



PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting (PCHQR) Program
Inpatient Value, Incentives, and Quality Reporting (VIQR)
Outreach and Education Support Contractor

PCHQR Program:
COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among
Health Care Personnel Measure

Presentation Transcript

Speakers

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Lisa Vinson: Good afternoon and thank you for tuning in to today's PCHQR Program educational event entitled, *COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Health Care Personnel Measure*. My name is Lisa Vinson, and I am the PCHQR Program Lead for the PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting, or PCHQR, Program with the Inpatient Value, Incentives, and Quality Reporting, or VIQR, Outreach and Education Support Contractor. I will be one of the speakers for today's event. Our focus for today will be on the recently finalized measure, COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Health Care Personnel measure, or COVID-19 HCP Vaccination measure. This is a process measure developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC. It follows the same submission process you are familiar with for the healthcare-associated infection, or HAI, and Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Healthcare Personnel measures. These measures are submitted via the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network, or NHSN, system. If you have questions during the webinar, you may submit them to the following email address, WebinarQuestions@hsag.com. When sending questions, please use the webinar title in the subject line. The webinar title is *PCHQR Program: COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Health Care Personnel Measure*. In the email body, please include your question and, if your question pertains to a specific slide, please include the slide number to allow us to assist you more efficiently. We will answer your questions as soon as possible. If you have questions unrelated to the current webinar topic, we recommend searching for the topic in the [QualityNet Inpatient Question and Answer Tool](#). If you do not find a similar topic, feel free to use the tool to submit a new question. Lastly, a transcript, along with the question-and-answer (Q&A) summary document will be posted on both QualityNet and Quality Reporting Center websites. If you would like to complete the survey for today's presentation, please stand by after the event as we will display a link to access the survey following the closing remarks.

Today, we are joined by Hannah Rese, who is an epidemiologist from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Elizabeth Kalayil, who is a public health analyst with the Lantana Consulting Group.

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The purpose of today's event is to provide an overview of the COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Healthcare Personnel measure. The event will also show the steps to enter COVID-19 HCP Vaccination measure data into the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network.

At the culmination of this event, we hope that program participants understand the COVID-19 HCP Vaccination measure specifications, apply the COVID-19 HCP Vaccination measure requirements for the PCHQR Program, and successfully perform the steps required to enter COVID-19 HCP Vaccination measure data into NHSN.

This slide provides a list of acronyms and abbreviation you may hear and see today. These include CCN, for CMS Certification Number; CDC, for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; HCP, for Health Care Personnel; and NHSN, for National Healthcare Safety Network.

Before I hand the presentation over to our guest speaker, I would like to provide an overview of the COVID-19 HCP Vaccination measure. We will begin with the denominator statement on the next slide.

The COVID-19 HCP Vaccination denominator is the number of healthcare personnel, or HCP, eligible to work in the healthcare facility for at least one day during the reporting period, excluding persons with contraindications to the COVID-19 vaccination that are described by the CDC. As the slide indicates, the CDC considers only two contraindications to the COVID-19 vaccine: severe allergic reaction, such as anaphylaxis, after a previous dose or to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine and immediate allergic reaction of any severity to a previous dose or known (diagnosed) allergy to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine. Of note, other medical issues or religious preferences are not recognized as contraindicators for this measure.

The measure numerator is the cumulative number of HCP eligible to work in the healthcare facility for at least one day during the reporting period and who received a completed vaccination course against COVID-19 since the date the vaccine was first available or on a repeated interval, if revaccination is recommended.

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You may be wondering: What is a completed vaccination course? A completed vaccination course is defined as receiving dose 1 and dose 2 of COVID-19 vaccines requiring two doses – such as Pfizer or Moderna – for completion or receiving one dose of COVID-19 vaccine – such as Johnson & Johnson – requiring one dose for completion. As we know, booster shots are currently being administered. At this time, this measure does not take the booster vaccine into account; however, for surveillance purposes, the CDC is requiring that the number of HCP eligible to receive a booster be entered into NHSN.

There are two HCP categories. All core: All core HCP includes the sum of employees, licensed independent practitioners, adult student or trainees, and volunteers. All HCP includes the sum these categories, including other contract personnel.

