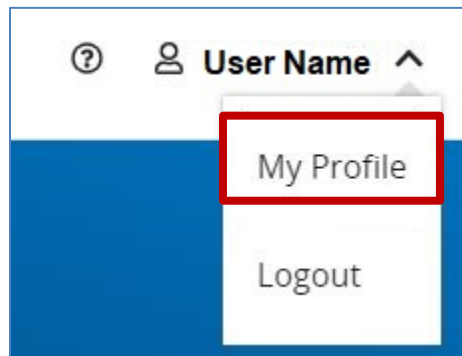
After gaining access to the HQR System, users can manage their account information on the home page. Refer to the instructions below to update/change the settings for the following topics:

- Update account information
- Reset or change passwords
- Update security questions
- Update two-factor devices

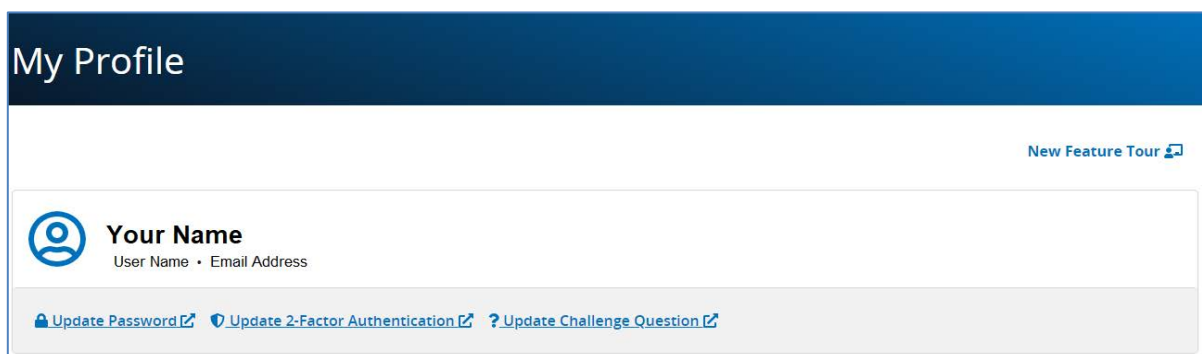
Update Account Information

To update your account information:

1. From the HQR Home page select **My Profile** from the drop-down under your **User Name** in the upper right hand corner.



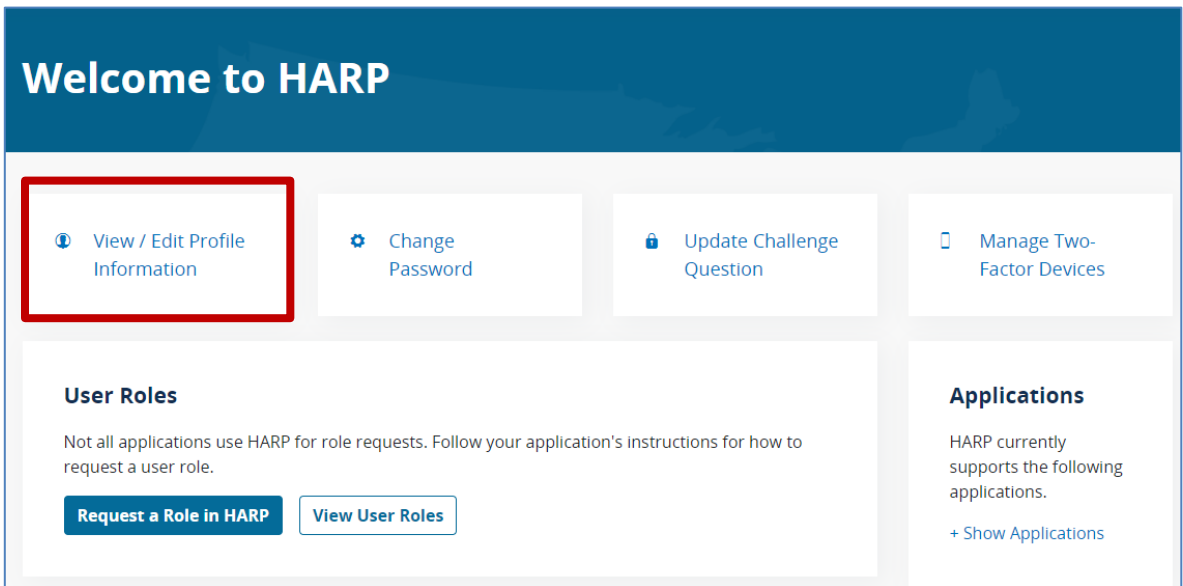
2. The **My Profile** page will open. At the top of the page, you have options to **Update Password**, **Update 2-Factor Authentication**, and **Update Challenge Question**



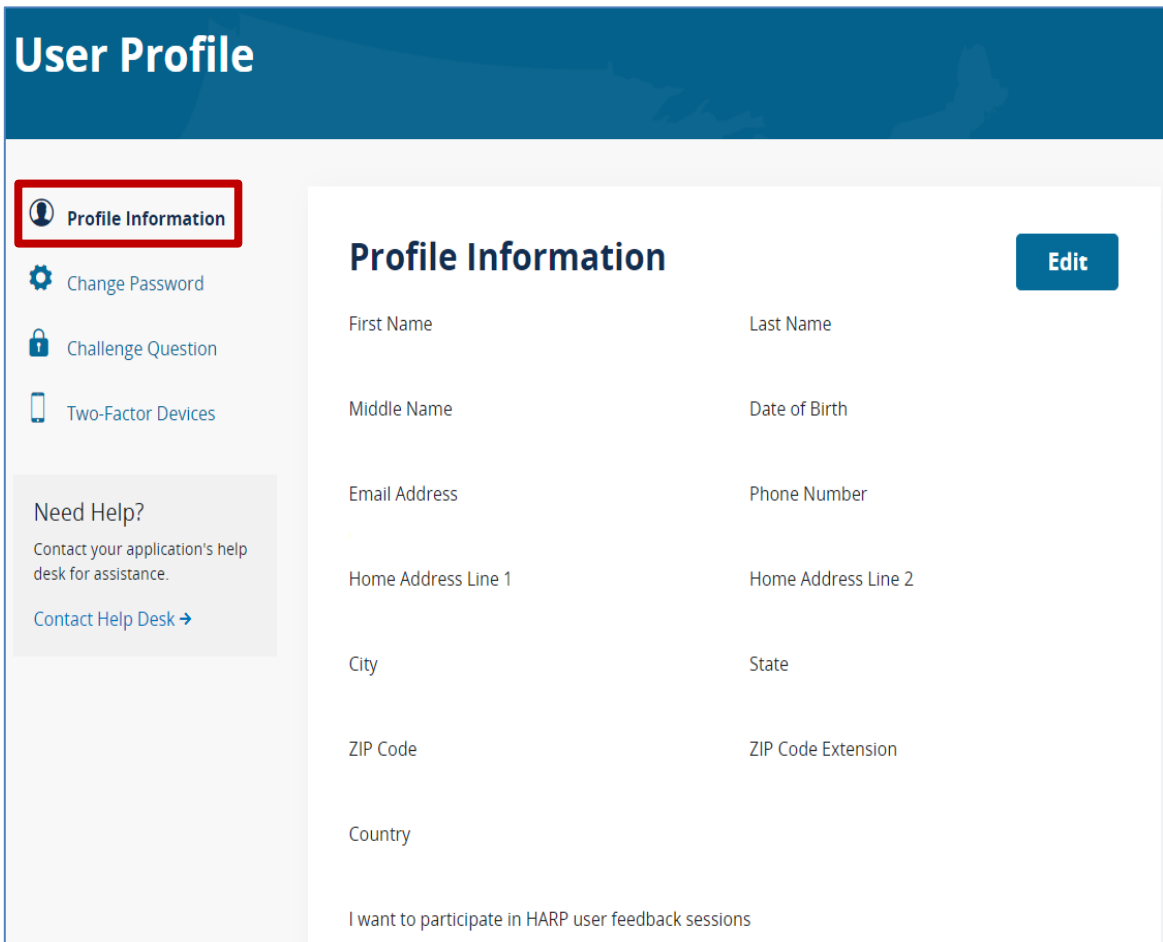
Update Profile Information

To update your profile information:

1. On the HARP (harp.cms.gov) *User Profile* page, select **View/Edit Profile Information**.



2. Select **Profile Information**.

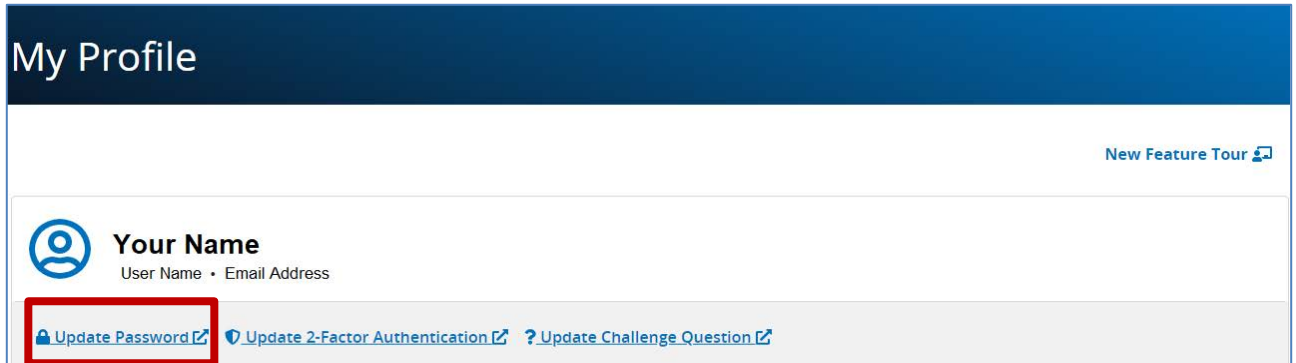


3. The *Profile Information* screen will appear, and the fields will be populated with your information. You can select the **Edit** and change the desired field(s). Then, select **Save** to record your changes.

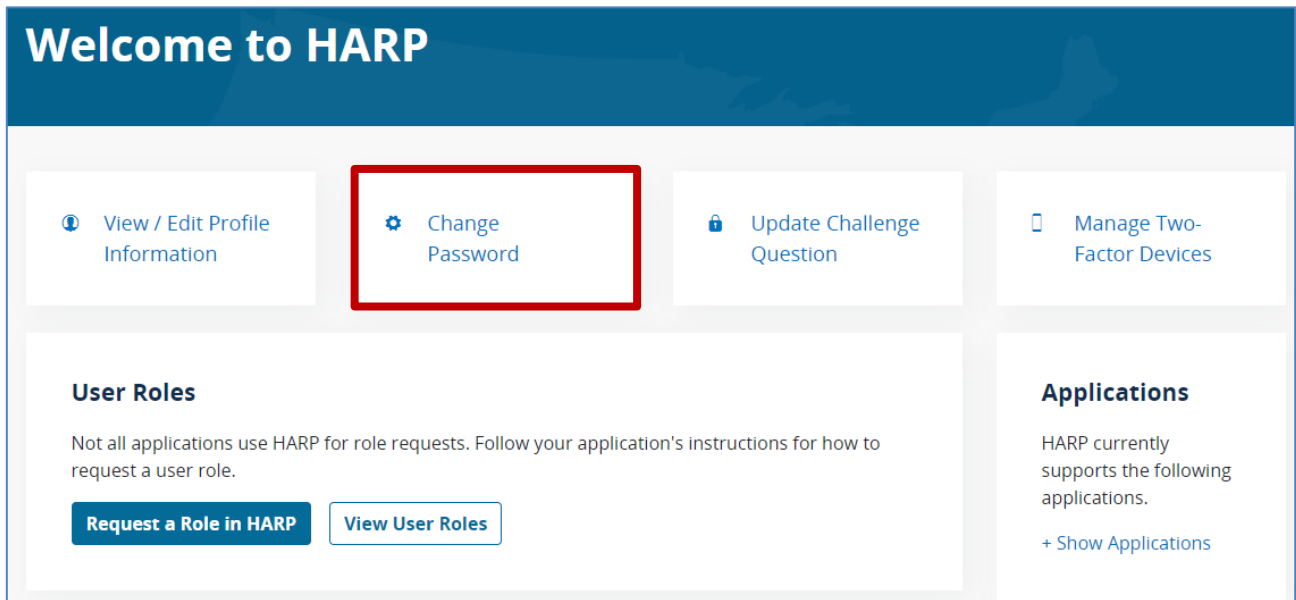
Password Reset/Change

The QualityNet HQR System requires a password reset/change **every 60 days**. To change your password, complete the following steps:

1. On the *My Profile* page, select **Update Password**.



2. You will be directed to the HARP site (harp.cms.gov). You will then need to log in with your HARP credentials to proceed. Once logged in, select **Change Password**.



