

User Guide for Hospice Quality Reporting Data Collection

Reporting cycle:

Data Collection from October 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012

Data Submission January 1, 2013, and April 1, 2013

Annual Payment Update impact FY 2014

This User Guide is considered a draft until OMB approval of the data submission is received.



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Section I:
Introduction



Purpose and Explanation of Data Collection

As established by Section 3004 of the Affordable Care Act, hospice providers are required to report quality data to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Section 1814(i)(5)(A)(i) of the Social Security Act requires that beginning with fiscal year (FY) 2014, and for each subsequent FY, the market basket update shall be reduced by two percentage points for any provider that does not comply with the quality data submission requirements with respect to that fiscal year. In the Hospice Wage Index for Fiscal Year 2012 Final Rule (August 4, 2011), it was established that to meet the quality reporting requirements for the FY 2014 payment determination, hospice providers shall report two measures:

1. the structural measure related to the content of their Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) program and
2. the NQF #0209 Pain Measure.

The structural measure provides CMS with general information about the types of quality indicators that are currently being used by hospice providers in their QAPI programs. The NQF #0209 Pain Measure reflects the number of patients who report being uncomfortable because of pain at the initial assessment (after admission to hospice services) who report that pain was brought to a comfortable level within 48 hours.

To avoid a reduction in the Annual Payment Update (APU) for FY 2014, all hospice providers that are Medicare certified and have a valid CCN (CMS Certification Number; also known as the Medicare Provider Number) as of October 1, 2012, are required to collect and submit data to CMS for both measures. The level of performance is not a factor in determining the APU for FY2014.

Hospice providers must submit their structural measure data to CMS no later than January 31, 2013. Providers must submit their facility-level, aggregate data for the NQF #0209 Pain Measure to CMS no later than April 1, 2013. The data collection (look-back) period for both measures is October 1, 2012, through December 31, 2012. Details of the data submission process will be provided on the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) CMS.gov website.

Who, What, When & How

Who:

All hospice providers that are Medicare certified (have a valid CCN, or Medicare Provider Number) as of October 1, 2012, are required to collect and submit data to CMS.

For Hospices with Multiple Locations:

- Hospices will report data for both measures to CMS on a per-CCN basis.
 - Hospice providers with multiple locations, sharing one CCN, should aggregate facility-level data from all locations so the data entered on the CMS data entry site represent data for the single CCN.

Eligible patients for measure reporting include the following:

- All payers (Medicare, Medicaid, and private payers) and
- All hospice provider settings (inpatient, home care, nursing home, assisted living facility, etc.)

What:

Hospice providers will report two measures. These measures are as follows:

- A structural measure: provides CMS with general information about the kinds of patient care-related quality indicators (QIs) used in hospice organizations' QAPI programs. It is intended to reflect which domains and topics of care providers include in their QAPI programs. Hospice providers will select the domains/topics of care for which they have at least one quality indicator using a drop-down menu. No numerical data or performance scores will be reported for the structural measure.
- The NQF #0209 Pain Measure: calculates the percentage of patients who report being uncomfortable because of pain at the initial assessment (after admission to hospice services) who report that pain was brought to a comfortable level within 48 hours. Hospice providers will submit 7 facility-level, aggregate data elements to CMS for the NQF #0209 Pain Measure reporting.

When:

There are two separate reporting deadlines for submitting the required data to CMS:

- The structural measure must be submitted no later than January 31, 2013.
- The NQF #0209 Pain Measure must be submitted no later than April 1, 2013.

The data collection period for both measures is October 1 – December 31, 2012.

How:

- Hospice providers will collect data for both measures October 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012.
- Hospice providers will enter their data online and submit them to CMS using the data entry site.

The data entry site is not yet available for provider use.

The data entry site will go live for provider use on January 1, 2013.

For updates on data entry website location and availability, please check the “Spotlight and Announcements” section of the CMS Hospice Quality Reporting Program website at:

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/>

- Hospice providers may utilize vendors for their individual hospice provider data submission, but CMS will not support batch submissions involving scripting or database imports for multiple hospice providers from vendors.

Important Information

Data Entry Site Availability:

This Data Collection User Guide will provide hospice providers with instruction *only* about data collection for elements that will be required for CMS reporting.

THE DATA ENTRY WEBSITE IS NOT YET AVAILABLE FOR PROVIDER USE.
The site is scheduled to go live for provider use on January 1, 2013.

Availability of the data entry site along with a User Guide for Data Submission will be announced on the “Spotlight and Announcements” section of the CMS HQRP site at:

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Spotlight.html>

Frequently Asked Questions:

A Question + Answer document is available for provider download on the CMS HQRP website in the “Spotlight and Announcements” section under “Downloads” at the bottom of the page. This document contains frequently asked questions pertinent to FY 2014 Hospice Quality Reporting. The document will be updated periodically as new questions are received at the Help Desk(s).

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Spotlight.html>

Help Desk Contact Information:

There are two Help Desks to assist hospice providers with quality questions and technical issues:

1. **Quality Help Desk:** for issues pertaining to
 - either of the required measures or
 - reporting requirements, including who is required to report, hospices with multiple locations, and/or CCN issues,

Please call or e-mail the Quality Help Desk at the following:

E-mail: HospiceQualityQuestions@cms.hhs.gov

Phone: 1-800-647-9670 (2 business day call-back service)

Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time

For quickest turnaround time with provider quality questions, please contact the Quality Help Desk by e-mail.

2. **Technical Help Desk:** for technical website/data entry issues including
 - finding the data entry site
 - username/password issues
 - website difficulty/error messages

Please call or e-mail the Technical Help Desk at the following:

E-mail: help@qtso.com

Phone: 1-877-201-4721

Hours: Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Central Time

Section II:

The Structural Measure

Data Submission: January 1 – January 31, 2013



Background

The structural measure is intended to indicate whether hospice providers include indicators specific to patient care quality in their Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) programs. Hospice providers shall provide information on these patient care-related quality indicators (QIs) by selecting which patient care domains and topic areas they use. For the structural measure data submission, hospice providers will answer three questions (Q1 – Q3).

- Q1: First, providers will answer one Yes/No question related to the number of patient care-related quality indicators (QIs) in their QAPI program.
- Q2: Second, providers will indicate the domains of care the QIs in their QAPI program address. Providers will use a checklist-style menu provided on the CMS data entry site to categorize QIs in their QAPI program by domain and topic of care.
 - The checklist on the data entry site was developed by CMS using data and experience from the voluntary reporting period (October 1, 2011 – January 31, 2012), which provided a wealth of information about the state of hospice providers’ QAPI programs and QIs. To make data submission less burdensome for providers, CMS created a simplified web-based data submission checklist-style menu that eliminated free-text descriptions of QIs. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 reporting, hospice providers will use this checklist to enumerate types of QIs included in their QAPI programs.
- Q3: Third, hospice providers will indicate which data sources are used to collect data for QIs in their QAPI program.

Hospice providers will complete and submit their answers to Q1 to Q3 to CMS no later than January 31, 2013. Please note, the primary objective of this structural measure is to provide CMS with the number, type, and data source of all patient care-related QIs in your QAPI program; thus, the terms “data” and “data collection” for structural measure reporting may be a misnomer given that hospice providers will not report any numeric data for this measure.

Hospice providers will only be required to submit information on number, type, and data source of QIs (Q1 – Q3 on the data entry site).

Hospice providers will NOT submit any information about individual QIs nor will they submit numeric data or performance scores to CMS for the structural measure.

