

Spotlight & Announcements Archive

September 18, 2020

CMS Announces the Hospices Selected for the Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation (HOPE) Alpha Testing

Today based on a public engagement opportunity, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is announcing the selection of 20 Medicare-certified hospice providers to participate in the alpha testing phase of development of the Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation (HOPE) assessment. These providers represent the diversity of hospices through their various sizes, geographic locations, urban and rural, business models, and use of electronic and paper-based data collection. HOPE Alpha Testing will begin this fall 2020.

The development of HOPE is an important part of the Meaningful Measures initiative to improve outcomes for patients, their families and providers while also reducing burden on providers and clinicians. The HOPE assessment is important to developing a set of hospice quality measures, including outcome measures, that reflect the needs of patients, their families, and caregivers throughout the hospice stay.

The alpha test is one phase of the field testing, and its purpose is to establish the feasibility of the assessment and to establish preliminary reliability and validity of the assessment items.

CMS appreciates these hospice agencies for their participation in the HOPE Alpha Test. Their insights and feedback will provide us with the necessary information to further develop the HOPE assessment and its guidance in preparation for national beta testing. The following are the 20 Medicare-certified hospice providers to participate in the HOPE Alpha Testing:

Hospice	City	State
Agape Care-South Carolina	Spartanburg	SC
Bridge Home Health and Hospice	Findlay	OH
Carris Health Rice Hospice	Wilmer	MN
Chaplaincy Health Care	Kennewick	WA
Chautauqua Hospice and Palliative Care	Lakewood	NY
Circle of Life Hospice	Springdale	AR
Covenant Care	Pensacola	FL

Elara Caring	Jackson	MI
Elite Hospice (LHC Group)	Mena	AR
Embracing HospiceCare	Wall	NJ
Homeland Hospice	Harrisburg	PA
Hudson Valley Hospice	Poughkeepsie	NY
Interim Healthcare Hospice	Worthington	OH
Mercy Hospice	Saint Louis	MO
Nathan Adelson Hospice	Las Vegas	NV
Salus Hospice	Irvine	CA
Sharp HospiceCare	La Mesa	CA
Tabitha Hospice	Lincoln	NE
Valley Hospice	Rayland	OH
Visiting Nurse Service of New York Hospice	New York	NY

June 2, 2020

Hospice Provider Preview Reports for the August 2020 Refresh Now Available

Hospice HIS provider preview reports and Hospice Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) Survey® provider preview reports have been updated and are now available. These two separate reports are available in your Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) non-validation reports folder. Hospice providers are encouraged to review their Hospice Item Set (HIS) quality measure results from Quarter 4, 2018 to Quarter 3, 2019 and their facility-level CAHPS® survey results from Quarter 4, 2017 to Quarter 3, 2019.

The 30-day preview period will run from May 28 to June 29, 2020. Requests for CMS review of HIS or CAHPS data must be submitted by 11:59:59 p.m. E.T. on June 29 in order to be reflected in the next quarterly refresh, scheduled for August 2020.

For further information view the [CMS Hospice Public Reporting: Background and Announcements webpage](#).

May 15, 2020

HQRP Quarterly Update for 1st Quarter of 2020 is Available

The Hospice Quarterly Update for the first quarter of 2020 is now available. This update includes Hospice Quality Reporting Program highlights from this past quarter (January – March 2020), events and engagement opportunities planned for this coming quarter (April –June 2020), and selected questions and answers from the Hospice Quality Help Desk. Please navigate to the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices](#) page to download this document.

April 15, 2020

Presentation slides and transcript for the March 5th Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation (HOPE) Alpha Test Informational Webinar Now Available

CMS, through its contractor, Abt Associates, presented a webinar on March 5th for interested hospice providers to learn more about what the Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation (HOPE) alpha test will entail.

During this webinar, Abt Associates provided information on the following topics:

- Eligibility to participate in the alpha test
- Benefits of participation
- Alpha test requirements and support from the Abt HOPE Testing team
- Selection of hospices to participate

The presentation slides and transcript for this event are now available in the Downloads section of the HOPE page at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/HOPE.html>

April 03, 2020

Post-Training Materials for the March 3 Hospice Item Set (HIS) Submission Requirements Webinar Are Now Available

Post-training materials (with answers to knowledge checks) for the **HIS Submission Requirements Webinar** held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. ET are now available on the [Hospice Quality Reporting Training—Training and Education Library](#) webpage.

