



Dialysis Facility Compare May 2019 Refresh Q&A

What is Dialysis Facility Compare?

[Dialysis Facility Compare](#) is a website that allows patients and health centers to view and compare quality data about dialysis facilities. CMS also uses these data, organized into a series of measures, to create a star rating system that can help patients make educated decisions about where to get their dialysis treatments. Dialysis Facility Compare is part of CMS efforts to ensure safety, quality, and transparency for dialysis facilities.

What is the May 2019 refresh?

The May refresh is one of a series of updates made each year to the data featured on Dialysis Facility Compare. The last refresh was in February 2019. The new data will go live in May 2019.

What is changing in the May 2019 refresh?

With the May 2019 refresh, patients and facilities can now see the latest data from dialysis facilities on the Dialysis Facility Compare website. The following measures on Dialysis Facility Compare were updated with new data:

- Adult and child patients who had enough waste (urea and other toxins) removed from their blood during hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis
- Adult patients who had too much calcium in their blood
- Hemoglobin management (Downloadable Data Only)
- Phosphorus concentrations in the blood (Downloadable Data Only)
- Proportion of adult hemodialysis patients who received treatment through an arteriovenous fistula
- Proportion of adult hemodialysis patients who had a catheter (tube) left in a vein longer than 90 days, for regular hemodialysis treatments
- Measurement of normalized protein catabolic rate (nPCR) for pediatric hemodialysis patients
- In-Center Hemodialysis Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (ICH CAHPS) survey of patients' experiences
- ICH CAHPS Overall survey of patients' experiences Star Rating
- The following individual ICH CAHPS (patient experience) star ratings are newly available on Dialysis Facility Compare alongside the ICH CAHPS Overall Star Ratings. Prior to this refresh, the individual ratings were only available in a downloadable file:
 - Kidney doctor's communication and caring
 - Dialysis center staff care and operations
 - Providing information to patients
 - Rating of kidney doctors
 - Rating of dialysis center staff
 - Rating of dialysis facility



The following measures will continue to be displayed from the October 2018 refresh:

- Frequency of patient death, hospital admission, or readmission
- Rate of transfusions
- Preventing bloodstream infections: standardized infection ratio
- Quality of patient care star rating

Who is affected by the refresh?

[Dialysis Facility Compare](https://www.medicare.gov/dialysisfacilitycompare) displays ratings of the quality of care provided by dialysis facilities based on a series of quality measures. Facilities have had their individual measure scores updated based on the latest data for a number of these quality measures. Facilities had an opportunity to review the data and raise any concerns with CMS before the refresh goes live in May 2019. Overall Quality of patient care star ratings will not change with this refresh. Please note that the Measurement of normalized protein catabolic rate (nPCR) is listed under the Adequacy section on the about the data page <https://www.medicare.gov/dialysisfacilitycompare/#data/about-data>). Frequency of patient death, hospital admission, or readmission are listed under the Avoiding hospitalizations & deaths section on the about the data on the above web page.

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