3. The *Change Password* screen will open. Complete all fields and then select the **Save** button to change the password.

Note: Review password rules before changing your password. Rules are located on the *Change Password* page as shown below.

User Profile

The screenshot shows the 'User Profile' page with a sidebar on the left containing 'Profile Information', 'Change Password', 'Challenge Question', and 'Two-Factor Devices'. The 'Change Password' option is highlighted with a red box. The main content area is titled 'Change Password' and includes a note: 'All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required.' There are three input fields: 'Old Password *', 'New Password *', and 'Confirm New Password *'. A red box highlights a password requirement note: 'Password must be at least 12 characters and include a lowercase letter, uppercase letter, number (0-9), and symbol (!@#%&^*). Cannot contain first name, last name, part of user ID, or old password.' At the bottom are 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Update Challenge Questions

To update your security questions:

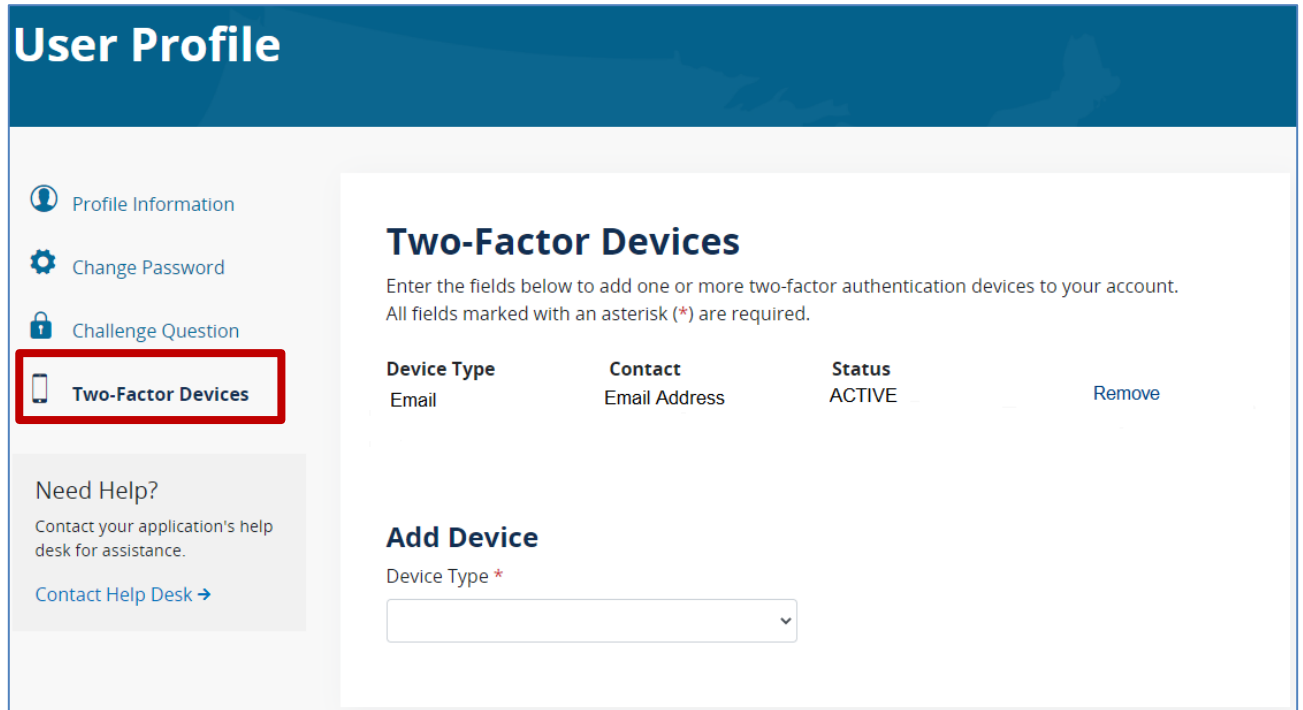
1. On the HARP (harp.cms.gov) *User Profile* page, select **Challenge Question**.

The screenshot shows the 'User Profile' page with the 'Challenge Question' option highlighted in the sidebar with a red box. The main content area is titled 'Challenge Question' and includes a note: 'All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required.' There are three input fields: 'Password *', 'Challenge Question *' (a dropdown menu), and 'Challenge Question Answer *'. A 'Save' button is located at the bottom left of the form area.

2. The *Challenge Question* screen will open. Complete all fields and then select the **Save** button to update your challenge question.

Update Two-Factor Devices

1. On the HARP (harp.cms.gov) *User Profile* page, select **Two-Factor Devices**.



The screenshot shows the 'User Profile' page with a sidebar on the left and a main content area. The sidebar contains links for 'Profile Information', 'Change Password', 'Challenge Question', and 'Two-Factor Devices' (which is highlighted with a red box). Below the sidebar is a 'Need Help?' section with a 'Contact Help Desk' link. The main content area is titled 'Two-Factor Devices' and contains instructions to add devices. It features a table with one row: 'Email' under 'Device Type', 'Email Address' under 'Contact', 'ACTIVE' under 'Status', and a 'Remove' link. Below the table is an 'Add Device' section with a 'Device Type *' dropdown menu.

Device Type	Contact	Status	
Email	Email Address	ACTIVE	Remove

Add Device

Device Type *

2. The *Two-Factor Devices* screen will open. Follow the prompts to **Add Device** and then select the **Submit** button to update your device list. You can also remove devices from our account by selecting **Remove** by the appropriate device.

Section 5: Vendor Management

On December 7, 2020, CMS announced a new Vendor Management process for managing vendors directly within the HQR System. This new design allows for users to assign permissions and manage vendors for all applicable hospitals from one page. The new Vendor Management allows for the following capabilities:

- Assign, modify, and remove vendor access for data submissions all from one page
- Receive instant confirmation that vendors are added, suspended, or removed
- Resume access for vendors previously associated with your organization with one click of a button

Facilities may elect to use a vendor to collect and submit data on their behalf. A vendor must have an assigned vendor ID and be authorized to submit data prior to PCH authorization to submit data or have access to its facility's data and/or reports. Vendor authorization for participants in the PCHQR Program is limited to HCAHPS data only at this time.

Note: The PCH may authorize a vendor to submit data on behalf of the facility. However, CMS holds a PCH responsible for ALL data submission, even when contracting with a vendor.

Vendors must be authorized to submit data on behalf of providers. To begin managing your vendors in the new system, follow these steps below:

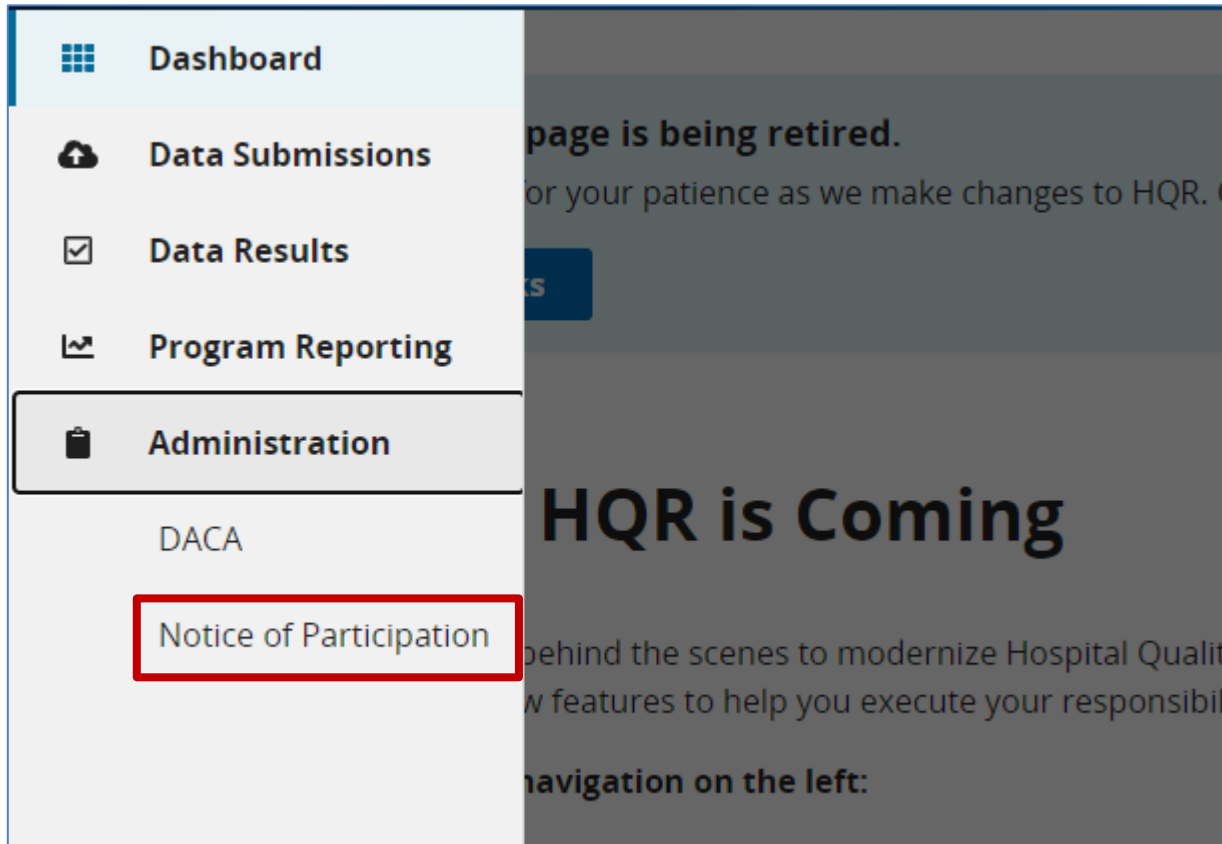
1. Log in to HQR (<https://hqr.cms.gov/hqrng/login>) using our HARP user ID and password.
2. Go to **Administration**, then **Vendor Management**.
3. Once on the Vendor Management page, you can search for a Vendor, Add a Vendor, or view your Vendor(s).

Section 6: Notice of Participation (NOP)

On November 19, 2020, CMS announced the launch of the Notice of Participation in the HQR System.

The PCHs electing to participate in the PCHQR Program must complete a Notice of Participation (NOP) via the HQR System. Submission of the NOP is an indication that the PCH agrees to participate and publicly report its measure rates.

A direct link to manage the NOP is found on the HQR home page **Administration** link.