March 23, 2020

Important Updates on the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP)

Swingtech sends informational messages to hospices related to the Quality Reporting Program (QRP) on a quarterly basis. Their latest outreach communication can be found on the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices webpage](#). If you want to receive Swingtech's quarterly emails, then add or update the email addresses to which these messages are sent by sending an email to QRPHelp@swingtech.com. Be sure to include your facility name and CMS Certification Number (CCN) along with any requested updates.

March 12, 2020

Hospice Provider Preview Reports Now Available

Hospice Quality Reporting Program provider preview reports and Hospice Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) Survey ® provider preview reports have been updated and are now available. These two separate reports are available in your Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) non-validation reports folder.

For additional information, view the Hospice Public Reporting Background and Announcements webpage at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Public-Reporting-Background-and-Announcements.html>

March 03, 2020

Presentation from the December HQRP Forum are Available

The presentation from the quarterly Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) Forum held on December 4, 2019 are now available. The Forum provided an update on the development of the Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation (HOPE), including a summary of focus group findings and cognitive testing, an update on electronic health record vendor listening sessions findings, and a discussion of next steps. The slides are available in the Downloads section of the [HOPE webpage](#).

February 21, 2020

A Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation (HOPE) Alpha Test Informational Webinar

Date: Thursday March 5, 2020

Time: 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET

Description: Abt Associates is currently recruiting hospice providers to participate in a field test (called an alpha test) of the new hospice patient assessment instrument, the Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation (HOPE). Abt Associates is presenting a webinar for interested hospice providers to learn more about what the alpha test will entail.

During this webinar, Abt Associates will provide information on the following topics:

- Eligibility to participate in the alpha test
- Benefits of participation
- Alpha test requirements and support from the Abt HOPE Testing team
- Selection of hospices to participate

Register here for the webinar: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5082098179591800075>

The HOPE development work is under CMS contract number 75FCMC18D0014 and task order number 75FCMC19F0001.

February 20, 2020

Pre-Training Materials for the March 3 Hospice Item Set (HIS) Submission Requirements Webinar Are Now Available

Pre-training materials (without answers to knowledge checks) for the **HIS Submission Requirements Webinar** that will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. ET are now available on the [Hospice Quality Reporting Training—Training and Education Library](#) webpage.

February 7, 2020

REGISTRATION OPEN – Hospice Item Set (HIS) Submission Requirements Webinar

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be hosting a webinar on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. ET. The purpose of the webinar is to provide a general overview of the Hospice Item Set (HIS) and associated submission requirements. See the [Hospice Quality Reporting Training: Announcements and Registration](#) webpage for details.

January 30, 2020

HQRP Quarterly Update for 4th Quarter of 2019 is Available

The Hospice Quarterly Update for the fourth quarter of 2019 is now available. This update includes Hospice Quality Reporting Program highlights from this past quarter (October – December 2019), events and engagement opportunities planned for this coming quarter (January –March 2019), and selected questions and answers from the Hospice Quality Help Desk. Please navigate to the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices](#) page to download this document.

January 09, 2020

HQRP Requirements documents now updated for FY 2021

HQRP requirements are now updated to reflect the FY 2020 final rule. The following documents have been updated:

- Getting Started with the Hospice Quality Reporting Program
- Hospice Quality Reporting Program: Requirements for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 and Future FY Reporting Years fact sheet
- Hospice Quality Reporting Program Quick Reference Guide

These documents can be found on the HQRP Requirements and Best Practices page at: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/HQRP-Requirements-and-Best-Practices.html>.

January 09, 2020

HOPE Information Gathering Report and Focus Group Addendum are Available

The Information Gathering Report and Focus Group Addendum prepared to support the development of the Hospice Outcome & Patient Evaluation (HOPE) are now available. The reports are posted and available in the download section of the [HOPE](#) webpage.