Removal of Influenza Vaccination Measure from the Home Health Quality of Patient Care Star Rating Webinar

Thursday, December 14, 2017

Presenters:

Alan Levitt, CCSQ - CMS

Sara Galantowicz, Abt Associates

Acronyms in this Presentation

CCSQ: Center for Clinical Standards and Quality

HHA: Home Health Agency

HHC: Home Health Compare

HHCAHPS: Home Health Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems

MLN: Medicare Learning Network

OASIS: Outcome and Assessment Information Set

TEP: Technical Expert Panel

QoPC: Quality of Patient Care

Agenda

- Introduction and Purpose

- Review of QoPC Methodology and Proposed Change

- Summary of Public Comment

- CMS Decision and Implementation Timeline

- Questions & Answers

- Resources

Introduction and Purpose
Goal of Reporting Star Ratings

▪Displays of stars are an efficient, familiar, consumer-centric way to communicate relative performance (visual shortcut).

▪Format addresses the barrier of innumeracy, i.e. it is not necessary to understand or interpret the numbers behind the stars to understand and use them.

▪CMS Star Ratings are an important tool for empowering consumers, encouraging providers to strive for higher levels of quality, and driving overall health system improvement.

Introduction and Purpose
Monitoring

CMS engages in ongoing monitoring and improvement to the Quality of Patient Care (QoPC) Star Rating methodology to ensure meaningful and accurate comparison across Home Health Agencies (HHAs)

Introduction and Purpose
History of Changes Considered for the QoPC Algorithm

- Medicare Learning Network (MLN) Call on January 19, 2017 included two proposals:
    - Remove measure: Influenza Immunization Received for Current Flu Season (based on Outcome and Assessment Information Set [OASIS] data)
    - Add measure: Emergency Department Use without Hospitalization (claims-based data)

- Stakeholder comments in response to January 19 MLN Call
    - Supported removal of Influenza Immunization Received for Current Flu Season measure
    - Did not support addition of Emergency Department Use without Hospitalization measure

Introduction and Purpose
History of Changes Considered for the QoPC Algorithm (con.)

- Announced revised changes to QoPC Star Ratings proposal (October 2017)
  - Remove measure: Influenza Immunization Received for Current Flu Season (OASIS-based)
  - Based on stakeholder feedback, no longer recommended the addition of the Emergency Department Use without Hospitalization measure

- Thirty day comment period: October 11 – November 11, 2017

Overview of Current QoPC Star Rating Methodology and Proposed Change
Background: The Home Health Setting

- Over 12,000 HHAs

- 23 quality measures on Home Health Compare (HHC).

  - 7 OASIS-based process measures

  - 7 OASIS-based outcome measures

  - 4 Claims-based utilization measures

  - 5 HHCAHPS-based measures

- Separate star ratings for Quality of Patient Care and Patient Experience (based on survey data from Home Health Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems [HHCAHPS])

- Other existing CMS star ratings programs: Nursing Home Compare, Physician Compare, Dialysis Facility Compare and Hospital Compare

Overview of Current QoPC Star Rating Methodology and Proposed Change

Current QoPC Star Rating

- HHAs must be able to report 5 of 9 measures to have a star rating computed
- Reporting requires at least 20 episodes of care during the reporting period

Process (not risk adjusted)

- Timely Initiation of Care
- Drug Education on all Medications Provided to Patient/Caregiver
- Influenza Immunization Received for Current Flu Season

Outcome (risk adjusted)

- Improvement in Ambulation
- Improvement in Bed Transferring
- Improvement in Bathing
- Improvement in Pain Interfering With Activity
- Improvement in Dyspnea
- Acute care hospitalization (claims-based)