Structural Measure Data Collection

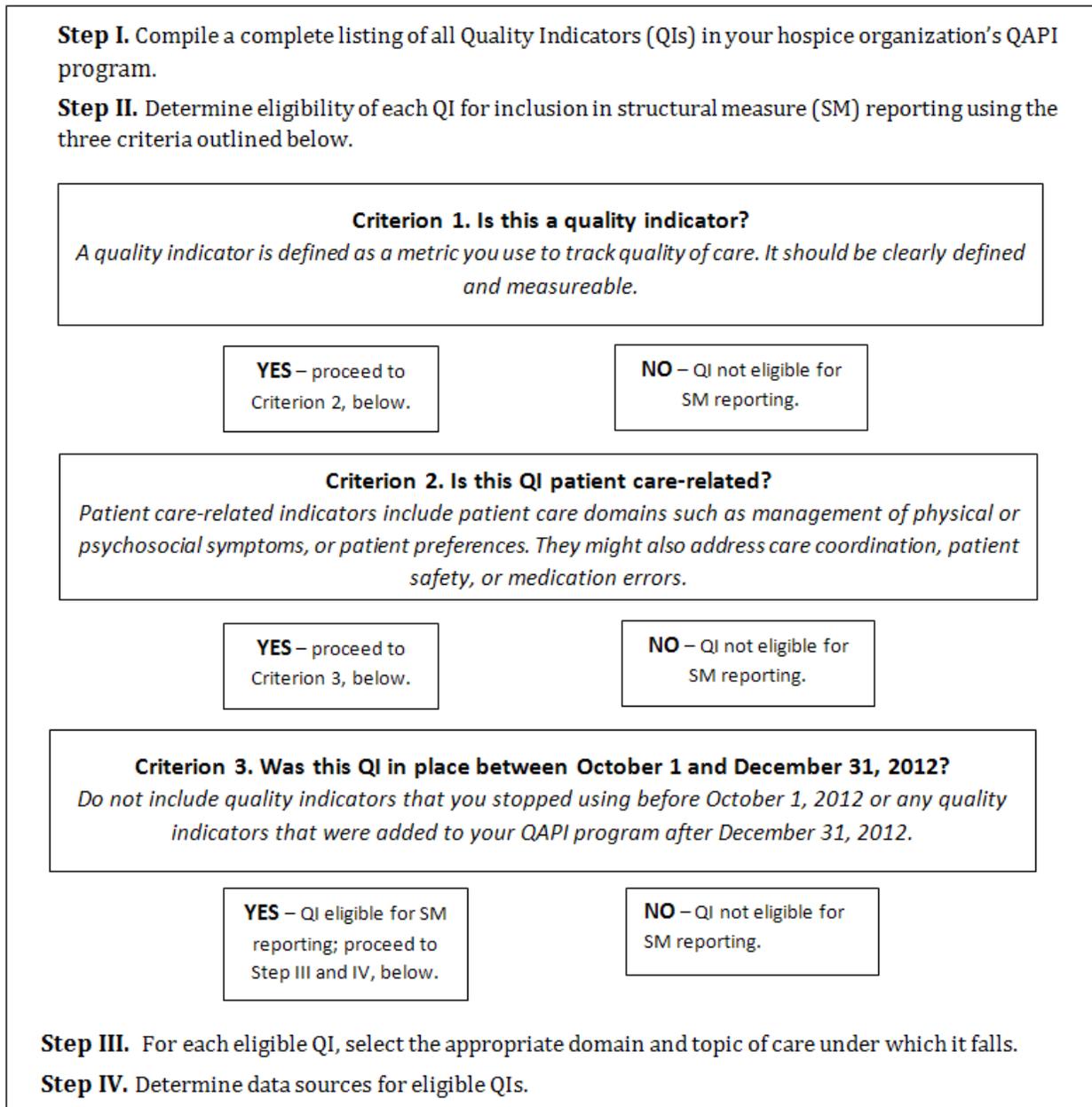
October 1 – December 31, 2012

Data Collection Process. In order to have the necessary information to accurately answer Q1 to Q3, providers will need to use the process outlined in Figure 1 and explained in further detail in the section immediately following it. In general, hospice providers will need to complete the following steps in order to have the necessary data to comply with reporting requirements:

1. Compile a list of all QIs in your QAPI program.
2. Determine whether each QI is eligible for inclusion in structural measure reporting.
3. For each eligible QI, select the appropriate domain and topic of care under which it falls.
4. Determine the data source for each eligible QI.

To facilitate this “data collection” process, hospice providers may complete Appendix A: Structural Measure Worksheet in this User Guide. It is highly recommended that providers complete the Appendix A worksheet; having a completed worksheet will expedite the data submission process once the data entry site goes live on January 1, 2013. *See Figure 1 below for additional details.*

Figure 1. 4-Step Process for Structural Measure Data Collection



Steps I to IV are explained in further detail in the following pages.

Process for Structural Measure Data Collection

In order to have the necessary information to comply with structural measure reporting, it is recommended that hospice providers complete Steps I to IV outlined below. Please note, some of the steps below make use of Appendix A: Structural Measure Worksheet. Providers may wish to have a copy of Appendix A readily available for completion. The Appendix A worksheet is formatted to match Q1 to Q3 as they will appear on the data entry site, **therefore it is highly recommended that providers complete Appendix A prior to data entry site availability to facilitate the data entry process.**

I. Compile a complete listing of all Quality Indicators (QIs) in your hospice organization's QAPI program.

Before hospice providers can begin data submission for the structural measure, each provider will need to know information about all QIs in their QAPI program. Having a complete list of all QIs will facilitate this process.

II. Determine eligibility of each QI for inclusion in structural measure reporting using the three criteria outlined below.

For each QI, hospice providers will need to determine whether the indicator is eligible for inclusion in structural measure reporting. In order to include a QI for structural measure reporting, it must meet three basic criteria, listed and detailed below. **If you answer no to any of the following three questions, the QI should not be included in structural measure reporting.**

Criterion 1. Is this a quality indicator? *If you answer "yes," proceed to Criterion 2, below. If you answer "no," this indicator is not eligible for inclusion in structural measure reporting.*

A quality indicator is defined as a metric used to track quality of care. It should be clearly defined and measureable.

- Example: Patient care goals, such as "all patients will be free of pain" are NOT quality indicators because they are goals, as opposed to clearly defined and measureable indicators. Alternatively, an example of a good quality indicator would be "percent of patients that are screened for pain within 48 hours of admission."

Criterion 2. Is this quality indicator patient care-related? *If you answer "yes," proceed to Criterion 3, below. If you answer "no," this indicator is not eligible for inclusion in structural measure reporting.*

Patient care-related indicators include patient care domains such as management of physical or psychosocial symptoms, or patient preferences. They might also address topics such as care coordination, patient safety, or medication errors.

- Patient care-related quality indicators may address topics such as
 - symptom management (e.g., pain, dyspnea, nausea, anxiety, depression);

- care coordination, such as management of transitions or communication between staff and with other providers;
 - patient safety, such as falls, medication errors, or infections; and
 - care provision in accordance with documented patient/family preferences, such as presence of documentation of advance directives or surrogate decision makers.
- Examples of patient care-related indicators include
 - percent of patients screened for pain during the initial assessment;
 - percent of patients receiving opioids who have a bowel regimen established;
 - percent of respondents who reported they feel confident they know what to do to take care of the patient;
 - percent of respondents who reported that they received enough instruction from the hospice team regarding patient safety;
 - number of medication errors per 1,000 patient days; and
 - number of falls per 1,000 patient days.
 - Organizational or business-related quality indicators are NOT patient care-related. Such indicators include
 - staff turnover rates,
 - patient contact hours,
 - employee training,
 - length of stay/service, and
 - patient primary diagnosis.

These types of indicators are NOT patient care-related and should not be included in structural measure reporting.

For additional information and examples of patient care-related indicators, please see Appendix B.

Criterion 3. Was this quality indicator in place between October 1 and December 31, 2012?

If you answer “yes,” proceed to Step III, below. If you answer “no,” this indicator is not eligible for inclusion in structural measure reporting.

Do not include Quality Indicators that you stopped using before October 1, 2012, or any indicators added to your QAPI program after December 31, 2012. **Please note, an indicator could be “in place” from October 1 – December 31, 2012 but not necessarily calculated during that time frame.** For example, if you have an indicator that you calculate annually at the end of each fiscal year (September 30), that indicator could be “in place” and eligible for structural measure reporting, despite the fact it was not calculated during the reporting period (October 1 – December 31, 2012).

If you answer “yes” to all three preceding criteria, then your quality indicator is eligible for inclusion in structural measure reporting. Hospice providers should tally a total count of all eligible QIs, because this information will be used for structural measure reporting.



Hospice providers should enter the total number of eligible QIs into “Q1 data” in Appendix A and proceed to Step III, below.

III. For each eligible QI, indicate the appropriate domain and topic of care it addresses using Appendix A: Structural Measure Worksheet and/or Appendix B: List of Domains, Subdomains, and Topic of Care with Examples.

