



## **Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR) Program**

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### **Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support**

#### **IPFQR Program FY 2026 APU Reconsideration Process Presentation Transcript**

##### **Speakers**

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**September 18, 2025  
2:00 p.m. Eastern Time**

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**Jamie Halloran:** Hello. Welcome to the *Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting Program Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Payment Update Reconsideration Process* webinar. My name is Jamie, and I'm your moderator for today's call. At this time, all participants are in Listen Only mode. Later, we will conduct a question-and-answer session at which time I will provide further instructions on how to ask a question. Please note that the conference is being recorded. Now, I'll turn the call over to Lisa Vinson. Lisa, the floor is yours.

**Lisa Vinson:** Thank you, Jamie. Hello, everyone, and, again, welcome to today's webinar. Again, my name is Lisa Vinson, and I am the Program Lead for the Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting, or IPFQR, Program with Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support. I will be the presenter for today's event. Also, joining us today and represented on the call are members from CMS and our support team. Of note, the recording, slides, and transcript of this presentation will be posted on both [QualityNet](#) and [Quality Reporting Center](#) websites during the reconsideration period. At the conclusion of this webinar, we will open the floor for questions, and, again, our moderator, Jamie, will provide instructions at that time regarding how to ask your questions. Please be advised that we will only be able to answer questions about the reconsideration process. We will not be able to address specific questions related to your facility's situation. We will provide information later in the presentation on where to direct these inquiries. There is also related information provided in the APU notification letter your facility received. Next slide, please.

Provided on this slide is a list of the acronyms that will be referenced in the presentation. Next slide, please.

The purpose of today's presentation is to provide information regarding the CMS Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities Quality Reporting Program annual payment update, or APU, reconsideration process for fiscal year 2026. CMS is currently making annual payment update decisions that will affect an IPF's Medicare reimbursement between October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, which is fiscal year 2026. Next slide, please.

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At the end of this presentation, we hope that participants will be able to understand the requirements for the IPFQR Program and the APU reconsideration process as well as how to file a reconsideration with CMS. Next slide, please.

This slide lists all the requirements to participate in the IPFQR Program and qualify to receive the full FY 2026 annual payment update, or APU. Eligible IPFs that did not meet all the reporting requirements as described on this slide will be subject to a two-percentage point reduction of their APU. Next slide, please

As outlined on the previous slide, eligible IPFs had to meet the following requirements by the August 18 deadline. These include having an IPFQR Program Notice of Participation, or NOP, status of “Participating;” having submitted patient-level and facility-level measure data; and having completed the Data Accuracy and Completeness Acknowledgement, also known as the DACA. Eligible IPFs that chose not to participate in the IPFQR Program for fiscal year 2026 or did not meet all the reporting requirements will be subject to a two-percentage point reduction of their APU during fiscal year 2026. Next slide, please.

APU determination notification letters were mailed on Thursday, September 4, via FedEx Priority Overnight delivery, to facilities that did not meet one or more of the program requirements. Reconsideration requests for decisions are due to CMS 30 days from the date on the payment notification letter. Facilities that file an APU reconsideration request will be notified by CMS approximately 90 days after the reconsideration request is submitted. Please note on the first bullet, the date provided there is incorrect. Those letters were mailed out on September 11, which was last Thursday. So, I just wanted to point out that correction. Next slide, please.

An overview of the reconsideration process, including the IPF Reconsideration Request Form, can be found on the APU Reconsideration page on CMS’ QualityNet website. You can access this page by going to the web link that is provided on this slide. Next slide, please.

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This slide provides details on how to access the fiscal year 2026 APU reconsideration information from the QualityNet website, as referenced on the previous slide. From the QualityNet home page, you will click on the Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities button. In the Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities Quality Reporting (IPFQR) Program box, you will click the Learn More button. Next, you will click on APU in the top menu. On the page that appears, select APU Reconsideration on the left side of the page. There, you will find an Overview page for the IPFQR Program reconsideration process for fiscal year 2026. Next slide, please.

Specific to reconsideration requests, your facility must include the CMS identified reason that it did not meet the APU requirements. Your facility must also specify the reason or reasons for believing that it did meet the IPFQR Program requirement or requirements and should receive the full APU. Requests should be specific, complete, and include accurate details. Your facility may include supporting information or documentation, as deemed necessary, by attaching a PDF file with your Reconsideration Request Form. The completed Reconsideration Request Form and attachments, if applicable, may be submitted by any of the three methods provided on this slide. These include the *Hospital Quality Reporting, or HQR, Secure Portal* Managed File Transfer to [QRFormsSubmission@hsag.com](mailto:QRFormsSubmission@hsag.com) email address. The form may also be submitted via secure fax to (877) 789-4443 or via email to [QRFormsSubmission@hsag.com](mailto:QRFormsSubmission@hsag.com). Please be sure you are only submitting your reconsideration request via one of the three methods provided here to ensure proper and timely processing of your request. Upon receipt of the reconsideration request, an email acknowledgement will be sent notifying the facility and Security Official that the form has been received. CMS expects the process to take no longer than approximately 90 days from receipt of the Reconsideration Request Form. Next slide, please.