Overview of Current QoPC Star Rating Methodology and Proposed Change
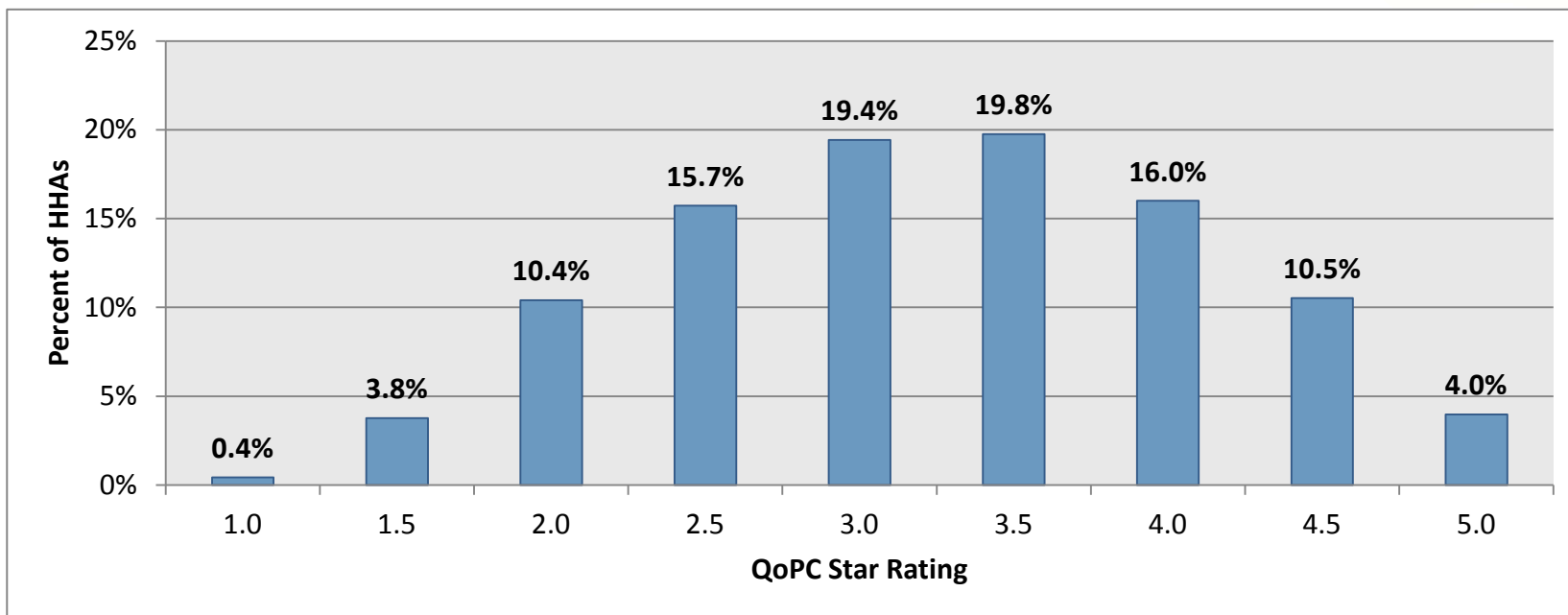## Summary of Current Methodology

1. For each of the 9 measures, rank all agencies based on score and assign into 10 equally-sized groups (deciles).

2. Adjust (or not adjust) the HHA's initial individual measure rating to help distinguish scores that are different from the national median based on a statistical test

3. For each agency, average the adjusted ratings across all measures (at least five needed) and round to the nearest 0.5

4. Assign ratings from 1 to 5 in half-star increments

5. Refer to posted methodology document for more detail

Overview of Current QoPC Star Rating Methodology and Proposed Change

Distribution of QoPC Star Ratings: October 2017 Home Health Compare

- 10 quarters of QoPC Star Rating data currently completed
- For the October 2017 HHC refresh, there were 9,194 HHAs (76.6%) reporting with average rating of 3.25

Overview of Current QoPC Star Rating Methodology and Proposed Change
QoPC Star Rating Data Availability Timeline

- Starting with the October 2017 HHC refresh, HHC displays data that are 9 months lagged for both OASIS and claims-based measures:
  - OASIS data from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016
  - Claims data from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016
  - Preview reports provided to HHAs in August 2017

- Next refresh of HHC will occur in January 2018
  - Preview reports were provided in October 2017

Proposed Change to QoPC Star Rating Methodology: Remove Influenza Immunization Measure

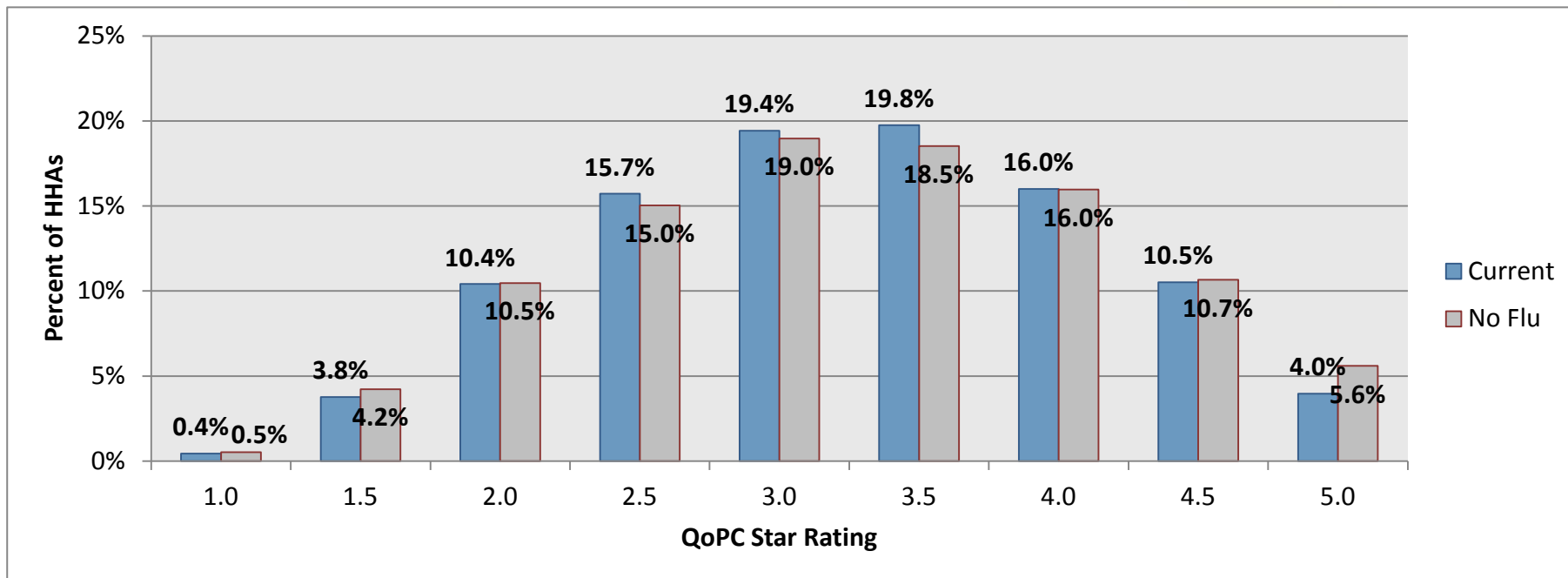## Influenza Immunization Received for Current Flu Season