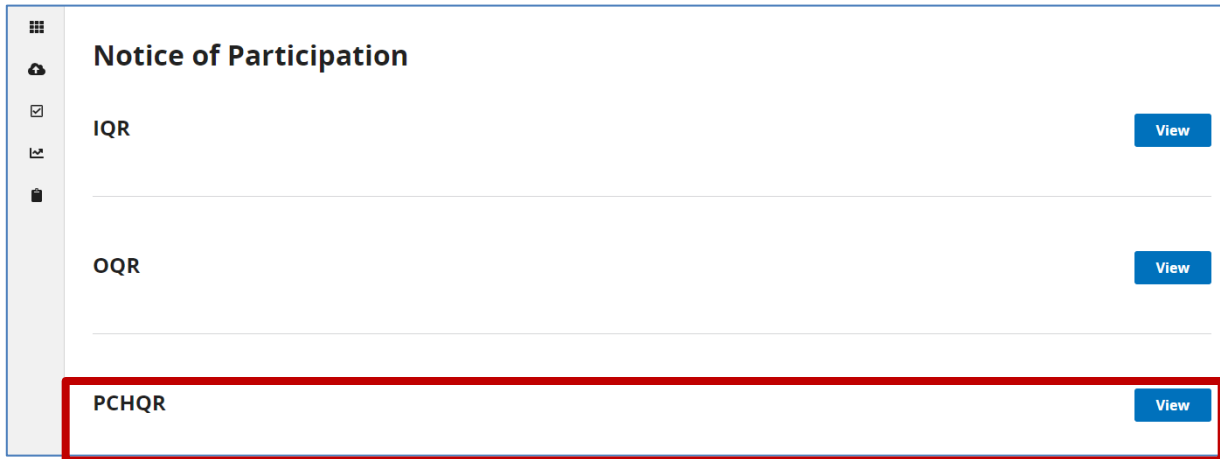


Note: Hospitals with a PCHQR Program NOP will remain active program participants until a withdrawal is submitted via the HQR System.

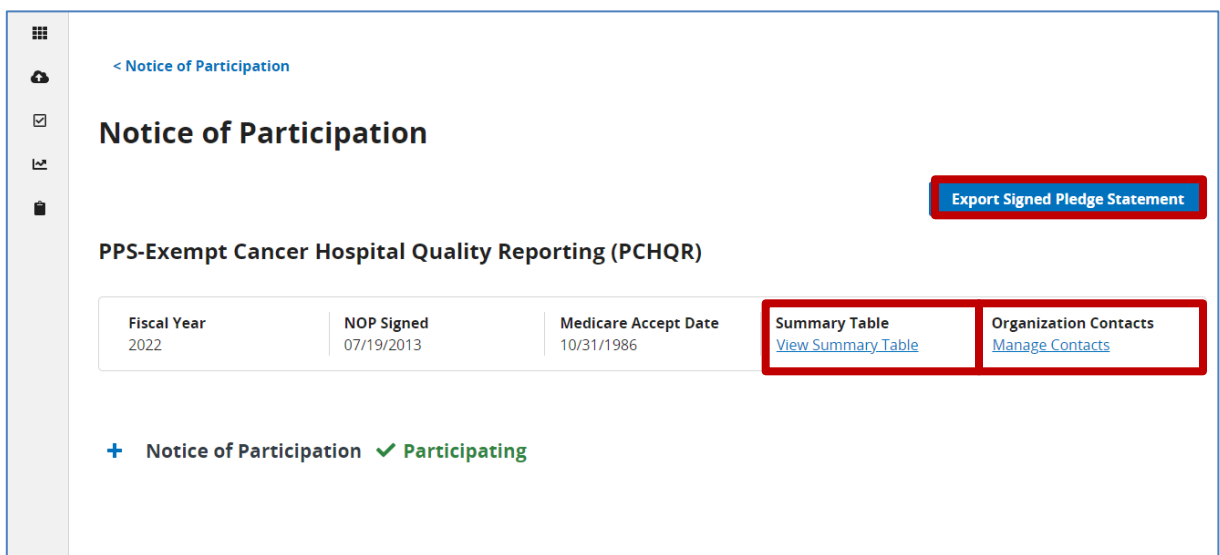
Accessing the Online NOP Application

To access the NOP application:

1. On the HQR NOP Page, if applicable, select **View** for PCHQR.



2. Access the *Notice of Participation* screen.



From this screen, you can select the following actions: **Export Signed Pledge Statement**, **View Summary Table**, and **Manage Contacts**.

3. Select an action to be completed:

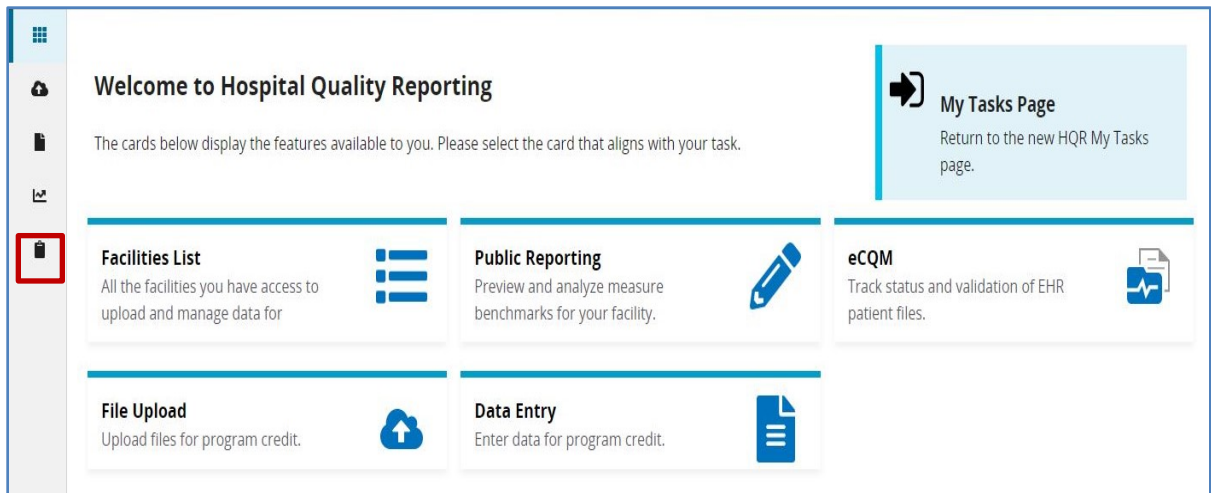
- a. **View Summary Table** - Provides of summary of NOP statuses for a given fiscal. As a PCHQR Program participant, the NOP 'Participating' status carries forward each fiscal year.
- b. **Manage Contacts** – Displays the NOP contact table. Contact information is used for sending email alert notifications if edits are made within the NOP application.
- c. **Export Signed Pledge Statement** – Option to print the signed and timestamped NOP.

Section 7: Data Accuracy and Completeness Acknowledgement (DACA)

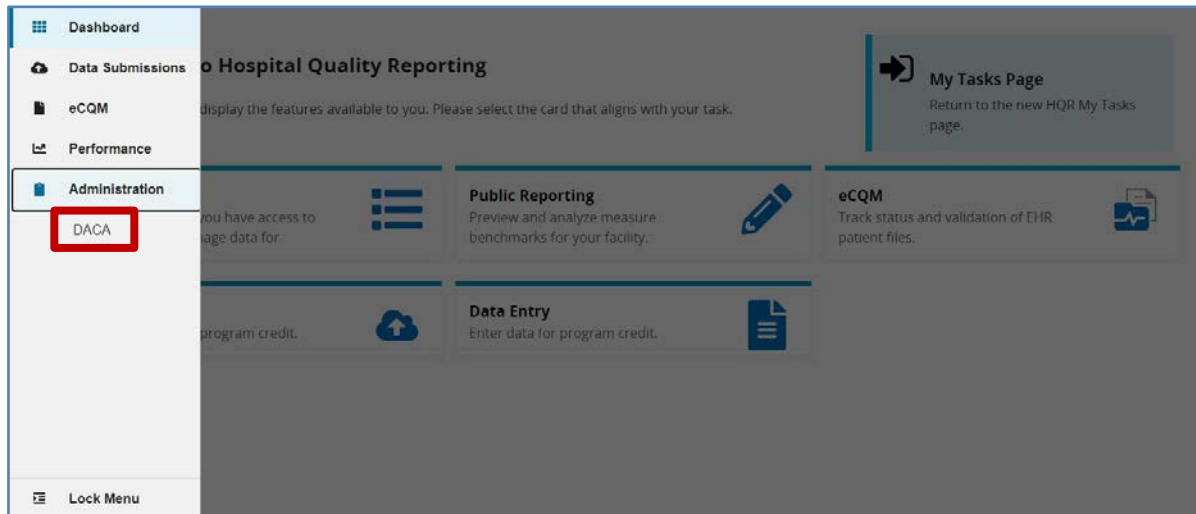
Beginning with PY 2015, PCHs should complete an online Data Accuracy and Completeness Acknowledgement (DACA) to attest to the accuracy and completeness of the entered data.

The DACA usually has an August 31 submission deadline for the next fiscal year. (The deadline is moved if August 31 falls on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or federal holiday). For FY 2022, the DACA should be submitted by August 31, 2021 via the HQR System. The DACA web application is usually accessible annually from July 1 through the submission deadline.

1. On the Hospital Quality Reporting home page navigation panel, select the **Administration (clipboard)** icon.



2. Select **DACA** from the navigation panel to begin the DACA submission process.



3. Review the DACA.

Data Accuracy and Completeness Acknowledgement (DACA)

To the best of my knowledge, at the time of submission of this form, all of the information reported for this hospital for participation in the PCHQR Program is accurate and complete. This acknowledgement is for information submitted since the completion of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 DACA signed in Calendar Year 2019. This information includes the following:

- Measure data, as defined for the PCHQR Program
- All Program requirements, as defined for the PCHQR Program (e.g., where applicable, chart abstraction and/or sampling)
- Current Notice of Participation
- Active QualityNet Security Administrator

I understand this acknowledgement covers all PCHQR information reported by this hospital (and any data or survey information reported by vendor(s) acting as agents on behalf of this hospital) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and its contractors. The data submitted in the time frame covered by this DACA are required for purposes of meeting the requirements for FYs 2020, 2021, and 2022 as specified in the Final Rules governing the PCHQR Program.

To the best of my knowledge, at the time of submission, this information was collected in accordance with all applicable requirements. I understand that this information is used as the basis for reporting quality of care and patient assessment of care to the public.

Position

I confirm that the information I have submitted is accurate and complete, to the best of my knowledge.

Sign **Cancel**

4. Enter your Position/Title in the text box.
5. Select the **“I confirm that the information I have submitted is accurate and complete, to the best of my knowledge”** checkbox
6. Click the **Sign** button to complete the DACA submission. Then you will receive a notification that you have successfully acknowledged and signed the DACA.
7. For a copy of the signed DACA, select **“Export Signed DACA PDF”**.

 **Success:** Congratulations! You have successfully acknowledged and signed DACA for PCHQR for this fiscal year.

Signature
Your Name

Position
Your Position/Title

Date
07/01/2020

Re-Sign **Export Signed DACA PDF**

8. Select the option to Download or Print the PDF version located in the upper right-hand corner.

PCHQR-DACA-2021.pdf 1 / 1

Data Accuracy and Completeness Acknowledgement (DACA)

To the best of my knowledge, at the time of submission of this form, all of the information reported for this hospital for participation in the PCHQR Program is accurate and complete. This acknowledgement is for information submitted since the completion of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 DACA signed in Calendar Year 2019. This information includes the following:

- * Measure data, as defined for the PCHQR Program
- * All Program requirements, as defined for the PCHQR Program (e.g., where applicable, chart abstraction and/or sampling)
- * Current Notice of Participation
- * Active QualityNet Security Administrator

I understand this acknowledgement covers all PCHQR information reported by this hospital (and any data or survey information reported by vendor(s) acting as agents on behalf of this hospital) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and its contractors. The data submitted in the time frame covered by this DACA are required for purposes of meeting the requirements for FYs 2020, 2021, and 2022 as specified in the Final Rules governing the PCHQR Program.