Using the checklist provided in the “Q2 data” portion of the Appendix A: Structural Measure Worksheet, providers should indicate the domain/topic of care each eligible QI addresses. The checklist was created based on data received from over 900 hospice providers during the voluntary data submission period and was designed to reflect domains of care included in QAPI programs, as reported by hospice providers. More detailed instructions for completing the “Q2 data” portion of the Appendix A worksheet are provided below.

- Using the “Q2 data” portion of Appendix A, for each eligible QI, first identify the proper domain and/or subdomain of care under which it falls. There are 10 primary domains of care; 3 domains also have subdomains to make navigation of the checklist easier:

Primary Domains of Care	Relevant Subdomains
1. Patient Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infections • Falls • Medication safety • Pressure ulcers/wounds • Oxygen safety • Patient safety or incidents, general • Patient/family ratings of care re: patient safety
2. Physical Symptom Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain • Dyspnea • Nausea • Bowel management • Physical symptoms, other
3. Care Coordination and Transitions	N/A
4. Patient/Family Preferences	N/A
5. Communication/Education	N/A

Primary Domains of Care	Relevant Subdomains
6. Patient/Family Experience/Ratings of Care and/or Services	N/A
7. Spiritual	N/A
8. Structure and Process of Care	N/A
9. Psychosocial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depression • Anxiety • Assessment and management of social support • Assessment and management of psychosocial distress • Other psychosocial
10. Grief, Bereavement, and Emotional Support	N/A

2. Under each domain and/or subdomain of care, there are corresponding topics of care, denoted with a checkbox. Select the appropriate topic of care for each eligible QI.
 - If you are unsure under which domain/topic of care a particular QI falls, please use Appendix B as a reference. It contains a listing of each domain, subdomain, and topic of care, along with relevant examples for each topic. Relevant QI examples for each topic are in italics.
 - Please note, because each checkbox is intended to represent a topic *area* – not specific QIs in your QAPI program – **a single checkmark on the Appendix A worksheet may represent more than one QI**. This means the total number of checkmarks on your worksheet may not correlate directly to the number of QIs in your QAPI program. Please **do not** check off additional topics to make the number of checkmarks on your worksheet directly match the number of QIs in your QAPI program.
 - For example: if you have *1 or more* indicators about pain symptom control/comfort, select the topic box under the pain subdomain labeled “symptom control/comfort.”
 - It is possible you may have more than one indicator for a topic area: for example, if you have more than one indicator about pain control and comfort, check the box next to that topic within the pain subdomain one time.



Before proceeding to Step IV, below, providers should complete the “Q2 Data” portion of Appendix A.

IV. Determine data sources for the eligible QIs in your QAPI program.

After mapping each QI to the checklist, hospice providers will also need to know the data source for their eligible QIs. Data sources include the following:

- Electronic Medical Record (EMR): any computer-based system used to manage a patient’s medical record. Systems may be purchased from EMR vendors or internally developed by providers.
- Paper Medical Record: a paper-based system used to manage a patient’s medical record.
- Family survey/questionnaire: any survey or questionnaire (phone-, paper-, or electronic-based) where the family or caregiver is asked about the hospice care process, including family/caregiver report of the *patient’s* experience of care. Examples of family survey/questionnaires include the Family Evaluation of Hospice Care (FEHC) Survey or other FEHC-like surveys. Family surveys are usually taken after patient discharge.
- Patient survey/questionnaire: any survey/questionnaire (phone-, paper-, or electronic-based) where the patient is asked about his or her experience with the process of care. A requirement for patient surveys is that the *patient* is asked to *self-report* on his/her experience with the care process; any survey or questionnaire given after patient discharge is likely a family/caregiver survey, not a patient survey/questionnaire.
- Incident report/log: any log or report that tracks incidents or occurrences in a hospice organization including, but not limited to, falls, injury, medication errors/adverse events, infections, hospitalizations, and pressure ulcers/wounds. Incident reports/logs can track events involving hospice patients or hospice employees.

Providers will record data sources for their eligible QIs in the “Q3 data” portion of the Appendix A worksheet.

- Please note, when completing the “Q3 data” portion of Appendix A, you are permitted to select more than one data source. Each data source you will include is not intended to correspond to any of your individual QIs. You should select a data source if you use that data source in the calculation of at least one (or even part of one) QI.
 - For example, if the data source for your pain management QIs is an Electronic Medical Record and the source for your falls QI is an incident report or log, you would select the two boxes on the online form for Electronic Medical Record (EMR) and Incident report/log.

If one QI is calculated from two data sources—for example, a pain measure that combines clinical outcome (or pain scores, obtained from an electronic medical record) and patient/family satisfaction with pain management (obtained from family survey/questionnaire)—select both data sources.



Providers should record the data source(s) for their eligible QIs in the “Q3 data” portion of the Appendix A worksheet.

After completing Steps I to IV, outlined above, the Appendix A worksheet will contain all of the information necessary to complete the CMS data entry for the structural measure. Hospice providers should retain the Appendix A worksheet to use during the data entry process.

Please note, the data entry site is not yet available for provider use.

The site is scheduled to go live for provider use on January 1, 2013.

This Guide is intended only to provide hospice providers with details on data *collection* processes for these three questions. A Data Submission User Guide will be made available once the data entry site is available for provider use. Data entry will consist of three questions (Q1 to Q3), outlined in the following pages.

Structural Measure Reporting

Data Submission: January 1 – January 31, 2013

The three questions for structural measure data submission, as they will appear on the data entry site, are outlined below. Providers that used the Appendix A worksheet should have the worksheet available for responding to Q1 to Q3.

THE DATA ENTRY SITE IS NOT YET AVAILABLE FOR PROVIDER USE.

The Data Entry Site is scheduled to go live for provider use on January 1, 2013.

Availability of the data entry site and a User Guide for Data Submission will be announced in the “Spotlight and Announcements” section of the CMS Hospice Quality Reporting Program site at: <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Spotlight.html>

For Hospice Providers with Multiple Locations:

- Hospice providers will report data to CMS on a per-CCN basis.
 - Hospice providers with **multiple locations, sharing one CCN**, should aggregate facility-level data from all locations so the data entered on the CMS data entry site represent data for the single CCN.

Q1: Does your hospice have a Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) program that includes three or more quality indicators (QIs) related to patient care?

1. **Select “yes” or “no” based on the structure and content of your hospice organization's QAPI program.**
 - Answer “Yes” if your hospice organization’s QAPI program included 3 or more patient care-related quality indicators from October 1, 2012, to December 31, 2012.
 - Answer “No” if your hospice organization’s QAPI program included fewer than 3 patient care-related quality indicators during the reporting period October 1, 2012, to December 31, 2012.
 - If you used the Appendix A worksheet, enter the number you recorded in the “Q1 data” section of the worksheet.

Q2: If your hospice’s QAPI program includes at least one patient care-related quality indicator, include each indicator using the form provided below.

1. **Select the appropriate topic box if you have at least one indicator in that topic area.**
 - For example: if you have ***1 or more*** indicators about pain symptom control/comfort, select the topic box under the pain subdomain labeled “symptom control/comfort.”
 - It is possible you may have more than one indicator for a topic area: for example, if you have more than one indicator about pain control and comfort, check the box next to that topic within the pain subdomain one time.

- If you feel that one of your QAPI indicators could fit into more than one topic box, read the explanation and examples in Appendix B to see if one domain “fits” better than another.
 - It does not matter which topic box you use to represent the indicator. To avoid double counting of quality indicators, please choose only one topic box. Do not also enter it under the other domain/topic.

Please note: Because a single selection on the form can represent more than one quality indicator, **the total number of selections on the online form may not directly correspond to the number of quality indicators in your hospice organization’s QAPI program.** Please do not select extra topic boxes to make the number of checkmarks equal the number of quality indicators in your hospice organization’s QAPI program.

- This list should reflect your QAPI indicators from October 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012.
 - Do NOT include quality indicators that you stopped using before October 1, 2012, or any quality indicators that became part of your QAPI program after December 31, 2012.

If you used the Appendix A worksheet, use the checklist you completed in the “Q2 data” portion of the worksheet to complete Q2 on the data entry site.

Q3: Please indicate the data source(s) for your QAPI indicators. Check all that apply.

