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To: ASCQR Initiative Discussions
Subject: Quality Reporting Center's Biweekly News Blast: Mark Your Calendars!



Quality Reporting Center's Biweekly News Blast

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Did you get a new calendar for 2018? It's all pretty and clean, isn't it? Well, it's time to start putting notes on those empty rectangles!

- ! **January 2** – The tool on QualityNet used for entering data for ASC-9 and ASC-10 opened. You can now enter your facility's endoscopy measure data for 2017 encounters to fulfill ASC Quality Reporting (ASCQR) Program requirements. The updated [ASCQR Reference Checklist](#) summarizes these requirements for you. The tool closes on the **May 15 deadline**.

- ! **January 23 (anticipated)** – The National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) will make available for review and electronic signature the updated Consent form which must be signed by your ASC's Primary Contact or Facility Administrator by **April 14** to ensure continued access to the NHSN and to the data entry tool for the influenza vaccination measure (ASC-8). Here are some [FAQs](#) about the form, and you can email the [NHSN](#) with the subject line "NHSN Reconsent" for more information.

- ! **April 1** – The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will begin mailing beneficiaries new Medicare cards with new Medicare Beneficiary Identifiers (MBIs). The new MBIs will be used for billing, eligibility status, and claim status after a transition period. Your facility will need to be ready to accept MBIs on April 1. CMS has a [website](#) and an [ombudsman](#) to assist providers with the transition.

A word to the wise – **May 15** is a deadline for other data reporting programs, too, so get your data in early to avoid any potential technical difficulties.

We're here, ready to answer your questions about the ASCQR Program dates. And no, we haven't looked ahead to see what kind of cat is on our calendar for our birthday month.* Call us at 866.800.87856 or email us at <https://cms-ocsq.custhelp.com>.

*Okay, it's a British Shorthair.