To the best of my knowledge, at the time of submission, this information was collected in accordance with all applicable requirements. I understand that this information is used as the basis for reporting quality of care and patient assessment of care to the public.

Congratulations! You have successfully acknowledged and signed DACA for PCHQR for this fiscal year.

Section 8: Accessing and Reviewing Reports

The reports described in this section are helpful in monitoring a PCH's status as it relates to the PCHQR Program. The reports should be used as reference tools only.

Types of Reports

PCHQR Performance Report

The facility report is specific to the facility accessing the report.

To run a PCHQR Performance Report:

1. Select **Program Reporting** from the navigation panel to the left-hand side of the HQR landing page.

The screenshot shows the HQR landing page. On the left is a navigation panel with the following items: Dashboard, Submissions, Program Reporting (highlighted with a red box), Reporting Requirements, Performance Reports (circled in red), Public Reporting, Validation, and Administration. The main content area features a blue banner with an information icon and the text: "My Tasks page is being retired. Thank you for your patience as we make changes to HQR. Quality Net Secure Portal Resource System are still on the My Tasks page." Below this is a "My Tasks" button. The main heading is "The New HQR is Coming". The text below reads: "We are hard at work behind the scenes to modernize Hospital Quality Reporting. Over the next year you will see many exciting new features to help you execute your responsibilities faster, and with more confidence." Below this is a section titled "New! Check out the navigation on the left:" with two bullet points: "All features and functions are now available in the navigation" and "Tasks are clearly divided - move from one to another with ease". An illustration of a computer monitor and keyboard is on the right.

2. Select the **Performance Reports**.
3. For Program, choose **PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting (PCHQR)**.

The screenshot shows the "Performance Reports" selection interface. It includes a heading "Performance Reports" and a paragraph: "This is where you can check your Quality Measure and other calculated metrics. Facility, State, and National level calculations are available for the IQR, OQR, ASCQR, IPFQR, and PCHQR Programs; Baseline Measure and Percentage Payment Summary calculations are available for the HVBP Program. Access is dependent upon permissions." Below this are three dropdown menus: "Program" (with "PCHQR" selected and a dropdown menu open showing "Select Program", "HVBP", "IQR", and "PCHQR"), "Report" (with "Select Report" selected), and "Fiscal Year" (with "Select Year" selected). An "Export CSV" button is located to the right of the dropdowns.

4. For Report, choose PCH Facility.

Performance Reports

This is where you can check your Quality Measure and other calculated metrics. Facility, State, and National level calculations are available for the IQR, OQR, ASCQR, IPFQR, and PCHQR Programs; Baseline Measure and Percentage Payment Summary calculations are available for the HVBP Program. Access is dependent upon permissions.

Program: PCHQR
 Report: Select Report
 Fiscal Year: Select Year
 Provider(s): Search Provider(s)
 PCH Facility

Export CSV

- For Fiscal Year, choose the appropriate fiscal year. (Example below shows **2022**.)

Performance Reports

This is where you can check your Quality Measure and other calculated metrics. Facility, State, and National level calculations are available for the IQR, OQR, ASCQR, IPFQR, and PCHQR Programs; Baseline Measure and Percentage Payment Summary calculations are available for the HVBP Program. Access is dependent upon permissions.

Program: PCHQR
 Report: Select Report
 Fiscal Year: Select Year
 Provider(s): Search Provider(s)
 2022
 2023

Export CSV

- Select Export CSV. The CSV file will appear in a separate window to view, save, and/or print.

Performance Reports

This is where you can check your Quality Measure and other calculated metrics. Facility, State, and National level calculations are available for the IQR, OQR, ASCQR, IPFQR, and PCHQR Programs; Baseline Measure and Percentage Payment Summary calculations are available for the HVBP Program. Access is dependent upon permissions.

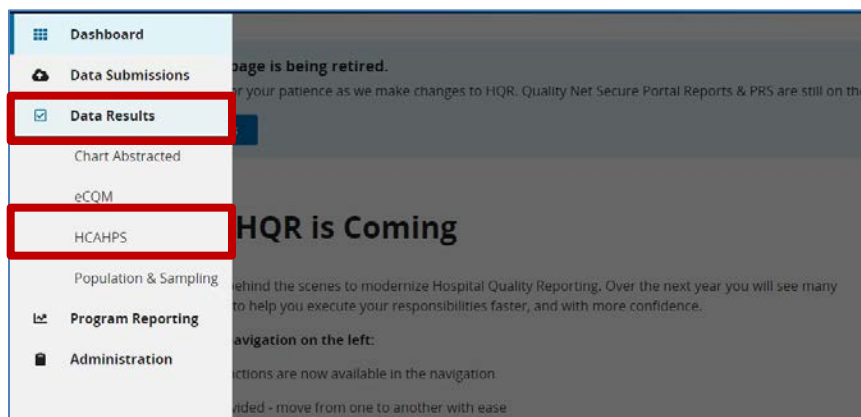
Program: PCHQR
 Report: PCH Facility
 Fiscal Year: 2022
 Provider(s): Search Provider(s)

Export CSV

PCHQR Program HCAHPS Report

The PCHQR Program HCAHPS reports are accessed through the HQR **Data Results** functionality. To run a PCHQR Program HCAHPS Report:

- On the HQR home page menu, select the **Data Results** (checkbox) icon and then **HCAHPS**.



2. Select the applicable **Discharge Quarter** from the drop-down menu.

The screenshot shows the 'Data Results - HCAHPS' interface. At the top, there is a tab labeled 'Submission Results'. Below the tab, the heading 'Submission Results' is followed by a descriptive sentence: 'This is where you see the submission results of your HCAHPS submissions. It encompasses data from the Quality Net legacy reports, including: Review and Correction.' Below this text, there are two dropdown menus. The first is labeled 'Discharge Quarter' and has a placeholder text 'Select Quarter'. This dropdown menu is highlighted with a red rectangular box. Below it is another dropdown menu labeled 'Provider(s)' with a placeholder text 'Search Provider(s)'. To the right of these dropdown menus is a button labeled 'Export CSV'.

3. After selecting the appropriate discharge quarter, select **Export CSV**. Then, your facility's HCAHPS report will be displayed in a CSV format.

The screenshot shows the 'Data Results - HCAHPS' interface after a selection has been made. The 'Discharge Quarter' dropdown menu now displays 'Q1 2020'. The 'Export CSV' button, which was previously greyed out, is now highlighted with a red rectangular box, indicating it is active and ready to be clicked.

Section 9: Public Reporting

Background

Section 1886(s)(4)(E) of the Social Security Act requires the Secretary of HHS to establish procedures for making the data submitted under the PCHQR Program available to the public.

On September 3, 2020, CMS announced that new Compare tools were available on Medicare.gov. They are Care Compare (<https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare/>) and Provider Data Catalog (PDC) (<https://data.cms.gov/provider-data/>).

On December 1, 2020, CMS retired the *Hospital Compare* tool, the location of PCH data. The PDC site is the new location for PCH data. The PDC site can be accessed from the Care Compare homepage as shown below:

The screenshot displays the Medicare.gov Care Compare homepage. At the top, a dark green banner features the text "Find & compare nursing homes, hospitals & other providers near you." Below this, a link reads "Learn more about the types of providers listed here". The main search area includes three input fields: "MY LOCATION" with a placeholder "ZIP code or city", "PROVIDER TYPE" with a dropdown menu set to "Select one", and "KEYWORDS (optional)". A "Search" button is positioned to the right of these fields. Below the search area, the text "Or, select a provider type to learn more:" is followed by eight icons representing different provider types: Doctors & clinicians, Hospitals, Nursing homes including rehab services, Home health services, Hospice care, Inpatient rehabilitation facilities, Long-term care hospitals, and Dialysis facilities. At the bottom of the search area, a link says "Looking for medical supplies and equipment? Visit the Supplier Directory". The "Tips & Resources" section contains three cards: "About this tool" (Learn more about this tool and what it can do for you.), "Resources & information" (Check out important things to consider when choosing a provider.), and "Info for health care providers" (Find out how to keep your information up-to-date in our tools.). A final link at the bottom reads "Looking to explore and download provider data? Visit the data catalog on CMS.gov".

The Care Compare and PDC websites which publicly report hospital performance on numerous measures, are designed to make meaningful, relevant, and easily understood information about hospital performance accessible to the public and to inform and encourage hospitals' efforts to improve care quality. Accessibility and use of performance information spurs positive changes in healthcare delivery.

Public Display Timeline

The PCHQR Program has quality of care data publicly displayed on a rolling quarter basis. The data are published four times each year beginning in December 2014 and subsequent Program Years. The following table displays the upcoming public reporting releases and the PCHQR Program data that will be refreshed with each release. Prior data will continue to display until refreshed by newer data.

PCHQR Program measures are often identified by a PCH numbering system:

PCH-6	SSI: Colon
PCH-7	SSI: Abdominal Hysterectomy
PCH-15	Plan of Care for Moderate to Severe Pain
PCH-27	MRSA
PCH-26	CDI
PCH-28	Influenza Vaccination Coverage Amongst Healthcare Personnel (HCP)
PCH-29	HCAHPS
PCH-30 and PCH-31	Admissions and Emergency Department (ED) Visits for Patients Receiving Outpatient Chemotherapy

Hospital Compare Release	Measures	Quarters Displayed
January 2022	PCH-29	Q3, Q4 2020 and Q1 2021
	PCH-6, PCH-7, PCH-26, and PCH-27	Q4 2019, Q3, Q4 2020 and Q1 2021
	PCH-15	Q3, and Q4 2020*
April 2022	PCH-29	Q3, Q4 2020 and Q1, Q2 2021
	PCH-6, PCH-7, PCH-26, and PCH-27	Q3, Q4 2020 and Q1 and Q2 2021

* Q1 2020 and Q2 2020 are excepted under the COVID-19 blanket waiver. Please refer to this link for more information: <https://www.qualityreportingcenter.com/globalassets/2020/12/pch/hospital-compare-care-compare-refresh-and-overall-hospital-quality-star-rating-2021-updates.pdf>

Based on the FY 2022 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule, the following timeline has been established for future public reporting releases.

Summary of Previously Adopted and Newly Finalized Public Display Requirements	
Measures	Public Reporting Years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oncology: Plan of Care for Moderate to Severe Pain (NQF #0383) (PCH-15)* HCAHPS (NQF #0166) (PCH-29) 	2016 and subsequent years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSI (NQF#0753) (PCH-6 [colon] and PCH-7 [abdominal hysterectomy]) MRSA (NQF #1716) (PCH-27) CDI (NQF #1717) (PCH-26) 	2019 and subsequent years

Summary of Previously Adopted and Newly Finalized Public Display Requirements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Healthcare Personnel (HCP) (NQF #0431) (PCH-28) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAUTI (NQF #0139) (PCH-5) CLABSI (NQF #0138) (PCH-4) 	Deferred until CY 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admissions and Emergency Department (ED) Visits for Patients Receiving Outpatient Chemotherapy (PCH-30 and PCH-31) 	April 2020 and subsequent years

* In the FY 2022 IPPS/LTCHPPS Final Rule (86 FR 45427-45428), CMS finalized the proposal to remove this measure, beginning with the FY 2024 program year. The last public display of PCH-15 measure data (CY 2021) will be January 2023.