1. If you entered any indicators into the checklist in Q2, select any data sources used to calculate your hospice organization’s patient care-related quality indicators. Choices for data sources include the following:

- Electronic Medical Record (EMR)
- Paper medical record
- Family survey/questionnaire
- Patient survey/questionnaire
- Incident report/log

For Q3 you are permitted to select more than one answer. Please note, the answers you will include in Q3 are not intended to correspond to any of your *individual* QAPI indicators. You should select a data source if you use that data source in the calculation of at least one (or even part of one) QAPI indicator.

If you completed the Appendix A worksheet, use the completed checklist in the “Q3 data” portion of the worksheet to complete Q3 on the data entry site.

Section III:

NQF #0209 – Pain Measure

Data Collection: October 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012

Data Submission: January 1, 2013 – April 1, 2013



Background

The NQF #0209 Pain Measure was re-endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF) in February 2012. It measures the percentage of patients who report being uncomfortable because of pain at the initial assessment (after admission to hospice) who report that pain was brought to a comfortable level within 48 hours. By implementing this measure, hospice providers are able to determine what percentage of their patient population is admitted with pain and how well that pain is managed in the early days of hospice care. This measure is particularly significant to hospice care as it addresses a basic aspect of hospice practice—pain management—and ensures integration of patient choice for desired level of treatment with the care process by incorporating the patient’s own pain goals and perception of his or her own degree of comfort. Because the measure incorporates both patient preference and measure outcomes, it is useful and meaningful for consumers, providers, and payers.



Please review the information provided in this User Guide despite familiarity with the measure. **CMS reporting requirements for the NQF #0209 Measure differ from measure steward reporting processes; thus all providers should review this guide in order to comply with CMS requirements.**

For measure specifications and details, please visit NQF:

<http://www.qualityforum.org/MeasureDetails.aspx?actid=0&SubmissionId=457#k=0209>. Additional details about how to use/implement this measure are available from the measure steward, National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO):

<http://www.nhpco.org/i4a/pages/Index.cfm?pageID=3376>.

Implementing the NQF #0209 Pain Measure in Your Hospice Organization

Data Collection: October 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012

In order to submit data for the NQF #0209 Pain Measure for the purposes of the CMS Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP), hospice providers will generate and record NQF #0209 Measure data on *all admissions* from October 1 to December 31, 2012 (fourth quarter of 2012). Details on the data that are required for collection in order to comply with CMS specifications are outlined later in this section, beginning with “Step One: Generate.”

After the data collection period ends on December 31, 2012, the data submission phase will begin. The NQF #0209 data submission phase will be January 1, 2013, to April 1, 2013. During this time, hospice providers will retrieve all of their NQF #0209 data that were collected during the fourth quarter of 2012, aggregate them, and report the seven data elements to CMS no later than April 1, 2013. The seven data elements are discussed later in this section, in NQF #0209 Measure Reporting.

As previously stated, the NQF #0209 Pain Measure calculates the percentage of patients who report being uncomfortable because of pain at the initial assessment (after admission to hospice services) who report that pain was brought to a comfortable level within 48 hours. Data for the measure are generated by asking patients two comfort questions:

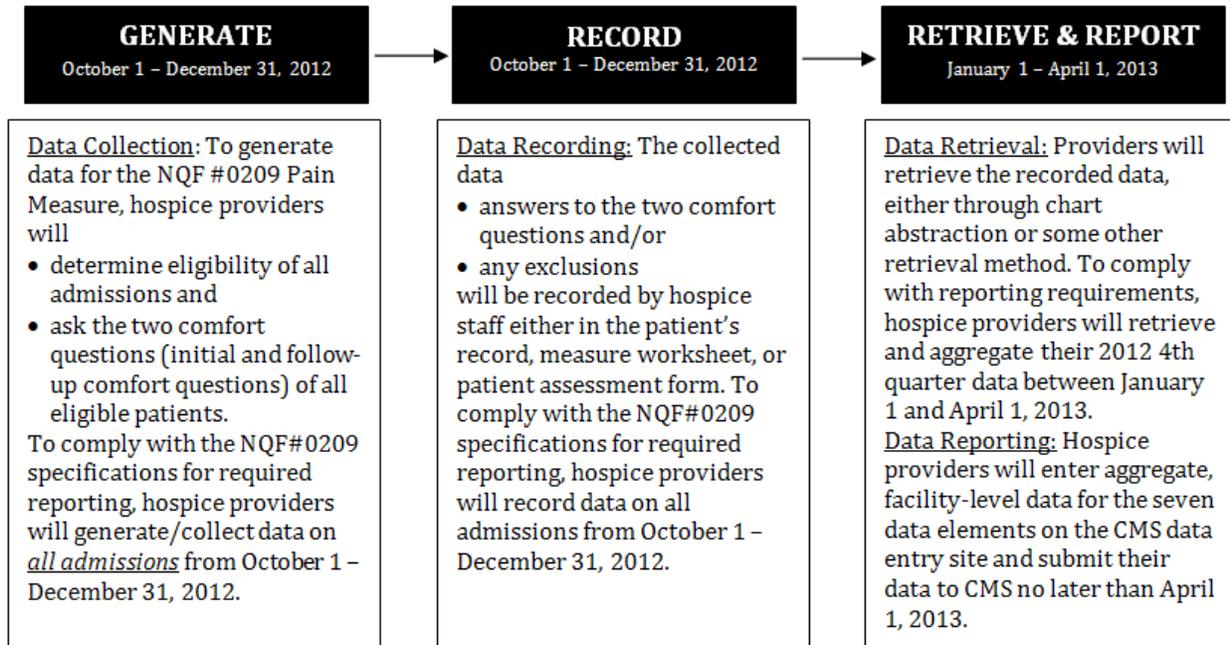
- The initial comfort question “Are you uncomfortable because of pain?” is asked at the time of initial assessment
- The follow-up comfort question “Was your pain brought to a comfortable level within 48 hours of the start of hospice care?” is asked within 48 to 72 hours after initial pain assessment.

To comply with CMS requirements, these two questions will be asked (and responses documented) for all admissions from October 1 to December 31, 2012.

Measure Implementation. In order to have the necessary data elements to calculate the measure and comply with reporting requirements, hospice providers will need to implement the measure using the three broad steps outlined in Figure 2 below. The steps are

- **Generate:** collecting the necessary data
- **Record:** recording collected data
- **Retrieve and Report:** retrieving collected data, aggregating it, and submitting to CMS

Figure 2. Steps for implementing the NQF #0209 Pain Measure



Detailed instructions for how to fully complete each of the three implementation steps (Generate, Record, and Retrieve & Report) are outlined in the following pages.

Step 1. Generate: *Collecting the data* **October 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012**

In order for hospice providers to generate the necessary data and comply with CMS reporting requirements, providers should complete the following steps (Steps 1 to 3, below) for each admission, October 1 to December 31, 2012. Please note, **in addition to following the steps outlined below, hospice providers will also need to know the total number of admissions from October 1 to December 31, 2012**, in order to comply with reporting requirements.

Which patients are eligible for NQF #0209 measure reporting?

For the purposes of CMS NQF #0209 reporting, **“all admissions” is defined as** “all patients who are new to your hospice or readmitted to your hospice after an interruption in service provision from October 1 – December 26*, 2012.” Any patient that fits the above definition of a “new” admission should be considered for inclusion in the NQF #0209 measure. Patients who are transferred from another hospice provider to your hospice organization should also be considered for inclusion in the measure.

Additionally, **all payers** (Medicare, Medicaid, and private payers) are eligible for measure reporting, as are **all hospice settings** (inpatient, home care, and nursing home hospice patients).

*Please note: in order to allow providers the full window to ask the follow-up comfort question by then end of the data collection period (11:59 PM on December 31, 2012), a patient must be *admitted* no later than 11:59 PM on December 26, 2012 to be included in NQF #0209 Measure Reporting for this reporting period.

To generate the necessary data for NQF #0209 measure reporting, hospice providers should collect measure data using the following steps:

1. ***Determine NQF #0209 measure eligibility.*** At the initial nursing assessment, determine whether patient is eligible for measure inclusion by answering the following questions:

- Is the patient able to communicate and understand the language of the person asking the question?
 - Please note, if a qualified interpreter is being used and the patient is able to relay his or her answer to the comfort question(s) through the interpreter, this is enough to surmount the language barrier and the patient *should* be included in the measure if the following two conditions are met.
- Is the patient able to self-report?
- Is the patient 18 years of age or older?