This slide provides detailed information about who is included in the HCP categories provided on the previous slide, which are employees. These are individuals receiving a direct paycheck from the healthcare facility; licensed independent practitioners, including physicians, advance practice nurses, physician assistants, and post-residency fellows who are only affiliated with the healthcare facility, but not directly employed; adult students, trainees, and volunteers who are medical, nurses, interns, and other health professional students over the age of 18 and affiliated with the healthcare facility, but are not directly employed by the facility; finally, other contract personnel. These are persons providing care, treatment, or services through a facility contract, such as agency and/or PRN staff scheduled to work at least once a week at the facility.

Now, I would like to review PCHQR Program requirements as they relate to this measure.

This measure was finalized for inclusion in the PCHQR Program in the FY 2022 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule, published this past August. The final rule page citation is included on this slide for your convenience.

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This measure was also finalized for the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program, the Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities Quality Reporting Program, the Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting Program, and the Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reporting Program.

PCHQR Program participants are required to collect numerator and denominator values for the COVID-19 HCP Vaccination measure for at least one self-selected week during the month of the reporting quarter and submit these data via NHSN before or by the quarterly deadline, which we will review shortly. For fiscal year 2023 or calendar year 2021, the reporting period is Quarter 4 2021, which is October 1 through December 31, 2021. Then, beginning with fiscal year 2024 or calendar year 2022 and moving forward, data will be submitted on a quarterly basis following the reporting deadlines for the program. Of note, each quarter, the CDC will calculate a single quarterly COVID-19 HCP vaccination coverage rate for each PCH by taking the average of the data from three weekly rates. Also, CMS will only publicly report each quarterly COVID-19 HCP vaccination coverage rate as calculated by the CDC.

Although only one week of data is required to report, CMS and the CDC encourage weekly reporting. Please keep in mind that you are only required to submit your data by the quarterly submission deadline. For instance, for the Quarter 4 2021 reporting period, hospitals will be required to submit all three months of data by the May 16, 2022, submission deadline. If the CDC can calculate a quarterly rate, then the submission requirement is met. As a reminder, since this is the same process for the HAI measures, CMS typically allows four and half months for hospitals to add new data, submit, resubmit, change, and delete existing data up until the submission deadline. We encourage data to be submitted well in advance of the deadline to allow time to review data for accuracy and make corrections. Data can be modified in NHSN at any time; however, if modified after the submission deadline, data are not transmitted to CMS or used in CMS programs.

This slide lists out the upcoming submission deadlines for calendar years 2021 and 2022.

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We are in the process of posting the PCHQR Program Measure Submission Deadlines by Due Dates table to the QualityNet and Quality Reporting Center websites, which includes data submission deadlines through November 2022. This resource includes the COVID-19 HCP Vaccination measure along with the other program measures.

As stated previously, the CDC will calculate a single quarterly COVID-19 HCP vaccination coverage rate for each PCH. This is done by taking the average of the data from the three weekly rates submitted by the PCH for that quarter. If more than one week of data is submitted for the month, for measure calculation purposes, the most recent week of the month will be utilized. This rate will be submitted to CMS each quarter.

Per the final rule, specifically in the preamble language, public reporting of the COVID-19 HCP Vaccination measure will begin with the October 2022 release. This will be the public display of data collected from Quarter 4 2021, which is October 1 through December 31, 2021. Please note that CMS will not publicly report data averaged over four rolling quarters, but CMS will report the most recent quarter of data. This means that each refresh cycle of this measure will only contain one quarter of data, the most recent quarter, rather than the average over four quarters of data. As this is not the customary public display process for CMS measures, CMS believes this will result in more meaningful, current information for the consumer.

I would now like to turn the presentation over to our speaker. Elizabeth, the floor is yours.

Elizabeth Kalayil: Thank you. My name is Elizabeth Kalayil, and I work in the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotions at the CDC.

For this portion of the presentation, I will now go over a few key points about NHSN and data entry. For facilities to participate in the Healthcare Personnel Safety component, they must either enroll in NHSN or activate the Healthcare Personnel Safety component.

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Please note that the process of enrolling in the facility can take a minimum of four to six weeks. Enrollment in NHSN is required for facilities that are currently not participating in NHSN, but wish to participate. During this process, facilities may choose to participate in any NHSN component. If a facility is already enrolled in NHSN and wishes to participate in the Healthcare Personnel Safety component, a facility must activate the component.

