

We are extending the deadline for submitting informal public comments on three candidate measures for the PCHQR program to 11:59 PM (EDT) on July 19, 2013. This extension provides stakeholders and interested parties two additional weeks to submit informal public comments, while still allowing CMS to meet its programmatic goals. Thank you again for your support and participation.

**Background:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with Mathematica Policy Research (HHS Contract: HHSM-500-2008-00020I, Task Order: HHSM-500-TO002) to develop measures that will assess the quality of care provided to Medicare beneficiaries in 11 PPS-exempt cancer hospitals. Development of measures for these hospitals is required under Section 3005 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). With input from CMS and a contractor-convened Technical Expert Panel (TEP), Mathematica Policy Research and the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) developed three candidate measures for the Prospective Payment System (PPS)-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting (PCHQR) Program. The candidate measures address gaps in measurement areas not covered by the five measures CMS recently adopted for the PCHQR Program.

Measures:

1. Initiation of Osteoclast Inhibitors for Patients with Multiple Myeloma or Bone Metastases Associated with Breast Cancer, Prostate Cancer, or Lung Cancer
2. Overuse of Imaging for Staging Breast Cancer at Low Risk of Metastasis
3. Potentially Avoidable Admissions and Emergency Department Visits Among Patients Receiving Outpatient Chemotherapy

CMS is requesting that stakeholders review and provide feedback on these measures. Please note that this informal comment period is separate from the CMS rulemaking process. All comments are welcome, but we are particularly interested in feedback on:

- Relevance of the measures to the mission of public reporting under ACA 3005
- Usefulness of the measures to improve quality of care for Medicare patients
- Feasibility of data collection for the purpose of public reporting under ACA 3005

All comments on the measures must be received by **July 19, 2013 at 11:59 PM (EDT)**. Please use the following link to submit your comments: <http://publiccomments.ncqa.org/home.aspx>.