If a facility is dissatisfied with the decision of CMS's reconsideration determination, the facility may file a Provider Reimbursement Review Board, or PRRB, appeal.

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An appeal can only be filed with the PRRB after the facility has submitted a request for reconsideration and received an adverse decision on the request. Facilities can submit PRRB appeals up to 180 days following the IPF reconsideration notification date. More details about the PRRB process can be found on the CMS website using the direct link found on this slide. Next slide, please.

Please submit all questions regarding the APU reconsideration process to the IPFQR Program Support Team at [IPFQualityReporting@hsag.com](mailto:IPFQualityReporting@hsag.com). You can submit questions about a reconsideration request that you submitted to CMS to [Reconsideration@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Reconsideration@cms.hhs.gov). Lastly, you may submit any additional questions about the IPFQR Program to the IPFQR Support Team via the [Quality Question and Answer Tool](#) link, which is provided in the last bulleted point on this slide. Next slide, please.

Now we have some time to address your questions. Please remember that we will only be able to answer questions about the reconsideration process. We will not be able to answer any questions specific to your facility's situation. Our moderator, Jamie, will now provide information about how to submit your question. Jamie?

**Jamie Halloran:** Thank you, Lisa. We'll begin the question-and-answer session. If you have a question please press the raised-hand feature as indicated by the image on this slide. Note the icon may appear on either side of your screen. If you wish to be removed from the queue, please press the hand icon again to lower your hand. It now looks like we have our first question coming in from Katherine Bryant. It looks like she may have lowered her hand again. Katherine, if you have a question, just raise your hand. Okay, we'll give it a moment here to see if anyone else raises their hand. Okay, it looks like we now have a question coming from Whitney Perry. Whitney, go ahead with your question, and you may need to unmute yourself.

**Whitney Perry:** Can you hear me?

**Jamie Halloran:** Yes, we can hear you. Thank you.

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- Whitney Perry:** Great. Some of the question I have is that the form to submit the facility data looked like, at least in my experience, that it was not working, like it was not appearing on the screen when we were submitting. Are technical issues like that going to be considered an acceptable type of a reason for reconsideration?
- Lisa Vinson:** Hi. Thank you for your question. What I will say is that CMS does review the reconsideration request on a case-by-case basis. We always recommend that you submit any supporting documentation that will support your case regarding any technical issues. You are allowed to submit that documentation along with your reconsideration to support your request. So, I would certainly recommend submitting that documentation, supporting documents, if you have them.
- Whitney Perry:** Then, it said PDF. Is a Word document not accepted? It has to be PDF.
- Lisa Vinson:** Yes, it would have to be PDF in order to be uploaded. Correct.
- Whitney Perry:** All right. Thank you.
- Lisa Vinson:** You're very welcome.
- Jamie Halloran:** Thank you. It looks like our next question is coming from Shelby Brown. Shelby, go ahead with your question. You may need to unmute yourself.
- Shelby Brown:** In the letter that we received, will we get a copy of this presentation?
- Lisa Vinson:** I'm sorry. I did not hear you very well. Can you repeat that, please?
- Shelby Brown:** Will we get a copy of this presentation?
- Lisa Vinson:** Yes. The presentation will be available on both QualityNet and Quality Reporting Center websites. There were some instructions within the webinar, and I believe it's on slide nine. There is a specific APU Reconsideration tab that you can visit, and we will post the transcript and the presentation on that particular page.
- Shelby Brown:** Of QualityNet?

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**Lisa Vinson:** Of QualityNet. Yes. Did that address your question?

**Shelby Brown:** Yes.

**Jamie Halloran:** Thank you. It looks like our next question comes from Mackenzie McGhee. Mackenzie, go ahead with your question. You may need to unmute yourself. Mackenzie, are you able to unmute yourself?

**Mackenzie McGhee:** Okay, I'm sorry. I apologize. We were curious about this lack of IT, as we just evidenced by this. If we had a screenshot or we had an image, and it was in a JPEG, is there anything that we can send without it being a PDF?

**Lisa Vinson:** Hello, I'm sorry. Can you repeat your question again? It was going in and out on my end. I'm sorry.

**Mackenzie McGhee:** Yes, ma'am. If we have a screenshot or a picture, which would be something like a JPEG, is there any way to get those through due to the fact that I don't know that you could convert them into a PDF?