- **Description:** Percentage of home health episodes of care during which patients received influenza immunization for the current flu season.
- **Numerator:** Number of home health episodes of care during which the patient a) received vaccination from the HHA or b) had received vaccination from HHA during earlier episode of care, or c) was determined to have received vaccination from another provider.
- **Denominator:** Number of home health episodes of care ending with a discharge or transfer to inpatient facility during the reporting period, other than those covered by generic or measure-specific exclusions.
- **Exclusions:** Home health episodes care for which no care was provided during October 1–March 31, OR the patient died, or the patient does not meet age/condition guidelines for influenza vaccine.

- Received earlier support for removing this measure in TEP and stakeholder feedback

Proposed Change to QoPC Star Rating Methodology: Remove Influenza Immunization Measure

QoPC Star Rating Simulation: Remove Flu Measure

- **October 2017:** 9,194 HHAs (76.6%) reporting with average rating of 3.25
- **Remove Flu:** 9,147 HHAs (76.2%) reporting with average rating of 3.27

Distribution of QoPC Star Ratings

OASIS Data: 1/1/2016-12/30/2016   **Claims Data:** 1/1/2016-12/30/2016

Proposed Change to QoPC Star Rating Methodology: Remove Influenza Immunization Measure
Summary of Impacts

- Very slight decrease in the percent of HHAs that can report a QoPC Star Rating – from 76.6% to 76.2% of HHAs for October 2017

- Slight increase in the QoPC Star Rating – from 3.25 to 3.27 on average for October 2017

- Increase in the QoPC Star Rating experienced by both small and large HHAs (in terms of number of episodes in a year) and by both rural and urban HHAs

Proposed Change to QoPC Star Rating Methodology: Remove Influenza Immunization Measure
Summary of Public Comment

- Public comment period: October 11 through November 11, 2017

- CMS received 24 comments
  - All commenters supported the removal of the Influenza measure

- Rationale for supporting removal
  - Differences across states' regulations regarding transporting and administering vaccinations
  - No exclusion made for patients who were offered the vaccination and refused
  - No exclusion made for patients who cannot receive the vaccination due to contraindications

Proposed Change to QoPC Star Rating Methodology: Remove Influenza Immunization Measure
Summary of Public Comment (con.)

- Several commenters emphasized the importance of this measure and supported continued reporting on Home Health Compare.

- Full comment summary and verbatim comments will be posted on https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/HomeHealthQualityInits/HHQIHomeHealthStarRatings.html

Proposed Change to QoPC Star Rating Methodology: Remove Influenza Immunization Measure
Final Decision and Implementation Timeline

- CMS will remove the Influenza Immunization Received for Current Flu Season measure from the QoPC star rating

  - Removal will be effective with April 2018 Home Health Compare refresh

- This measure will continue to be reported on Home Health Compare to encourage vaccination

- CMS will monitor the Influenza Immunization Received for Current Flu Season measure to ensure rates do not decrease

Proposed Change to QoPC Star Rating Methodology: Remove Influenza Immunization Measure
Final Decision and Implementation Timeline (con.)

- Timeline
    - First preview report using new calculation algorithm: no later than mid-January 2018
    - Home Health Compare refresh displaying updated QoPC Star Rating: April 2018
        - All measures (OASIS- and claims-based) will report on data from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

Resources
For More Information

- [QoPC Star Ratings Methodology](#)

- [Home Health Quality Reporting Program](#)

- [Home Health Compare](#)

- Email box for questions: HomeHealthQualityQuestions@cms.hhs.gov

Question & Answer Session