

Reference #: 2021-23-IP

From: Inpatient VIQR Support Contractor

Sent: March 2, 2021

To: IQR Improve

Subject: NOTICE: IQR-Eligible Hospitals to Submit 3Q 2020 HCAHPS Survey Data by **March 17, 2021**

The submission deadline for the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) patient perspectives on care survey data for third quarter (3Q) 2020 discharges (July 1- September 30, 2020) is **March 17, 2021**.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) strongly encourages all hospitals, whether they self-administer the HCAHPS Survey* or use a survey vendor, to submit data well before the deadline to allow time to address any submission issues.

- Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) hospitals participating in the Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program must collect and submit HCAHPS data to qualify to receive their full Annual Payment Update. Please see the [3Q 2020 Hospital IQR Program Checklist](#) for further information.
- Non-IPPS hospitals must meet the same submission deadline for their data to be published on the public reporting website.

Review and Correction Period

The Review and Correction Period is March 18-24, 2021. Immediately following the March 17, 2021 data-submission deadline, participating hospitals and survey vendors have a seven-day opportunity, March 18-24, 2021, to access and review the HCAHPS Data Review and Correction Report. The report contains a summary of the data accepted into the HCAHPS Data Warehouse for the quarter. Errors in data accepted into the warehouse by the March 17, 2021 deadline can be corrected. During this seven-day period, corrected data can be submitted to the warehouse to replace incorrect data. New data are not accepted into the warehouse during the Review and Correction Period.

Extraordinary Circumstances Exceptions (ECE)

In the event that your hospital is unable to submit data or meet requirements due to an extraordinary circumstance related to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, you may request an individual exception.

- For the submission of HCAHPS data, the ECE must be submitted within 90 calendar days from when you determined that the extraordinary event occurred. The event may occur during the measurement period through the submission or reporting deadline.
- For the Hospital Value-Based Purchasing Program, the ECE must be submitted within 90 days of the date of the extraordinary circumstance impacting your hospital's performance on the measure(s). At the latest, ECEs should be submitted no later than 90 days from the last date of the quarter requested.

Please refer to the [IQR](#) and [HVBP](#) resources on *QualityNet* for further information.

HOSPITAL CONTACT INFORMATION: To ensure your hospital receives critical communications about meeting the requirements of the IQR Program (and other CMS quality reporting programs), including submission-deadline reminders and program updates, it is important that we have the complete contact information for the key roles at your hospital. Updates to your contact information can be submitted, if needed, using the [Hospital Contact Change Form](#). This document is available on the *Quality Reporting Center* website (www.qualityreportingcenter.com > *Inpatient* > *Hospital IQR Program* > [Resources and Tools](#) > [Forms](#)).

HCAHPS Contact Information

- For general questions regarding the HCAHPS Survey, contact CMS at Hospitalcahps@cms.hhs.gov.
- For questions regarding specific HCAHPS hospital data, contact the HCAHPS Project Team at (888) 884-4007 or at hcahps@hsag.com.
- For questions regarding information on the HCAHPS initiative, file specifications, and data-submission protocols, use the contact information on the HCAHPS website at www.hcahpsonline.org.
- For questions regarding the IQR Program, use the Inpatient Questions & Answers tool at https://cmsqualitysupport.servicenowservices.com/qnet_qa?id=ask_a_question or call the Inpatient Value, Incentives, and Quality Reporting Outreach and Education Support Team at (844) 472-4477.

*The HCAHPS Survey is also known as the CAHPS[®] Hospital Survey. CAHPS[®] is a registered trademark of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, a U.S. Government agency.

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