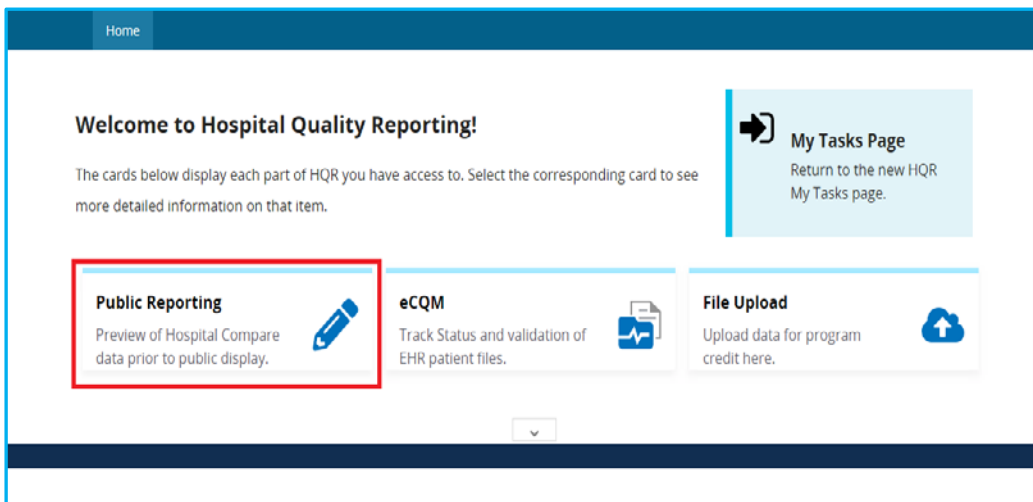
Preview Period

Prior to the public release of data on the CMS Care Compare and PDC websites, facilities are given the opportunity to preview data for 30 days. Preview data will be accessible via the HQR Public Reporting User Interface. Providers will be notified via ListServe when the preview data are available.

Public Reporting (PR) User Interface (UI)

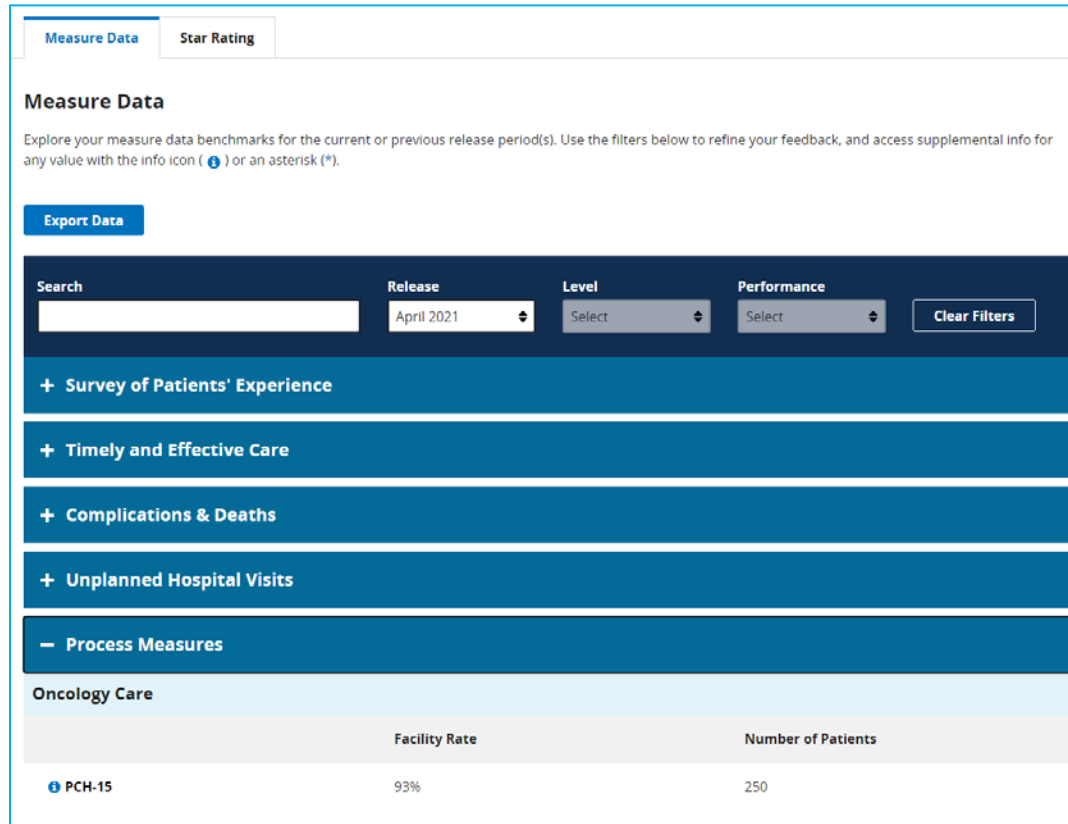
The UI was developed to allow providers increased flexibility in reviewing their data. Follow the instructions below to gain access:

1. Navigate to the HQR at <https://hqr.cms.gov/hqrng/login>.
2. Enter your HCQIS 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 verify via Text or Email. Select Continue.
4. Once you receive the code via Text or Email, enter it. Select Continue.
5. Read the Terms and Conditions statement. Select Accept to proceed. You will be directed to the My Tasks page. **Note:** If Cancel is selected, the program closes.
6. On the My Tasks page, select **Public Reporting**. The page will refresh, and the data will be available to preview.



Your provider name and CMS Certification Number (CCN) will appear at the top of the Preview UI. The **Change Organization Button** is available to users with roles associated with multiple facilities to see a different provider's data.

- There are two tabs: Star Rating and Measure Data. Within the Preview UI, users will be able to easily view their data. This page is an interactive analogue to the traditional PDFs. On this page, users can view measures associated by Measure Group, search the entire page for individual measures, dynamically filter through data, and export measure data. The exported measure data will be in PDF format for a user-friendly printed report. Data will be retained following the 30-day preview for future reference.



Export Data - Export measure data into a PDF format for a user-friendly printed report.

Search - Enter specific measures into this field, and the UI will dynamically filter for the appropriate content.

Filtering - Filter benchmark data in the following ways:

- Release - Select the release data to be viewed.
- Level - Filter whether your facility's data will be compared to the "State" or "National" average during filtering. This functionality is disabled currently and will be activated in a future release.
- Performance - Filter whether your facility's data are filtered for being "Above," "Below," or the "Same" as previous level selection. This functionality is disabled currently and will be activated in a future release.

PR Data Details

Hospital Characteristics

The PR Preview UI displays your hospital CCN and name above the hospital characteristics. Hospital characteristics include your hospital's address, city, state, ZIP Code, phone number, county, type of facility, type of ownership, and emergency service provided status.

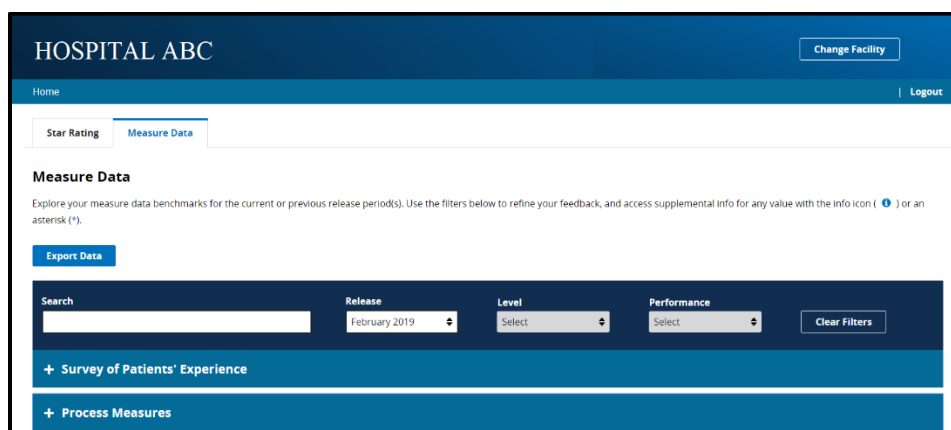
Type of ownership is not publicly reported; however, this is publicly available in the downloadable database on the *Compare* tools.

If the displayed hospital characteristics are incorrect, your hospital should contact your state Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) agency coordinator to correct the information. The state CASPER contact list is available from the Care Compare home page by selecting the **Info for Health Care Providers** card, located at the bottom of the page under **Tips & Resources**. Select **Hospitals**. Once the screen refreshes, select the **State Survey Agency** at the top: <https://data.cms.gov/provider-data/dataset/su86-ag6b>. If your hospital's state CASPER agency is unable to make the needed change, your hospital should contact its [CMS regional office](#).

The measure IDs (e.g., PCH-1) which are displayed on the *Compare* tools, have been provided to assist in measure identification. However, neither will display on the Preview. The measure descriptions are modified for reporting purposes.

Measure Data Tab

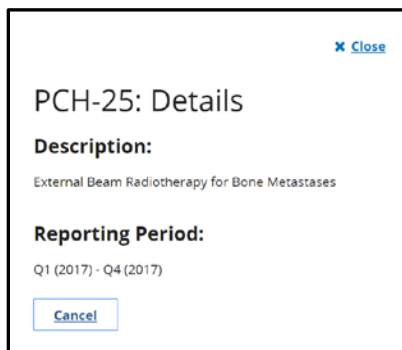
The **Measure Data** tab will display accordions and measures based on the HQR System access that the user has.



The accordions are labeled similar to the tabs on the *Compare* tools and can be expanded by selecting the (+) to the left of the title. Selecting the (-) will collapse the table. Once the accordion is expanded, the measures and data will display.

- Process Measures		
PCH-25	100%*	40*

Select the info icon (**i**) to the left of the measure ID to display the full measure description in a modal.



Data will display with an asterisk (*). Selecting the data value by the asterisk will pop up a modal with additional details about the data, such as a footnote.

	Facility Rate	Number of Patients
i PCH-25	97%*	100*

[Close](#)

PCH-25 Facility Rate:
Details

Footnote(s):

(2) - Data submitted were based on a sample of cases/patients.

[Cancel](#)

[Close](#)

PCH-25 Number Of Patients: Details

Footnote(s):

(2) - Data submitted were based on a sample of cases/patients.

[Cancel](#)

Footnotes

There are instances where footnotes are necessary to clarify data displayed in the preview report. Seven footnotes may be applicable for the PCHQR Program:

- Footnote 1** The number of cases/patients is too few to report. This is applied to any measure rate where the numerator or denominator is greater than 0 and less than 11. Data will display on the preview report, but data **will not** display on the *Compare* tool.
- Footnote 2** Data submitted were based on a sample of cases/patients
- Footnote 3** Results are based on a shorter time period than required.
- Footnote 5** Results are not available for this reporting period.
- Footnote 7** No cases meet the criteria for this measure.
- Footnote 12** This measure does not apply to this hospital for this reporting period.
- Footnote 13** Results cannot be calculated for this reporting period.

Medicare.gov Provider Data Catalog Website

Direct Link: <https://data.cms.gov/provider-data/>

Medicare.gov Home Page – Provider Data Catalog

1. From the home page, there are two ways to locate PCHQR Program data:
 - Type “PCHQR” in the search box **or**
 - Select the “**Hospitals**” card and type “PCHQR” in the search box

Home Datasets Topics About

Explore & download Medicare provider data

Type search term here... **SEARCH** →

Looking to compare healthcare providers and services? [Find a health care provider on Medicare.gov](#) >

Explore, download, & investigate provider data on:

- Dialysis facilities
- Doctors and clinicians
- Home health services
- Hospice care
- Hospitals**
- Inpatient rehabilitation facilities
- Long-term care hospitals
- Nursing homes including rehab services
- Physician office visit costs

2. The search results will yield applicable PCH datasets to make a selection.

Hospitals

Oncology Care Measures - PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital

The Prospective Payment System (PPS)-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting (PCHQR) Program currently uses one oncology care measure. The resulting PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting (PCHQR) Program measures allow consumers to compare the quality of care...