If you answer “no” to any of the three preceding questions, the patient should not be included in the measure.

2. ***Ask the initial comfort question.*** If you answered “yes” to all three preceding questions, at the initial nursing assessment, *prior* to pain assessment and initiation of any interventions, ask the question “Are you uncomfortable because of pain?”

- This question will generate the data that will be included in the measure denominator.

- Remember: you cannot interpret a patient’s nonverbal response based on observation or use the response of any other person such as a staff or family member (excluding the use of qualified interpreters) to substitute as a self-report answer to this question.
 - This question should be asked during the initial nursing assessment and it is this question that will trigger the 48-hour comfort “countdown.” **In other words, the 48-hour time frame for the measure should reflect the 48-hour period following the initial nursing assessment, not the admission to hospice, if these two events occurred at different times.**
3. **Ask the follow-up comfort question.** After asking the initial comfort question, contact the patient 48 to 72 hours after initial pain assessment and ask the follow-up question “Was your pain brought to a comfortable level within 48 hours?”
- This question will generate the data that will be included in the measure numerator (the top portion of the fraction).
 - **Please note: this question will only be asked of patients who answered “yes” to the initial comfort question. If a patient was originally excluded from the measure or answered “no” to the initial comfort question, do not ask the follow-up question for the measure.**
 - As above, you cannot interpret a patient’s nonverbal response or use the response of any other person as a substitute for patient self-report (excluding the use of qualified interpreters).
 - If at the time you ask the follow-up question, the patient is no longer able to self-report, document the reason; these patients will be excluded from the numerator. Reasons include
 - Discharge (live or due to death)
 - Condition deteriorated—patient no longer able to communicate/self-report
 - Other (with explanation)
 - Hospice providers must contact the patient at some point between 48 to 72 hours after the initial assessment to ask the follow-up question.
 - The follow-up question cannot be asked earlier than 48 hours after the initial assessment
 - Hospices should make every effort to contact the patient sometime between 48 and 72 hours after the initial pain assessment to ask the measure follow-up question. At times it may not be possible to contact the patient within the 48–72-hour time frame (e.g., the patient is sleeping and the family caregiver asks that the hospice call back later). Therefore, the 48–72 hour time frame can be defined as 2–3 days. Given this time frame, hospices should ask patients the follow-up question by midnight of the third day. So, the follow-up question could be asked anytime on the third day (i.e., time frame for including patient response in the measure does not “close” at 3 pm of the third day, but extends to midnight of the third day).

To be able to have the necessary data to comply with the CMS requirement, hospice providers should complete “*Data Generation*” steps 1 to 3 on all admissions from October 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012. If you are already using the NQF #0209 Pain Measure in your QAPI program, verify that your data collection process is in compliance with CMS #0209 Measure reporting requirements to submit your aggregate, facility-level fourth-quarter seven data elements (specified in the *Retrieving and Reporting the data* section below) to CMS.

Some Important Notes and Frequently Asked Questions for Generating NQF #0209 Data:

Data collection for the NQF #0209 Measure is to be based *only* on the measure specifications set forth above.

- Hospice providers can exclude patients from the measure only for reasons set forth in the measure specifications. These reasons are as follows: denominator exclusions—language barrier, unable to self-report, less than 18 years of age; numerator exclusions—discharge (live or due to death), condition deterioration/patient no longer able to communicate/self-report, other with explanation.
 - **A hospice provider cannot exclude a patient from the measure for reasons such as these:**
 - Patient states he/she is uncomfortable because of pain, but refuses intervention.
 - Patient states he/she is uncomfortable because of chronic pain (pain he/she may have had for years before admission to hospice), not terminal pain (pain related to terminal illness/diagnosis).
 - Patient diagnosis.
- The NQF #0209 Pain Measure is not a substitute for good pain management practices/protocols. Measure specifications should not dictate how a hospice provider manages a patient’s pain.
 - **The follow-up comfort question should not be asked prior to 48 hours.**
 - A hospice provider may follow up with a patient before the 48- to 72-hour mark; this is good pain management practice, but whatever questions the hospice provider asks of the patient at these interim follow-ups and any data recorded at these interim follow-ups should not be included in measure calculation.

Step 2. Record: Recording the data ***October 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012***

Concurrent with data collection/generation, hospice providers will need to document or record their data. Providers should document the answers to initial and follow-up comfort questions and/or any exclusions in the patient chart, measure worksheet, or initial assessment form. Recording the data will occur in two main steps (see below). For CMS measure reporting, data recording should take place on all admissions from October 1 to December 31, 2012.

1. Record the denominator.

- Document patient response to question “Are you uncomfortable because of pain?” OR

- Document reason for not meeting eligibility requirements—these patients will be denominator-based exclusions and will not be eligible for inclusion in the measure at all. Reasons for not meeting eligibility requirements are as follows:
 - Unable to self-report
 - Less than 18 years of age
 - Language barrier
- Providers must record either patient response to the initial question OR the reason for not meeting eligibility requirements; otherwise, data for that patient will be considered “missing” and will not count towards any of the seven data elements

2. ***Record the numerator.***

- Document patient response to question “Was your pain brought to a comfortable level within 48 hours?” OR
- Document reason for inability to self-report—these patients will be numerator-based exclusions. Reasons include the following:
 - Discharge (live or due to death)
 - Condition deteriorated/no longer able to communicate
 - Other (with explanation)
- Providers must record either patient response to the follow-up question OR the reason for inability to self-report; otherwise, data for that patient will be considered “missing” and will not count towards any of the seven data elements

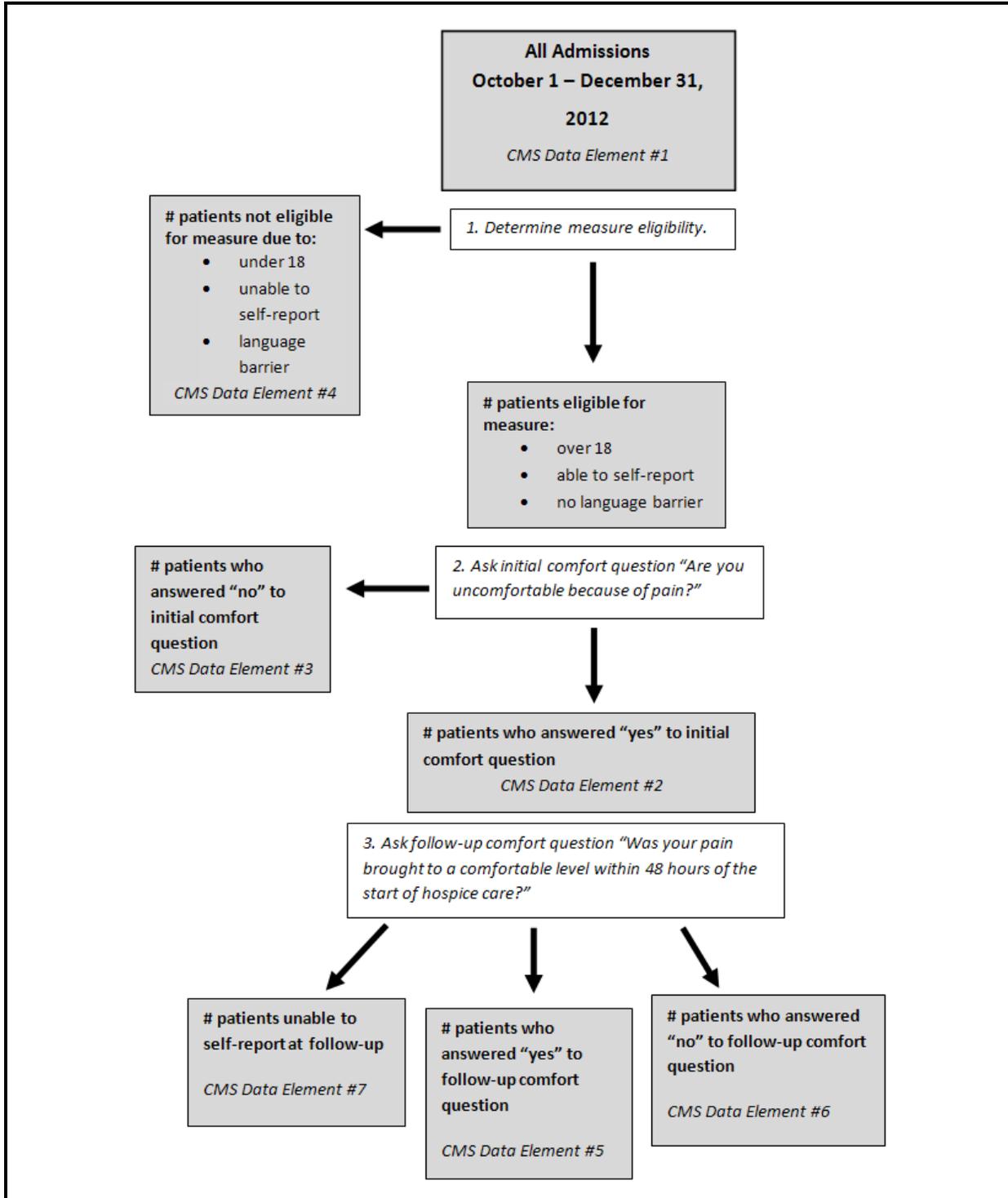
In order to have the necessary data to comply with the CMS requirements for NQF #0209 data submission, hospice providers should record these data on *all* admissions from October 1, 2012, to December 31, 2012.