**Lisa Vinson:** Okay, let me check on that for you. My understanding was that PDFs were the acceptable method for uploads. If you could do me a favor, would you be able to email the IPF inbox, and I can certainly follow up with you on that. I can provide you with that email address. It's IPF Quality Reporting. That's all one word at HSAG.com.

**Mackenzie McGhee:** Perfect. I will do. Thank you so much.

**Lisa Vinson:** You're very welcome. Thank you.

**Mary Ann Jones:** This is Mary Ann Jones. If I could jump in, one work-around for that might be that you could paste that image, that JPEG, onto a Word document and then save that Word document to save it as a PDF. I've done that. Okay.

**Mackenzie McGhee:** Okay. That makes sense. That would be good. Thank you. Then, if we use the email, the email is our means of transmitting information. It would seem to be a whole lot easier if we can't, and I'll certainly email like you said, but that'd certainly be an easy way to attach that other document too.

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I'll fool around with the JPEG to Word to PDF, as well. So, thank you very much.

**Mary Ann Jones:** You're welcome.

**Jamie Halloran:** Thank you. At this moment, we're not showing anyone raising their hand. So, just a reminder to look at the image on the screen to raise your hand. You just press that raised-hand icon, and then we can unmute you to ask your question. Okay, it looks like we now have a question from Katherine Bryant. Katherine, go ahead with your question.

**Katherine Bryant:** Hi. Sorry, I'm glad you could finally unmute me. I couldn't get it to do it. So, my question is the list of quality measures and non-measure data on the slide number five. What if we can't abstract all of those measures?

**Lisa Vinson:** Hi. When you say can't abstract, are you saying difficulty, like when you're using an abstraction tool or can you kind of give an example?

**Katherine Bryant:** Yes. The Screening for Metabolic Disorders, we do that in the emergency room before our patients are admitted to our inpatient unit to make sure that they're medically stable. Then, I guess, do they just want us to pull data from that and say that, yes, we did it, or do they want numbers? Then, the facility-level non-measure data, what is that?

**Lisa Vinson:** Okay, so those particular measures are chart-abstracted measures. Those are chart-abstracted measures that would be from the medical records that would be entered or uploaded into the HQR system via like an XML upload. Now, in this situation, the submission period has closed, so there would not be a way to enter that data at this time. What you can do with the reconsideration, you can certainly explain what you've just explained to us about the inability to do that. Then, of course, that will be taken into consideration with your reconsideration request, but there wouldn't be anything that could be done with entering that data at this point.

**Katherine Bryant:** So, I guess I wasn't clear. I don't have the ability with the medical record that I have, the system that we're in now. Now, we are going to switch to Epic, which will make life, everyone tells us, easier.



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I don't have, in the system we're in now, I don't have a way to electronically upload the measures. I can put in some of these measures by hand like the influenza immunization. I put that in by hand. Is there a way to do it by uploading it into an audit form and individually like they're doing now with sepsis cases and ED Throughput. We can do it individually into the platform.

**Mary Ann Jones:** This is Mary Ann Jones, again, if I could jump in. Those facility-specific questions are best answered through the IPF email or through the CMS question-and-answer tool.

**Katherine Bryant:** Okay. Thank you.

**Mary Ann Jones:** Sorry.

**Katherine Bryant:** That's all right.

**Jamie Halloran:** Thank you, and we'll just wait for a question to come in here. Again, to ask a question, you just click the raised-hand feature on your screen. I'm not showing any additional questions. One moment, we have another question from Katherine Bryant.

**Katherine Bryant:** Thanks, I'm sorry. It's me again, Margaret. On the facility-level, non-measure data, that is confusing to me as to what they're talking about. It says, in order for us to participate, we have to be submitting measure and non-measure data. What is non-measure data, and where do we get that?

**Lisa Vinson:** Hi, again, this is Lisa. Again, if you can send me an email directly to the IPF Quality Reporting inbox, I can certainly address those questions for you there. I can give you an explanation with that there.

**Katherine Bryant:** Okay, Lisa, I'll do that. Thank you.

**Lisa Vinson:** Okay. You're very welcome.

**Jamie Halloran:** Thank you, and we'll just give a few more moments to see if anyone else has additional questions. I believe that may be all the questions for today. I can hand it back over to you now, Lisa.

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**Lisa Vinson:** Thank you so much, Jamie. This concludes our question-and-answer session for today and also the webinar. We hope that this information was beneficial for you. Again, thank you for joining us. We hope you enjoy the remainder of your day.