Last updated: Sep 22, 2021 • Released: Oct 27, 2021 • [Download CSV](#)

Hospitals

Outcome Measures - PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital - National

Prospective Payment System (PPS)-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting (PCHQR) Outcomes. This dataset evaluates the percentage of patients who are receiving PCH-based outpatient chemotherapy treatment for all cancer types except leukemia who were admitted to the...

Last updated: Sep 22, 2021 • Released: Oct 27, 2021 • [Download CSV](#)

Hospitals

Safety and Healthcare-Associated Infection Measures - PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital

Prospective Payment System (PPS)-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting (PCHQR) Program Healthcare Associated Infections. These measures are developed by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and collected through the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). They...

Last updated: Sep 22, 2021 • Released: Oct 27, 2021 • [Download CSV](#)

Hospitals

Clinical Effectiveness Measure - PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital

Prospective Payment System (PPS)-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting (PCHQR) Program currently uses one clinical effectiveness measure: External Beam Radiotherapy (EBRT) for Bone Metastases. The resulting PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting (PCHQR) Program measures allow consumers...

Last updated: Sep 22, 2021 • Released: Oct 27, 2021 • [Download CSV](#)

3. Once a measure selection is made, the **Dataset Explorer** table is available to view.

Outcome Measures - PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital - Hospital

Prospective Payment System (PPS)-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting (PCHQR) Outcomes. This dataset evaluates the percentage of patients who are receiving PCH-based outpatient chemotherapy treatment for all cancer types except leukemia who were admitted to the hospital or visited the emergency department for one of 10 conditions within 30 days after treatment.

Last updated Aug 27, 2020

Dataset explorer

1 - 20 of 22 rows Rows per page: 20 Display density: [icon] Manage columns [icon]

Facility ID	Facility Name	Hospital Type	Address	City	State
050146	CITY OF HOPE ...	Acute Care Hos...	1500 E DUARTE...	DUARTE	CA

Hospitals
View topic details >

Downloads

DATASET

Download this dataset
CSV

DATA DICTIONARIES

HospitalCompare-DataDic...
PDF

Tags

Hospital Compare

4. Scroll across the page to see the associated data results. There is also an option to download the dataset in a different format, such as CSV.

The data displayed on the PDC is public. You, other PCHQR Program participants, patients, and providers can see your data and the data from other PCHs.

For PCHs, one of these four footnotes might display:

- Footnote 1** The number of cases/patients is too few to report. This is applied to any measure rate where the numerator or denominator is greater than 0 and less than 11. Data will display on the preview report, but data *will not* display on the *Compare* tool.
- Footnote 2** Data submitted were based on a sample of cases/patients.
- Footnote 3** Results are based on a shorter time period than required.
- Footnote 5** Results are not available for this reporting period.
- Footnote 7** No cases meet the criteria for this measure.
- Footnote 12** This measure does not apply to this hospital for this reporting period.
- Footnote 13** Results cannot be calculated for this reporting period.

Section 10: Resources

The following information contains additional resources available for PCHs participating in the CMS PCHQR Program.

For resources and tools from the PCHQR Program SC, users can access the website <http://www.QualityReportingCenter.com>. Data collection tools, timelines, calendars, and other valuable resources can be located on this website. In the dropdown menu for the **Inpatient** tab, select the **PCHQR Program**.

National Provider Webinars are provided by CMS and by the PCHQR Program SC on a routine basis. The slides from each of the education sessions are published to the QualityNet website and are available for review under the *PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting (PCHQR)* tab by selecting the **Webinars/Calls** link from the drop-down menu.

PCHQR Program ListServe

To receive important PCHQR Program updates and notifications, please subscribe to the ListServes on the [QualityNet](#) website. On the left side of the page, click the *Subscribe to Email Updates* button and complete the required user Information; check the box next to *PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting Program*, select any other notifications desired, and click **Submit**.

Questions and Answers (Q&A)

The CMS Q&A Tool is also a good resource for program information. The tool is intended to help users quickly find program answers. The Q&A Tool can be accessed from the QualityNet home page **Help** drop-down menu at the top of the page. Select the **PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospitals** link under the Question and Answer Tools header. The direct link is https://cmsqualitysupport.servicenowservices.com/qnet_qa

If needed information is not found in the Q&A Tool, select the **Ask a Question** link to submit a question to the PCHQR Program SC or call, toll-free, (844) 472-4477 or (866) 800-8765, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. ET (5 a.m. to 5 p.m. PT).

QualityNet Service Center

For technical issues contact the QualityNet Service Center call toll-free (866) 288-8912 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. CT, or email qnet-support@hcqis.org.

QualityNet Website

Established by CMS, QualityNet provides healthcare quality improvement news, resources, and data reporting tools and applications used by healthcare providers and others. QualityNet is the only CMS-approved website for secure communications and healthcare quality data exchange between quality improvement organizations, hospitals, physician offices, nursing homes, end-stage renal disease networks and facilities, and data vendors.

The PCHQR Program uses QualityNet to publish information, including requirements, announcements about educational offerings, and news stories. PCHQR Program home page link: <https://qualitynet.cms.gov/pch/pchqr>.

The QualityNet home page (<https://qualitynet.cms.gov/>) will offer user guides for the HQR System and HQR System reports. Links are located on the Training and Guides page at <https://qualitynet.cms.gov/training-guides#tab2>.

Paper Abstraction Tools

Paper abstraction tools have been developed for PCHs to use as an optional mechanism to aid in the collection of the measure data for the CMS PCHQR Program. The data collection tools are located under the *PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital Measure Data Collection* section at <https://qualitynet.cms.gov/pch/data-management/data-collection>

Other Resources

Additional resources are located on QualityNet at <https://qualitynet.cms.gov/pch/pchqr/resources>.

Appendix A: PCHQR Program Measure Submission Deadlines by Due Date

Data must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on the submission deadline. Only data submitted according to CMS established deadlines qualify for inclusion in the PCHQR Program. The reference periods noted for CLABSI, CAUTI, SSI, MRSA Bacteremia, and CDI refer to event dates; the reference periods for the other measures denote designated measure periods (patient visit, discharge date, etc.). For complete measure titles and NQF designations, please visit the QualityNet PCHQR Program [Measures](#) web page.

Due Date	CLABSI/CAUTI/SSI/MRSA/CDI*	Flu HCP Vac*	COVID-19 HCP Vac*	HCAHPS	OCM†‡ (PCH-15 only)	DACA
11/15/2021	Q2 2021** (4/1–6/30)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
01/05/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	Q3 2021** (7/1–9/30)	N/A	N/A
02/15/2022	Q3 2021** (7/1–9/30)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
04/06/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	Q4 2021 (10/1–12/31)	N/A	N/A
05/16/2022	Q4 2021 (10/1–12/31)	Q4 2021–Q1 2022 (10/1/21–3/31/22)	Q4 2021 (10/1–12/31)	N/A	N/A	N/A
07/06/2021 ^β	N/A	N/A	N/A	Q1 2022 (1/1–3/31)	N/A	N/A
08/15/2022	Q1 2022 (1/1–3/31)	N/A	Q1 2022 (1/1–3/31)	N/A	CY 2021** (1/1–12/31)	N/A
08/31/2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	For FY 2023
10/05/2022 ^β	N/A	N/A	N/A	Q2 2022 (4/1–6/30)	N/A	N/A
11/15/2022	Q2 2022 (4/1–6/30)	N/A	Q2 2022 (4/1–6/30)	N/A	N/A	N/A

* Data are submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) via the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN).

**These due dates include a reporting exception granted under FEMA due to Hurricane Ida. Please refer to this site for more information:

<https://qualitynet.cms.gov/files/6143bc0fe615c5002265f7f3?filename=2021-110-IP.pdf>

^β Date is approximate based on historical submission dates; these dates are subject to change based on publication of official deadline dates provided by the HCAHPS Team at <https://www.hcahpsonline.org/en/technical-specifications/>.

† Submitted to CMS via the Hospital Quality Reporting System at <https://hqr.cms.gov/hqrmg/login>

‡ Annual submission, stratified by quarter

CAUTI: Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection

CDI: *Clostridium difficile* Infection

CLABSI: Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection

CMS: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

CY: Calendar Year

DACA: Data Accuracy and Completeness Acknowledgement

FY: Fiscal Year

HCAHPS: Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems

MRSA: Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*

NQF: National Quality Forum

OCM: Oncology Care Measure

Q: quarter

SSI: Surgical Site Infection

Appendix B: This reference document for PCHQR Program participants provides the following:

- Specific measures with their National Quality Forum (NQF) and PPS-exempt cancer hospital (PCH) number
- Program (Fiscal) Year to which the measure applies
- Reporting Periods that apply to each respective Program (Fiscal) Year
- Quarterly data submission deadlines for each Reporting Period
- Time frames when each metric will be displayed for Public Reporting on the Provider Data Catalog (PDC) (<https://data.cms.gov/provider-data/>) website

Safety and Healthcare-Associated Infection (HAI)	Program (Fiscal) Years	Reporting Periods–Calendar Year Quarters	Quarterly Data Submission Deadlines	PDC Release January 2021	PDC Release April 2021	PDC Release July 2021	PDC Release October 2021	PDC Release January 2022	PDC Release April 2022	PDC Release July 2022	PDC Release October 2022	
Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection (CLABSI) NQF #0139 (PCH-4) Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI) NQF #0138 (PCH-5)	2015	1Q 2014	PRIOR									
		2Q 2014	PRIOR									
		3Q 2014	PRIOR									
		4Q 2014	PRIOR									
	2016	1Q 2015	PRIOR									
		2Q 2015	PRIOR									
		3Q 2015	PRIOR									
		4Q 2015	PRIOR									
	2017	1Q 2016	PRIOR									
		2Q 2016	PRIOR									
		3Q 2016	PRIOR									
		4Q 2016	PRIOR									
	2018	1Q 2017	PRIOR									
		2Q 2017	PRIOR									
		3Q 2017	PRIOR									
		4Q 2017	PRIOR									
2019	1Q 2018	PRIOR										
	2Q 2018	PRIOR										
	3Q 2018	PRIOR										
	4Q 2018	PRIOR										

Program (Fiscal) Years	Reporting Periods– Calendar Year Quarters	Quarterly Data Submission Deadlines	PDC Release January 2021	PDC Release April 2021	PDC Release July 2021	PDC Release October 2021	PDC Release January 2022	PDC Release April 2022	PDC Release July 2022	PDC Release October 2022	
			Safety and Healthcare-Associated Infection (HAI) Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection (CLABSI) NQF #0139 (PCH-4) Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI) NQF #0138 (PCH-5)	2020	1Q 2019	PRIOR					
2Q 2019	PRIOR										
3Q 2019	PRIOR										
4Q 2019*	PRIOR										
2021	1Q 2020*	PRIOR									
	2Q 2020*	PRIOR									
	3Q 2020	PRIOR									
	4Q 2020	PRIOR									
2022	1Q 2021	PRIOR									
	2Q 2021	PRIOR									
	3Q 2021	02/15/2022									1Q 2021–4Q 2021
	4Q 2021	05/16/2022									
2023	1Q 2022	08/15/2022									
	2Q 2022	11/15/2022									
	3Q 2022	02/15/2023									
	4Q 2022	05/15/2023									
2024	1Q 2023	08/15/2023									
	2Q 2023	11/15/2023									
	3Q 2023	02/15/2024									
	4Q 2023	05/15/2024									