Step 3. Retrieve and Report: Aggregating and submitting the data
January 1, 2013 – April 1, 2013

After the measure implementation and data collection phase ends on December 31, 2012, hospice providers will enter the reporting and submission phase, which spans January 1, 2013 to April 1, 2013. During this time, hospice providers will retrieve data collected in the fourth quarter of 2012, aggregate them, and submit the seven data elements to CMS no later than April 1, 2013. Hospice providers will submit seven pieces (elements) of numerical data to CMS for the NQF #0209 Pain Measure. CMS will use these elements to calculate the NQF #0209 measure. Please note, hospice providers will not submit the actual NQF #0209 Pain Measure percentage/hospice score. Although hospice providers can and should calculate this percentage on their own for internal quality improvement purposes, the actual final score will not be submitted by hospice providers to CMS. The hospice-level NQF #0209 score will be automatically calculated for each hospice provider on the NQF #0209 CMS data entry site web page.

Figure 3, below, details which questions in the data collection process correspond to the seven CMS data elements. The seven data elements and how they will appear for submission on the CMS data entry site are detailed in the pages following Figure 3.

Figure 3. NQF #0209 Data Collection Process



NQF #0209 Measure Reporting

Data Submission January 1 – April 1, 2013

The seven data elements for NQF #0209 data submission, as they will appear on the data entry site, are outlined beginning on the next page. Please see below for some important notes about NQF #0209 data submission.

For Hospices Already Collecting the NQF #0209 Pain Measure Prior to October 1, 2012:

- Please report the measure only as it is specified by NQF. If your hospice organization modifies the measure in any way for internal purposes, including but not limited to
 - collecting the measure on all patients, regardless of age or ability to self-report
 - asking the follow-up comfort question outside of the 48- to 72-hour window,
- please remember to collect data so that you can report the seven data elements to CMS as they are specified above.
- Please note, if you already submit NQF #0209 Pain Measure data to NHPCO, you must also submit the seven reportable elements to CMS. NHPCO does not submit the seven elements to CMS on your behalf. Hospice providers may choose to submit their NQF #0209 data to both NHPCO and CMS.

For Hospice Providers with Multiple Locations:

- **Hospice providers will report data to CMS on a per-CCN basis.**
 - Hospice providers with **multiple locations, sharing one CCN**, should aggregate facility-level data from all locations so the data entered on the CMS data entry site represent data for the single CCN.

THE DATA ENTRY SITE IS NOT YET AVAILABLE FOR PROVIDER USE.

The Data Entry Site is scheduled to go live for provider use on January 1, 2013.

Availability of the data entry site and a User Guide for Data Submission will be announced in the “Spotlight and Announcements” section of the CMS Hospice Quality Reporting Program site at:

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Spotlight.html>

To facilitate the NQF #0209 data entry/submission process, providers may wish to complete Appendix C: NQF #0209 Data Submission Worksheet. The Appendix C worksheet is formatted to match Data Elements 1 – 7 as they will appear on the Data Entry Website. Therefore, it is highly recommended that providers complete Appendix C prior to Data Entry Site availability to facilitate the data entry process. Providers may wish to have a copy of Appendix C available for completion.

In order to allow providers the full window to ask the follow-up comfort question by then end of the data collection period (11:59 PM on December 31, 2012), a patient must be *admitted* no later than 11:59 PM on December 26, 2012 to be included in NQF #0209 Measure Reporting for this reporting period.

Data Element 1.

Enter the number of admissions during the data collection period (October 1, 2012 through December 26, 2012)

- Hospice providers should enter the total number of admissions from October 1 to December 26, 2012.
- Providers should answer Data Elements 2-7 based on the patients included in the total number of admissions for Data Element 1.

Data Element 2.

Pain Measure Denominator: Enter the number of patients who answered YES to the question “Are you uncomfortable because of pain?” at the initial assessment (after admission to hospice services) during the data collection period .

- Include only the number of “yes” responses you generated and recorded in your patient records, initial assessment forms, or on measure worksheets

Data Element 3.

Enter the number of patients who answered NO to the question “Are you uncomfortable because of pain?” at initial assessment (after admission to hospice services) during the data collection period

- Include only the number of “no” responses you generated and recorded in your patient records or on measure worksheets

Data Element 4.

Enter the number of patients excluded.

- This data element is the number of patients who were determined ineligible for the measure (or denominator/entire measure exclusions) at the initial nursing assessment because they were
 - less than 18 years of age
 - unable to self-report
 - there was a language barrier
- Data Element 4 counts should include only patients for whom data about age, self-report, or language barrier were recorded.
- Include only the number of exclusions you generated and recorded in your patient records or on measure worksheets.

Missing data for Data Elements 2, 3, or 4:

- If no recorded documentation (“recorded documentation” including **only** a Yes/No answer to the initial comfort question **OR** a documented reason that the patient was ineligible for the measure) can be found, data for this patient are considered “missing.” Patients with “missing data” will not be reported to CMS; these patients should not be counted towards Data Elements 2, 3, and/or 4.
 - NOTE: Hospice organizations are encouraged to record missing data for internal quality improvement purposes

Data Element 5.

Pain Measure Numerator: Enter the number of patients who answered YES to the follow-up question “Was your pain brought to a comfortable level within 48 hours of the start of hospice care?” during the data collection period.

- Only include the number of “Yes” responses you generated and recorded in your patient records or on measure worksheets.

Data Element 6.

Enter the number of patients who answered NO to the follow-up question “Was your pain brought to a comfortable level within 48 hours of the start of hospice care?” during the data collection period.

- Include only the number of “no” responses you generated and recorded in your patient records or on measure worksheets.

Data Element 7.

Enter the number of patients unable to self-report at follow-up.

- This number will match the number of patients who were unable to self-report at follow-up (or numerator exclusions) because they were
 - discharged (live or due to death)
 - condition deteriorated and patient is no longer able to communicate
 - other (with explanation)
- Data Element 7 counts should include only patients for whom data about inability to self-report at follow-up (due to discharge, condition deterioration, or other with explanation) were recorded.
- Include only the number of responses you generated and recorded in your patient records or on measure worksheets.

Missing data for Data Elements 5, 6, and 7:

- If no recorded documentation (“recorded documentation” including **only** a Yes/No answer to the follow-up comfort question **OR** a documented reason why the patient was unable to self-report at follow-up) can be found, data for this patient are considered “missing.” Patients with “missing data” will not be reported to CMS; these patients should be counted towards Data Elements 5, 6, and/or 7.
 - NOTE: Hospice providers are encouraged to record missing data for internal quality improvement purposes.

Please note, only the seven data elements above are to be submitted to CMS for the NQF #0209 Pain Measure. Your score will be automatically calculated for you and displayed based on the data you enter into the website. Please feel free to write down your hospice organization's facility-level Pain Measure score for use in internal quality improvement initiatives. The NQF #0209 Measure facility-level score that will be displayed on the data entry site is calculated using the following fraction (Figure 4, below).