To enter COVID-19 vaccination data, you will first need to get to the NHSN landing page. Once you are on the NHSN landing page, facilities will need to select the Healthcare Personnel Safety component from the drop-down box.

Once you're on the home page of the Healthcare Personnel Safety component, click on the COVID-19 Weekly Vaccination Summary on the left-hand navigation bar.

You will then see a screen in a calendar format with the vaccination summary data. Please select the week you wish to enter data.

Before beginning to enter data into NHSN for a particular month, facilities will now need to create a monthly reporting plan. The plan collects data on which modules and months the facility plans to participate. Users should select options to enter data from the weekly COVID-19 vaccination module section of the plan. Please note that units, such as inpatient psychiatric facilities or inpatient rehab facility units, with a different CMS Certification Number should be reported separately from the acute care or critical access facility.

There are five key questions for this module in NHSN. First, what is the number of current healthcare personnel eligible to have worked at the facility? Second, what is the number of these healthcare personnel that have ever been vaccinated for COVID-19? This number is the cumulative number of vaccinated healthcare personnel. Third, what is the number of these healthcare personnel who did not receive vaccinations due to other conditions (for example, medical contraindications)?

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The fourth question asks for the number of healthcare personnel who have received a complete COVID-19 vaccine series and who are eligible to receive an additional dose or booster. The final question, number five, asks for the number of personnel who have received an additional vaccine dose or booster since August 2021.

You will now see the data entry screen for entering weekly COVID-19 vaccination data. Facilities must complete the questions with the red asterisks in order to save data. The tab key can be used on the computer keyboard to move across columns. If there are not any healthcare personnel reported for a required field, please enter 0.

The CDC has created a Table of Instructions document that provides definitions for all categories and questions on the data collection form. Facilities should review all instructions before collecting and entering COVID-19 vaccination data into NHSN.

After completing data entry for the questions, please be sure to click on the Save button at the bottom of the screen. After clicking on the Save button, a message should appear on your screen indicating that data have been saved successfully.

This slide reviews the data tracking worksheet that the CDC developed for non-long-term care facilities. This is an optional tool in an Excel spreadsheet format that is designed to help with data collection. Facilities can enter healthcare personnel vaccination information and select the week of data collection. The worksheet will automatically calculate data that should be reported to NHSN each week. Please note that this resource is meant to assist facilities, but facilities still need to submit vaccination data through the NHSN application.

To generate reports, facilities can use the analysis tool. There are resources on the NHSN website that review how to generate these reports. However, please note that these reports are now organized differently into two folders. Reports in the COVID-19 vaccination folder include a default variable list with new healthcare personnel categories.

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Reports in the pre-10.0 folder contain the older default variable list. Freestanding facilities, for example inpatient psychiatric facilities, or IPFs, or inpatient rehabilitation facilities, or IRFs, should click on COVID-19 modules and COVID-19 vaccination facility folders. IPFs and IRF units within other facilities should click on the COVID-19 module and COVID-19 vaccination IPF or IRF folders as appropriate.

The Healthcare Personnel Safety component website contains links to a variety of training materials such as data collection forms, Table of Instructions, data tracking worksheets, slide sets, analysis and reporting guides, and .CSV file resources.

If you have any questions about NHSN, please send an e-mail to User Support at NHSN@CDC.gov. Please include Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination in the subject line of the e-mail with the facility type.

This concludes my portion of the presentation. I will turn things back over.

Lisa Vinson:

This concludes our event for today. I would like to thank Hannah and Elizabeth for joining us and providing their expertise. Before we close, I would like to give you a few reminders: If you have questions, please remember to submit them to WebinarQuestions@hsag.com. When sending questions, please use the webinar title in the subject line. In the email body, please be sure to include your question and, if your question pertains to a specific slide, please be sure to include the slide number. Your question will be answered as soon as possible. Please feel free to submit questions unrelated to the current webinar topic via the [QualityNet Inpatient Question and Answer Tool](#).

As always, thank you for your time and attention. We hope that the information provided today aids in your understanding of the COVID-19 HCP Vaccination measure and relative PCHQR Program requirements.

Thank you again and enjoy the remainder of your day!