*These performance periods were impacted by the ECE granted by CMS in relation to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency on [March 22, 2020](#); [March 27, 2020](#); and further specified by CMS on [May 12, 2020](#). Please refer to this link for more information: https://www.qualityreportingcenter.com/globalassets/2020/12/pch/hospital-compare_care-compare-refresh-and-overall-hospital-quality-star-rating-2021-updates.pdf

Note: Gray box indicates activity complete
 Q=Quarter

Safety and HAI	Program (Fiscal) Years	Reporting Periods–Calendar Year Quarters	Quarterly Data Submission Deadlines	PDC Release Oct 2019	PDC Release January 2020	PDC Release April 2020	PDC Release July 2020	PDC Release Oct 2020	PDC Release January 2021	PDC Release April 2021	PDC Release July 2021	PDC Release Oct 2021	PDC Release January 2022	PDC Release April 2022	PDC Release July 2022	PDC Release Oct 2022	
Surgical Site Infection (SSI) NQF #0753 (PCH–6 is colon.PCH–7 is abdominal hysterectomy.)	2015	1Q 2014	PRIOR														
		2Q 2014	PRIOR														
		3Q 2014	PRIOR														
	2016	4Q 2014	PRIOR														
		1Q 2015	PRIOR														
		2Q 2015	PRIOR														
	2017	3Q 2015	PRIOR														
		4Q 2015	PRIOR														
		1Q 2016	PRIOR														
	2018	2Q 2016	PRIOR														
		3Q 2016	PRIOR														
		4Q 2016	PRIOR														
	2019	1Q 2017	PRIOR														
		2Q 2017	PRIOR														
		3Q 2017	PRIOR														
		4Q 2017	PRIOR														
	2020	1Q 2018	PRIOR														
		2Q 2018	PRIOR	1Q 2018–4Q 2018													
		3Q 2018	PRIOR		2Q 2018–1Q 2019												
		4Q 2018	PRIOR			3Q 2018–2Q 2019											
	2021	1Q 2019	PRIOR				4Q 2018–3Q 2019										
		2Q 2019	PRIOR					1Q 2019–4Q 2019									
		3Q 2019	PRIOR						1Q 2019–4Q 2019*								
		4Q 2019*	PRIOR							1Q 2019–4Q 2019*							
	2022	1Q 2020*	PRIOR														
		2Q 2020*	PRIOR									2Q 2019–4Q 2019 and 3Q 2020					
		3Q 2020	PRIOR										3Q 2019–4Q 2019 and 3Q 2020–4Q 2020				
		4Q 2020	PRIOR											4Q 2019 and 3Q 2020–1Q 2021			
2023	1Q 2021	PRIOR												3Q 2020–2Q 2021			
	2Q 2021	PRIOR													4Q 2020–3Q 2021	1Q 2021–4Q 2021	
	3Q 2021	02/15/2022															
2024	4Q 2021	05/16/2022															
	1Q 2022	08/15/2022															
	2Q 2022	11/15/2022															
	3Q 2022	2/15/2023															
		4Q 2022	05/15/2023														

Safety and HAI	Program (Fiscal) Years	Reporting Periods–Calendar Year Quarters	Quarterly Data Submission Deadlines	PDC Release Oct 2019	PDC Release January 2020	PDC Release April 2020	PDC Release July 2020	PDC Release Oct 2020	PDC Release January 2021	PDC Release April 2021	PDC Release July 2021	PDC Release Oct 2021	PDC Release January 2022	PDC Release April 2022	PDC Release July 2022	PDC Release Oct 2022		
CDI NQF #1717 (PCH-26) MRSA NQF #1716 (PCH-27)	2018	1Q 2016	PRIOR															
		2Q 2016	PRIOR															
		3Q 2016	PRIOR															
		4Q 2016	PRIOR															
	2019	1Q 2017	PRIOR															
		2Q 2017	PRIOR															
		3Q 2017	PRIOR															
		4Q 2017	PRIOR															
	2020	1Q 2018	PRIOR		1Q 2018–4Q 2018													
		2Q 2018	PRIOR			2Q 2018–1Q 2019												
		3Q 2018	PRIOR				3Q 2018–2Q 2019											
		4Q 2018	PRIOR					4Q 2018–3Q 2019										
	1Q 2019	PRIOR																
	2Q 2019	PRIOR																
	2021	3Q 2019	PRIOR															
		4Q 2019*	PRIOR															
		1Q 2020*	PRIOR															
		2Q 2020*	PRIOR															
	2022	3Q 2020	PRIOR															
		4Q 2020	PRIOR															
		1Q 2021	PRIOR															
		2Q 2021	PRIOR															
	2023	3Q 2021	02/15/2022															
		4Q 2021	05/16/2022															
		1Q 2022	08/15/2022															
		2Q 2022	11/15/2022															
	2024	3Q 2022	02/15/2023															
		4Q 2022	05/15/2023															

Safety and HAI	Program (Fiscal) Years	Reporting Periods–Calendar Year Quarters	Quarterly Data Submission Deadlines	PDC Release October 2019	PDC Release January, April, and July 2020	PDC Release October 2020	PDC Release January, April, and July 2021	PDC Release October 2021	PDC Release January, April, and July 2022	PDC Release October 2022	PDC Release January, April, and July 2023	PDC Release October 2023					
Influenza HCP Vaccination NQF #0431 (PCH-28)	2018	4Q 2016	PRIOR														
		1Q 2017															
	2019	4Q 2017	PRIOR														
		1Q 2018															
	2020	4Q 2018	PRIOR										4Q 2018–				
		1Q 2019											1Q 2019				
	2021	4Q 2019*	PRIOR											4Q 2019–			
		1Q 2020*											1Q 2020				
	2022	4Q 2020	PRIOR												4Q 2020–		
		1Q 2021											1Q 2021				
	2023	4Q 2021	05/16/2022													4Q 2021–	
		1Q 2022											1Q 2022				
	2024	4Q 2022	05/15/2023														
		1Q 2023														4Q 2022–	
												1Q 2023					

*These performance periods were impacted by the ECE granted by CMS in relation to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency on [March 22, 2020](#); [March 27, 2020](#); and further specified by CMS on [May 12, 2020](#). Please refer to this link for more information: https://www.qualityreportingcenter.com/globalassets/2020/12/pch/hospital-compare_care-compare-refresh-and-overall-hospital-quality-star-rating-2021-updates.pdf

Note: Gray box indicates activity complete; Q=Quarter

Safety and HAI	Program (Fiscal) Years	Reporting Periods– Calendar Year Quarters	Quarterly Data Submission Deadlines	PDC Release October 2022	PDC Release January, April, and July 2023	PDC Release October 2023	PDC Release January, April, and July 2024
COVID-19 HCP Vaccination (PCH-38)	2023	4Q 2021	05/16/2022	4Q 2021			
	2024	1Q 2022	08/15/2022			1Q 2022–4Q 2022	
		2Q 2022	11/15/2022				
		3Q 2022	02/15/2023				
		4Q 2022	05/15/2023				

Clinical Process/ Oncology Care Measures	Program (Fiscal) Years	Reporting Periods—CY Quarters	Quarterly Data Submission Deadlines	PDC Release December 2016	PDC Release April, July, and October 2017	PDC Release December 2017	PDC Release April, July, and October 2018	PDC Release February 2019	PDC Release April, July, and October 2019	PDC Release January 2020	PDC Release April, July, and October 2020	PDC Release January 2021	PDC Release April, July and October 2021	PDC Release January 2022	PDC Release April, July, and October 2022	PDC Release January 2023													
NQF #0383 (PCH-15)	2016	1Q 2015	PRIOR	1Q 2015–4Q 2015																									
	2017	2Q 2015	PRIOR																										
		3Q 2015																											
		4Q 2015																											
	2018	1Q 2016	PRIOR	1Q 2016–4Q 2016																									
		2Q 2016																											
		3Q 2016																											
	2019	4Q 2016	PRIOR														1Q 2017–4Q 2017												
		1Q 2017																											
		2Q 2017																											
		3Q 2017																											
	2020	4Q 2017	PRIOR															1Q 2018–4Q 2018											
		1Q 2018																											
		2Q 2018																											
		3Q 2018																											
	2021	4Q 2018	PRIOR																1Q 2019–4Q 2019										
		1Q 2019																											
		2Q 2019																											
		3Q 2019																											
	2022	4Q 2019	PRIOR																	3Q 2020–4Q 2020*									
		1Q 2020*																											
		2Q 2020*																											
		3Q 2020																											
	2023	4Q 2020	08/15/2022																										Q 2021–4Q 2021
		1Q 2021																											
		2Q 2021																											
		3Q 2021																											
		4Q 2021																											

* Q1 and Q2 2020 performance periods are impacted by the ECE granted by CMS in relation to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency on [March 22, 2020](#); [March 27, 2020](#); and further specified by CMS on [May 12, 2020](#).

Note: Gray box indicates activity complete

Q=Quarter

NQF #0383=Oncology: Plan of Care for Moderate to Severe Pain—Medical Oncology and Radiation Oncology

Clinical Process/ Oncology Care Measures (Claims-Based)	Program (Fiscal) Years	Reporting Periods	PDC Release January 2020	PDC Release April, July, October 2020	PDC Release January 2021	PDC Release April, July, October 2021	PDC Release January 2022	PDC Release April, July, October 2022
EOL-Chemo NQF #0210 (PCH-32) EOL-Hospice NQF #0215 (PCH-34)	2020	Data from 7/1/2017 through 6/30/2018	Public Reporting not addressed in Final Rule					
	2021	Data from 7/1/2018 through 6/30/2019						
	2022	Data from 7/1/2019 through 6/30/2020 ^{^*}						
	2023	Data from 7/1/2020 through 6/30/2021						
	2024	Data from 7/1/2021 through 6/30/2022						

[^] In the FY 2020 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule (84 FR 42523-42524), confidential national reporting of the four EOL measures was specified.

Confidential national reporting will use Medicare claims data from July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

*Q1 and Q2 2020 performance periods are impacted by the ECE granted by CMS in relation to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency on [March 22, 2020](#); [March 27, 2020](#); and further specified by CMS on [May 12, 2020](#).

Note:

EOL=end of life; EOL-Chemo=Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Receiving Chemotherapy in the Last 14 Days of Life

EOL-Hospice=Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Not Admitted to Hospice

Intermediate Clinical Outcome Measures (Claims-Based)	Program (Fiscal) Years	Reporting Periods	PDC Release January 2020	PDC Release April, July, October 2020	PDC Release January 2021	PDC Release April, July, October 2021	PDC Release January 2022	PDC Release April, July, October 2022
EOL-ICU NQF #0213 (PCH-33) EOL-3DH NQF #0216 (PCH-35)	2020	Data from 7/1/2017 through 6/30/2018	Public Reporting not addressed in Final Rule					
	2021	Data from 7/1/2018 through 6/30/2019						
	2022	Data from 7/1/2019 through 6/30/2020 ^{^*}						
	2023	Data from 7/1/2020 through 6/30/2021						
	2024	Data from 7/1/2021 through 6/30/2022						

[^]In the FY 2020 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule (84 FR 42523-42524), confidential national reporting of the four EOL measures was specified.

Confidential national reporting will use Medicare claims data from July 1, 2019, through December 31, 2021.