Figure 4. Fraction used in NQF#0209 Measure Calculation

<p style="text-align: center;">Numerator: Number of patients who replied "yes" when asked if their pain was brought to a comfortable level within 48 hours of initial assessment (follow-up question)</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Denominator: Patients who replied "yes" when asked if they were uncomfortable because of pain at the initial assessment (after admission to hospice services)</p>
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Section IV:
Appendices



Appendix A: Structural Measure Worksheet

Q1 Data:

Q1: Does your hospice have a Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) program that includes *three or more* quality indicators (QIs) related to patient care?

Enter the total number of eligible QIs in your QAPI program here:

_____.

This number will be used to answer Q1 on the structural measure portion of the data entry website.

Q2 Data:

Q2: If your hospice's QAPI program includes at least one patient care-related quality indicator, include each indicator using the form provided below.

Use the checklist, below, to indicate under which domain/topic of care each eligible QI falls. If you are unsure under which domain/topic of care a particular QI falls, please use Appendix B as a reference. Appendix B contains a listing of each domain, subdomain, and topic, including relevant examples. Relevant QI examples for each topic are in italics.

The completed checklist will be used to answer Q2 on the structural measure portion of the data entry site. The checklist below is structured exactly as it will appear on the data entry site.

Checklist of Quality Indicator Domains, Subdomains, and Topics

Domain 1: Patient Safety

Subdomain 1: Infections

Topics:

- Infections – incidence/prevalence
- Infections -treatment
- Infections - other

Subdomain 2: Falls

Topics:

- Falls – incidence/prevalence
- Falls – risk screening/assessment
- Falls – interventions
- Falls prevention education
- Falls – patient/family ratings
- Falls - Other

Subdomain 3: Medication Safety

Topics:

- Medication Error – incidence
- Medication Adverse Events – incidence
- Medication reconciliation and/or comprehensive medication review

- Medication patient/family education
- Medication patient/family ratings
- Medication - other

Subdomain 4: Pressure Ulcers/Wounds

Topics:

- Pressure ulcers/wounds incidence/prevalence
- Pressure ulcers – screening/risk assessment
- Pressure ulcers prevention/intervention
- Pressure ulcers/wounds - other

Subdomain 5: Oxygen Safety

Topics:

- Oxygen Safety – risk assessment
- Oxygen Safety – patient/family education
- Oxygen Safety - other

Subdomain 6: Patient Safety or Incidents – general

Topics:

- Tracking Incidents – broadly
- Safety assessment/family education/interventions

Subdomain 7: Patient/Family Ratings of Care Regarding Patient Safety

Topics:

- Patient/family ratings of patient safety
- Patient/family ratings of instruction education about patient

Domain 2: Physical Symptom Management

Subdomain 1: Pain

Topics:

- Screening
- Assessment
- Interventions/treatment
- Symptom control/comfort
- Management/control/comfort in last 1-2 weeks of life
- Patient/family education
- Patient/family experience/ratings of care

Subdomain 2: Dyspnea

Topics:

- Screening
- Assessment
- Interventions/treatment
- Symptom control/comfort
- Management/control/comfort in last 1-2 weeks of life
- Patient/family education
- Patient/family experience/ratings of care

Subdomain 3: Nausea

Topics:

- Screening
- Assessment
- Interventions/treatment
- Symptom Control/comfort

- Management/control/comfort in last 1-2 weeks of life
- Patient/family education
- Patient/family experience/ratings of care

Subdomain 4: Bowel management

Topics:

- Screening
- Assessment
- Interventions/treatment
- Symptom Control/comfort
- Management/control/comfort in last 1-2 weeks of life
- Patient/family education
- Patient/family experience/ratings of care

Subdomain 5: Physical Symptoms – Other

Topics:

- Other

Domain 3: Care Coordination and transitions

Topics :

- Care coordination among hospice care professionals
- Care coordination between hospice and other professional care providers or settings
- Transitions to other care settings
- Transitions from other care settings
- Family ratings of care coordination/transitions
- Care coordination/transitions - other

Domain 4: Patient/family preferences

Topics:

- Advance Directives/surrogate designation
- Documenting patient/family preferences and goals of care
- Meeting patient/family preferences and goals of care

Domain 5: Communication and Education

Topics:

- Communication with patient/family regarding hospice care broadly
- Family ratings of communication
- Family education/communication about the dying process
- Family/caregiver confidence
- Family education about managing symptoms
- Family education about equipment use
- Family education about safety
- Family education about Advance Directives/surrogate designation

Domain 6: Patient/Family Experience/Ratings of Care and/or Services

Topics:

- Overall ratings/willingness to recommend
- Patient personal care needs met
- Respectful treatment
- Improved comfort/well-being/quality of life
- Evening/weekend on-call service
- Volunteer Services
- Family ratings of disciplines providing care

Domain 7: Spiritual

Topics:

- Screening/assessment/management of spiritual needs/issues
- Patient/family experience/ratings of spiritual care
- Spiritual care – other

Domain 8: Psychosocial

Subdomain 1: Depression

Topics:

- Depression screening
- Depression assessment
- Depression interventions/treatment
- Symptom control/comfort
- Depression management/control/comfort in last 1-2 weeks of life
- Patient/family education
- Patient/family experience/ratings of care

Subdomain 2: Anxiety

Topics:

- Anxiety screening
- Anxiety assessment
- Anxiety treatment/intervention
- Symptom control/comfort
- Anxiety management/control/comfort in last 1-2 weeks of life
- Patient/family education
- Anxiety patient/family experience/ratings of care

Subdomain 3: Assessment and management of social support

Topics:

- Assessment and management of social support

Subdomain 4: Assessment and management of psychosocial distress

Topics:

- Assessment and management of psychosocial distress

Subdomain 5: Other psychosocial

Topics:

- Other psychosocial

Domain 9: Structure and Process of Care

Topics:

- Visit frequency
- Volunteer services
- Other structures and processes of care

Domain 10: Grief, Bereavement, and Emotional Support

Topics:

- Grief and bereavement assessment and care
- Emotional care for patient/family before and/or at time of death
- Emotional care for family after the death
- Culturally sensitive caregiving

Q3 Data:

Q3: Please indicate the data source(s) for your QAPI indicators. Check all that apply.

Use the data source checklist below to indicate the data sources used to collect eligible QIs in your organization's QAPI program. Providers may wish to use the instructions on pages 16-17 of the Guide to facilitate completion of the data sources checklist.

- *The completed data source checklist will be used to answer Q3 on the structural measure portion of the data entry site.*

Data Source Checklist

(Check all that apply.)

- Electronic Medical Record (EMR)
- Paper medical record
- Family survey/questionnaire
- Patient survey/questionnaire
- Incident report/log

Appendix B: List of Quality Indicator Domains, Subdomains, and Topics with Examples

Providers may use this checklist as a reference for completing the “Q2 Data” portion of the Appendix A worksheet.

Domain 1: Patient Safety

Sub-domain 1: Infections

Topics:

- Infections – incidence/prevalence*
Example: Includes Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI), Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection (CLABSI), Urinary Tract Infection (UTI), nosocomial infections, employee infection surveillance, vascular device infections, wound/pressure ulcer infections.
- Infections – treatment
Example: Includes indicators that track use of antibiotics, and other aspects of appropriate management of infections.
- Infections – other

Subdomain 2: Falls

Topics:

- Falls – incidence/prevalence
Example: Indicators tracking number of falls (e.g., falls with injury per 1,000 patient days).
- Falls – risk screening/assessment
Example: Percent of patients with falls risk screening or comprehensive falls assessment.
- Falls – interventions
Example: Percent of patients with plan of care (POC) that includes interventions to mitigate falls risk.
- Falls prevention education
Example: Indicators tracking falls prevention education for patient/family/caregivers.
- Falls – patient/family ratings
Example: Indicators that capture ratings of safety related to falls.
- Falls – Other

Subdomain 3: Medication Safety

Topics:

- Medication error – incidence
Example: Indicators tracking number of medication errors/variances (e.g., medication errors per 1,000 patient days).
- Medication adverse events – incidence
Example: Indicators tracking number of adverse events (e.g., adverse drug reactions).
- Medication reconciliation and/or comprehensive medication review
Example: Indicators tracking medication reconciliation/medication review processes of care (e.g., percent of patients who had a comprehensive medication review on admission as well as time of recertification).
- Medication – patient/family education
Example: Indicators tracking patient/family education re: safe administration of medications, general review of the medication regimen, use of comfort pack, proper disposal of medications.

