

Reference #: 2021-16-IP
From: Inpatient VIQR Support Contractor
Sent: February 16, 2021
To: IQR Improve

Subject: Hospital Inpatient Quality Program Updates Week of February 15, 2021



Hospital Inpatient Quality Program Updates

Week of February 15, 2021

New Deadline Extensions

Deadlines have been extended for Q3 2020 data submission of Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) and electronic clinical quality measures (eCQM).

Please see the [notification](#) and new deadline dates below.

Webinars Now Available On Demand

[Severe Sepsis and Septic Shock: Management Bundle \(Composite\) v5.9 Measure Updates](#)

This webinar clarifies the changes and rationale behind the updates to the SEP-1 measure and guidance in version 5.9 of the specification manual.

Tips and Tools for Reporting CY 2020 eCQMs

This webinar provides tips and tools for successful submission of CY 2020 eCQM data to the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program and Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program.

Upcoming Live Webinars – Register Now!!

Q&A Session for Submitting CY 2020 eCQM Data Using the HQR System. This event is dedicated to answering data submitter questions related to the reporting of eCQMs for CY 2020.

When: Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Register:

https://globalmeetwebinar.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1432352&tp_key=d644e63baf

Hospital Value-Based Purchasing (HVBP) Program, Hospital-Acquired Condition (HAC) Reduction Program, and Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program (HRRP) FY 2021 Provider Data Catalog Refresh. This event will provide an overview of the publicly reported data and other information available for CMS inpatient hospital value-based purchasing programs, including the Hospital VBP Program, HAC Reduction Program, and HRRP.

When: Thursday, February 18, 2021

Register:

https://globalmeetwebinar.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1419934&tp_key=5e9dbc327a

Webinar Questions and Answers Posted

Questions and answers from the FY 2021 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule Overview for Hospital Quality Programs webinar is now available at the [Quality Reporting Center](#).

Upcoming Submission Deadlines

New Deadline Extensions: CMS is extending the Q3 2020 and eCQM data submission deadlines for certain quality programs in response to the Public Health Emergency. Please see the [December 17, 2020](#) and [February 8, 2021](#) memos that outlines the extended deadline dates.

Q3 2020 Reporting Deadlines for Hospitals:

Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program

- HCAHPS: March 17, 2021
- Population and Sampling: March 18, 2021
- Clinical, PC-01, and HAI: March 18, 2021

The [Q3 2020 Hospital IQR Program Checklist](#), available on the Quality Reporting Center website, will assist you in meeting your Q3 2020 Hospital IQR Program submission deadlines.

Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting (OQR) Program

- Population and Sampling: March 1, 2021
- Clinical: March 1, 2021

PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting (PCHQR)

- HCAHPS: March 17, 2021
- HAI: March 18, 2021

Q4 2020 Reporting Deadlines for Hospitals:

Hospital IQR Program

- Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS): April 7, 2021
- Population and Sampling: May 3, 2021
- Clinical, PC-01, and HAI: May 17, 2021

Hospital OQR Program:

- Population and Sampling: May 3, 2021
- Clinical: May 3, 2021

PCHQR

- HCAHPS: April 7, 2021
- HAI: May 17, 2021

CY 2020 eCQMs

The *QualityNet* Hospital Quality Reporting (HQR) System is now accepting eCQM data for the CY 2020 reporting period. Due to the 2019 COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, we've extended the deadline to **April 1, 2021**, 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time (PT).

Extraordinary Circumstance Exceptions (ECE)

- If your hospital believes it won't be able to submit measure data to a quality program or its performance would be adversely impacted by an extraordinary circumstance, you may submit an individual ECE request **IQR Program**. An exception would result in the reporting requirement for the applicable data period being waived from CMS's payment determination.
- **Hospital VBP Program**. An exception would result in the assignment of an exclusion indicator that would make a hospital ineligible for payment adjustments for the fiscal year (FY) associated with the request. Ineligible hospitals do not incur

the 2% withhold of payments but are also not eligible to receive incentive payments.

- **HAC Reduction Program.** A granted exception would exclude data from program calculations for the selected quarter(s). An approved ECE does not except your hospital from the HAC Reduction Program or possible payment reductions, as CMS would calculate your hospital's performance during non-excepted periods within the performance period.
- **HRRP Program.** A granted exception would exclude data from program calculations for the selected quarter(s). An approved ECE does not except your hospital from the HRRP program or possible payment reductions, as CMS would calculate your hospital's performance during non-excepted periods within the performance period.
- **ESRD QIP.** A granted exception would result in data being excluded from program calculations during the selected months.

Recent CMS Releases

- **FY 2021 Results for 3 Value-Based Purchasing Programs Now on Provider Data Catalog**

CMS has updated the [Provider Data Catalog](#) to include FY 2021 results for the HRRP, the Hospital VBP Program, and the HAC Reduction Program. Data for all three programs may be accessed by selecting the *Hospitals* topic and then using keyword searches for the programs.

- **CMS Combines Hospital IQR Program Phase 1 and Phase 2 APU Determination Periods** CMS will combine Phase 1 and Phase 2 Annual Payment Update (APU) review and determination periods due to the extension of the Hospital Quality Reporting Q3 2020 submission period. CMS will combine the APU review and determination periods this year into one phase to decrease the burden on members of the Hospital IQR Program community who may not meet one or more of the program requirements. This phase will take place after the Q4 2020 data submission period closes on May 17, 2021. Refer to the [February 2, 2021](#) Listserve Notification for more information.

- **Updated 2021 CMS QRDA Category I Schematron for Hospital Quality Reporting**

CMS has posted an updated [2021 CMS Quality Reporting Document Architecture \(QRDA\) Category I Schematron for Hospital Quality Reporting \(HQR\)](#). The Schematron provides technical instructions for eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals to report eCQMs for the CY 2021 reporting period for the Hospital IQR Program and the Medicare and Medicaid Promoting Interoperability Programs for Eligible Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals. Refer to the [Listserve Notification](#) for further information.

HQR System Updates

- The new Managed File Transfer (MFT) is a solution that will manage file transfers, file sharing, and secure email within a single interface. It will replace Secure File Transfer in the *QualityNet Secure Portal*.
- The aggregate population and sampling data can now be entered through the HQR system by either entering the counts directly into the Population and Sampling Data Form or submitting an XML file through the Population and Sampling File Upload.
- The new Vendor Management system allows providers to manage vendor access effortlessly. This new system makes it easy to ensure coverage across all programs by assigning, modifying, and removing vendor access all from one page and receiving instant confirmation that vendors are added, suspended, or removed.
- The Hospital Quality Reporting System Known Issues document is now available on [QualityNet](#).

Past program update listserves are available on QualityNet:
[Hospital Inpatient Notifications](#)

Let Us Help!

For assistance, please contact the Inpatient Value, Incentives, and Quality Reporting (VIQR) Outreach and Education Support Team at [CMS ServiceNow Q&A Tool](#) or (844) 472-4477.

Please do not respond directly to this email.