*Q1 and Q2 2020 performance periods are impacted by the ECE granted by CMS in relation to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency on [March 22, 2020](#);

[March 27, 2020](#); and further specified by CMS on [May 12, 2020](#).

Note:

ICU=intensive care unit

EOL-ICU=Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Admitted to the ICU in the Last 30 Days of Life

EOL-3DH=Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Admitted to Hospice for Less Than Three Days

Patient Engagement/ Experience of Care	Program (Fiscal) Years	Reporting Periods– CY Quarters	Quarterly Data Submission Deadlines	PDC Release December 2016	PDC Release April 2017	PDC Release July 2017	PDC Release October 2017	PDC Release December 2017	PDC Release April 2018	PDC Release July 2018	PDC Release October 2018	PDC Release February 2019	PDC Release April 2019	PDC Release July 2019	PDC Release October 2019		
Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) Survey NQF #0166 (PCH-29)	2016	2Q 2014	PRIOR														
		3Q 2014	PRIOR														
		4Q 2014	PRIOR														
	2017	1Q 2015	PRIOR	2Q 2015– 1Q 2016													
		2Q 2015	PRIOR														
		3Q 2015	PRIOR														
	2018	4Q 2015	PRIOR			3Q 2015– 2Q 2016	4Q 2015– 3Q 2016	1Q 2016– 4Q 2016									
		1Q 2016	PRIOR														
		2Q 2016	PRIOR														
		3Q 2016	PRIOR														
	2019	4Q 2016	PRIOR						2Q 2016–1Q 2017	3Q 2016– 2Q 2017	4Q 2016– 3Q 2017		1Q 2017– 4Q 2017				
		1Q 2017	PRIOR														
		2Q 2017	PRIOR														
		3Q 2017	PRIOR														
	2020	4Q 2017	PRIOR										2Q 2017– 1Q 2018	3Q 2017– 2Q 2018		4Q 2017– 3Q 2018	
		1Q 2018	PRIOR														
		2Q 2018	PRIOR														
		3Q 2018	PRIOR														
		2020	4Q 2018	PRIOR													1Q 2018– 4Q 2018

*These performance periods are impacted by the ECE granted by CMS in relation to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency on [March 22, 2020](#); [March 27, 2020](#); and further specified by CMS on [May 12, 2020](#).

Note: Gray box indicates activity complete

Q=Quarter

Patient Engagement/ Experience of Care	Program (Fiscal) Years	Reporting Periods– Calendar Year Quarters	Quarterly Data Submission Deadlines	PDC Release January 2020	PDC Release April 2020	PDC Release July 2020	PDC Release October 2020	PDC Release January 2021	PDC Release April 2021	PDC Release July 2021	PDC Release October 2021	PDC Release January 2022	PDC Release April 2022	PDC Release July 2022	PDC Release October 2022	
Hospital Consumer Assessment of Health care Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) Survey NQF #0166 (PCH-29)	2021	1Q 2019	PRIOR	2Q 2018–1Q 2019												
		2Q 2019	PRIOR		3Q 2018–2Q 2019											
		3Q 2019	PRIOR			4Q 2018–3Q 2019										
		4Q 2019*	PRIOR				1Q 2019–4Q 2019*									
	2022	1Q 2020*	PRIOR						1Q 2019–4Q 2019*							
		2Q 2020*	PRIOR							1Q 2019–4Q 2019*						
		3Q 2020	PRIOR								1Q 2019–4Q 2019**					
		4Q 2020	PRIOR									3Q 2020 – 4Q 2020***				
	2023	1Q 2021	PRIOR										Q4 2019 and 3Q 2020–1Q 2021			
		2Q 2021	PRIOR											3Q 2020–2Q 2021		
		3Q 2021	01/05/2022												4Q 2020–3Q 2021	
		4Q 2021	04/06/2022													1Q 2021–4Q 2021
	2024	1Q 2022	07/06/2022 ^β													
		2Q 2022	10/05/2022 ^β													
		3Q 2022	01/04/2023 ^β													
		4Q 2022	04/05/2023 ^β													

*These performance periods are impacted by the ECE granted by CMS in relation to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency on [March 22, 2020](#); [March 27, 2020](#); and further specified by CMS on [May 12, 2020](#). Q1–Q4 2019 data will remain static for the applicable releases. Please refer to this link for more information: https://www.qualityreportingcenter.com/globalassets/2020/12/pch/hospital-compare_care-compare-refresh-and-overall-hospital-quality-rating-2021-updates.pdf

**HCAHPS Survey data will remain static for this release due to the data submission deadline extensions.

***Q1 and Q2 2020 are excepted under the COVID-19 blanket waiver referenced above.

^βDate is approximate based on historical submission dates. Date is subject to change based on publication of official deadline dates provided by the HCAHPS Team at <https://www.hcahponline.org/en/technical-specifications/>

Note: Gray box indicates activity complete; Q=Quarter

Claims Based Outcome Measure	Program (Fiscal) Years	Reporting Periods	PDC Release January 2020	PDC Release April 2020	PDC Release July 2020	PDC Release October 2020 and January, April 2021	PDC Release July 2021	PDC Release October 2021 and January, April 2022	PDC Release July 2022	PDC Release October 2022 and January, April 2023	PDC Release July 2023
Admissions and Emergency Department (ED) Visits for Patients Receiving Outpatient Chemotherapy (RSAR: PCH-30) (RSEDR: PCH-31)	2019	Data from 7/1/16 through 6/30/17	Data Suppressed by CMS								
	2020	Data from 7/1/17 through 6/30/18		3Q 2017–2Q 2018							
	2021	Data from 7/1/18 through 6/30/19			3Q 2018–2Q 2019						
	2022	Data from 7/1/19 through 6/30/20					3Q 2019–2Q 2020*				
	2023	Data from 7/1/20 through 6/30/21							3Q 2020–2Q 2021		
	2024	Data from 7/1/21 through 6/30/22									3Q 2021-2Q 2022

*Q1 and Q2 2020 performance periods are impacted by the ECE granted by CMS in relation to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency on [March 22, 2020](#); [March 27, 2020](#); and further specified by CMS on [May 12, 2020](#).

Note: RSAR=risk-standardized admission rate; RSEDR=risk-standardized ED visit rate

Claims-Based Outcome Measure	Program (Fiscal) Years	Reporting Periods	PDC Release January 2020	PDC Release April, July, October 2020	PDC Release January 2021	PDC Release April, July, October 2021	PDC Release January 2022	PDC Release April, July, October 2022
30-Day Unplanned Readmissions for Cancer Patients NQF #3188 (PCH-36)	2021	Data from 10/1/18 through 9/30/19	Public Reporting not addressed in Final Rule					
	2022	Data from 10/1/19 through 9/30/20^*						
	2023	Data from 10/1/20 through 9/30/21						
	2024	Data from 10/1/21 through 9/30/22						

^In the FY 2019 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule (83 FR 41616), confidential national reporting of PCH-36 was specified. Confidential national reporting used Medicare claims data from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020. The FY 2022 confidential reports were distributed on July 29, 2021.

*Q1 and Q2 2020 performance periods are impacted by the ECE granted by CMS in relation to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency on [March 22, 2020](#); [March 27, 2020](#); and further specified by CMS on [May 12, 2020](#).

Claims-Based Outcome Measure	Program (Fiscal) Years	Reporting Periods	PDC Release January 2020	PDC Release April, July, October 2020	PDC Release January 2021	PDC Release April, July, October 2021	PDC Release January 2022	PDC Release April, July, October 2022
Surgical Treatment Complications for Localized Prostate Cancer (PCH-37)	2022	Data from 7/1/19 through 6/30/20*	Public Reporting not addressed in Final Rule					
	2023	Data from 7/1/20 through 6/30/21						
	2024	Data from 7/1/21 through 6/30/22						

*Q1 and Q2 2020 performance periods are impacted by the ECE granted by CMS in relation to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency on [March 22, 2020](#); [March 27, 2020](#); and further specified by CMS on [May 12, 2020](#).

Appendix C: Glossary of Terms

Aggregate (data): Aggregate data are elements derived for a specific hospital from the results of each measures algorithm over a given period of time period (e.g., quarterly).

Algorithm: An algorithm is an ordered sequence for data element retrieval and aggregation through which numerators and denominators are identified.

Calendar Year: A calendar year is the time period between January 1 and December 31 of a given year.

Data Accuracy and Completeness Acknowledgement (DACA): The DACA is a requirement for facilities participating in the PCHQR Program. The DACA is an electronic acknowledgement, which indicates that the data provided to meet the annual payment update (APU) data submission requirements are accurate and complete to the best of the facility's knowledge at the time of data submission.

Data Collection: Data collection is the act or process of capturing raw or primary data from a single or number of sources; also called “data gathering.”

Denominator: The denominator is the lower part of a fraction used to calculate a rate, proportion, or ratio.

Excluded Populations: Excluded Populations are based on detailed information describing the populations that should not be included in the indicator. For example, specific age groups, International Classification of Diseases (ICD) procedure or diagnostic codes, or certain time periods could be excluded from the general population drawn upon by the indicator.

Initial Patient Populations: Initial Patient Populations are based on detailed information describing the population(s) that the indicator intends to measure. Details could include such information as specific age groups, diagnoses, ICD diagnostic and procedure codes, Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes, revenue codes, enrollment periods, insurance, and health plan groups, etc.

Format: Format specifies the character length of a specific data element, the type of information the data element contains (i.e., numeric, decimal, number, date, time, character, or alphanumeric), and the frequency with which the data element occurs.

Measure Information Form: This tool provides specific clinical and technical information on a measure. The information contained includes measure set, performance measure name, description, rationale, type of measure, improvement noted as, numerator/denominator/continuous variable statements, included populations, excluded populations, data elements, risk adjustment, data collection approach, data accuracy, measure analysis suggestions, sampling, data reported as, and selected references.

Medical Record (Data Source): A medical record is the source of data obtained from the documentation maintained on a patient in any healthcare setting (e.g., hospital, home care, long-term care, practitioner's office), including automated and paper medical record systems.

Notice of Participation (NOP): A requirement for PCHQR Program participating facilities, the NOP indicates a facility's agreement to participate in the Program and to allow public reporting of its measure rates. The NOP has three options: agree to participate, do not agree to participate, and request to be withdrawn from participation.

Numerator: The numerator is the upper portion of a fraction used to calculate a rate, proportion, or ratio.

Patient Level Data: The phrase “patient level data” refers specifically to the collection of data elements that depict the healthcare services provided to an individual patient. Patient level data are aggregated to generate data at the setting level (e.g., hospital) and/or comparison group data.

Process: Here, the term “process” refers to an interrelated series of events, activities, actions, mechanisms, or steps that transform inputs into outputs.

Program Year: The term “Program Year,” in the PCHQR Program, is equivalent to a given fiscal year. Each calendar year is connected to a specific program (fiscal) year.

Reporting Period: The reporting period is the defined timeframe during which medical records are to be reviewed.

Sampling Method: The sampling method is essentially the process used to select a sample. Sampling approaches for the PCHQR Program are simple random sampling and systematic random sampling.

Sampling Size: The sampling size refers to the number of individuals or particular patients included.

Simple Random Sample: A “Simple Random Sample” is a selection of patients from the total population that is processed in a way that every case has a similar chance of being selected.

Strata: See “Stratified Measure” below.

Stratified Measure: A stratified measure is used to assist in analysis and interpretation that is classified into a number of categories. The overall or un-stratified measure evaluates all the strata together. A stratified measure, or each stratum, consists of a subset of the overall measure. For example, the OCMs are stratified by quarter.

Systematic Random Sampling: Systematic random sampling is a process in which the starting case is selected randomly, and the next cases are selected according to a fixed interval based upon the number of cases in the population.