- Medication patient/family ratings
Example: Indicators tracking patient /family ratings of pharmacy, pharmacy team, timeliness of meds, etc.
- Medication – other

Subdomain 4: Pressure Ulcers/Wounds

Topics:

- Pressure ulcers/wounds – incidence/prevalence
Example: Indicators tracking the number of wounds and/or pressure ulcers (e.g., potentially avoidable event: wounds per 1,000 patient days).
- Pressure ulcers – screening/risk assessment
Example: Patients who were screened for integumentary risk factors.
- Pressure ulcers prevention/intervention
Example: Percentage of admissions in which the plan of care includes pressure ulcer prevention intervention.
- Pressure ulcers/wounds – other

Subdomain 5: Oxygen Safety

Topics:

- Oxygen safety – risk assessment
Example: Indicators tracking the completion of fire hazard/oxygen safety risk screening or assessment.
- Oxygen safety – patient/family education
Example: Indicators tracking patient/family education re: safe use of oxygen equipment in the home, risk reduction, etc.
- Oxygen safety – other

Subdomain 6: Patient Safety or Incidents – General

Topics:

- Tracking incidents – broadly
Example: Indicators tracking patient safety and other incidents (e.g., PEACE measure tracking various incidents per 100 patient days: falls, complaints, Durable Medical Equipment (DME) issues, medication errors) not covered under other topics above.
- Safety assessment/family education/interventions
Example: Indicators tracking completion of screenings/assessments/education and other interventions aimed at improving safety (e.g., percent of patients with comprehensive safety assessment) not covered under other topics above.

Subdomain 7: Patient/Family Ratings of Care Regarding Patient Safety

Topics:

- Patient/family ratings of patient safety
Example: Family rating on how well hospice improved the overall safety of the patient.
- Patient/family ratings of instruction education about patient
Example: Percentage of families who reported that they received enough instruction from the hospice team regarding patient safety.

Domain 2: Physical Symptom Management

Subdomain 1: Pain

Topics:

- Screening
Example: Screening for presence/absence and/or severity of symptom.

- Assessment
Example: Comprehensive assessment of symptom; includes assessment of patient preferences/goals re: management of the symptom.
- Interventions/treatment
Example: Indicators tracking the initiation of treatment (e.g., interventions started within certain timeframe of screening or assessment) or other aspects of treatment and interventions to relieve symptom.
- Symptom control/comfort
Example: Indicators of improvement in the symptom following intervention (e.g., indicators of symptom control, comfort).
- Management/control/comfort in last 1-2 weeks of life
Example: Indicators of level of symptoms and management in the last 1-2 weeks of life.
- Patient/family education
Example: Indicators related to completing patient/family education related to symptom management. Does not include patient/family ratings of education.
- Patient/family experience/ratings of care
Example: Indicators of patient and/or family ratings of amount of care, quality of care, amount of relief from symptoms.

Subdomain 2: Dyspnea

Topics:

- Screening
Example: Screening for presence/absence and/or severity of symptom.
- Assessment
Example: Comprehensive assessment of symptom; includes assessment of patient preferences/goals re: management of the symptom.
- Interventions/treatment
Example: Indicators tracking the initiation of treatment (e.g., interventions started within certain timeframe of screening or assessment) or other aspects of treatment and interventions to relieve symptom.
- Symptom control/comfort
Example: Indicators of improvement in the symptom following intervention (e.g., indicators of symptom control, comfort).
- Management/control/comfort in last 1-2 weeks of life
Example: Indicators of level of symptoms and management in the last 1-2 weeks of life.
- Patient/family education
Example: Indicators related to completing patient/family education related to symptom management. Does not include patient/family ratings of education.
- Patient/family experience/ratings of care
Example: Indicators of patient and/or family ratings of amount of care, quality of care, amount of relief from symptoms, adequacy of education provided.

Subdomain 3: Nausea

Topics:

- Screening
Example: Screening for presence/absence and/or severity of symptom.
- Assessment
Example: Comprehensive assessment of symptom; includes assessment of patient preferences/goals re: management of the symptom.
- Interventions/treatment

Example: Indicators tracking the initiation of treatment (e.g., interventions started within certain timeframe of screening or assessment) or other aspects of treatment and interventions to relieve symptom.

- Symptom control/comfort
Example: Indicators of improvement in the symptom following intervention (e.g., indicators of symptom control, comfort).
- Management/control/comfort in last 1-2 weeks of life
Example: Indicators of level of symptoms and management in the last 1-2 weeks of life.
- Patient/family education
Example: Indicators related to completing patient/family education related to symptom management. Does not include patient/family ratings of education.
- Patient/family experience/ratings of care
Example: Indicators of patient and/or family ratings of amount of care, quality of care, amount of relief from symptoms, adequacy of education provided.

Subdomain 4: Bowel Management

Topics:

- Screening
Example: Screening for presence/absence and/or severity of symptoms including constipation, diarrhea, constipation in the presence of opioids.
- Assessment
Example: Comprehensive assessment of symptom; includes assessment of patient preferences/goals re: management of the symptom. Includes indicators tracking of bowel movement frequency.
- Interventions/treatment for patients on opioids
Example: Indicators tracking the initiation of treatment (e.g., interventions started within certain timeframe of screening or assessment) or other aspects of treatment and interventions to relieve symptom (e.g., bowel regimen initiated for patients receiving opioids).
- Interventions/treatment for patients NOT on opioids
Example: Indicators tracking the initiation of treatment (e.g., interventions started within certain timeframe of screening or assessment) or other aspects of treatment and interventions to relieve symptom for patients NOT on opioids.
- Symptom control/comfort
Example: Indicators of improvement in the symptom following intervention (e.g., indicators of symptom control, comfort).
- Management/control/comfort in last 1-2 weeks of life
Example: Indicators of level of symptoms and management in the last 1-2 weeks of life.
- Patient/family education
Example: Indicators related to completing patient/family education related to symptom management. Does not include patient/family ratings of education.
- Patient/family experience/ratings of care
Example: Indicators of patient and/or family ratings of amount of care, quality of care, amount of relief from symptoms, adequacy of education provided.

Subdomain 5: Physical Symptoms – Other

Topics:

- Other
Example: Indicators related to screening, assessment, interventions/treatment and management/control/comfort of other physical symptoms not covered elsewhere (for example, wounds, dietary/nutrition/weight, fatigue).

Domain 3: Care Coordination and Transitions

Topics:

- Care coordination among hospice care professionals
Example: Communication/care coordination within the hospice, including interdisciplinary team (IDT) members, etc.
- Care coordination between hospice and other professional care providers or settings
Example: Communication/care coordination between hospice and NH staff, physicians, pharmacy, labs and lab result, other. Does NOT include communication with family.
- Transitions to other care settings
Example: Hospitalization, emergency room use.
- Transitions from other care settings
Example: Timeliness from referral to admission/initiation of care.
- Family ratings of care coordination/transitions
Example: Includes ratings of timeliness of equipment delivery, appropriateness of equipment, etc.
- Care coordination/transitions – other

Domain 4: Patient/Family Preferences

Topics:

- Advance Directives/surrogate designation
Example: Indicators tracking discussions about or documentation of Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST), Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)/ Do Not Intubate (DNI), living will, preference for place of death, hospitalization, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and other advance directives. Does not include whether or not preferences were met.
- Documenting patient/family preferences and goals of care
Example: Indicators tracking discussions about or documentation of clinically oriented preferences, such as preferences for pain control vs. sedation, use of antibiotics in presence of infection, etc.
- Meeting patient/family preferences and goals of care
Example: Indicators tracking the extent to which stated preferences were met; includes whether or not preferences for hospitalization, place of death, and goals of care were met.

Domain 5: Communication and Education

Includes communication with and education delivered to patient/family/caregivers.

Topics:

- Communication with patient/family regarding hospice care broadly
Example: Indicators tracking communication about POC, patient's condition, Patient Bill of Rights, who to contact, what to do afterhours. Also includes use of interpreter when needed.
- Family ratings of communication
Example: Indicators of family ratings of how well the hospice communicated with them about the patient and other aspects of hospice care.
- Family education/communication about the dying process
Example: Indicators tracking whether hospice provided information and education about the dying process, and how well prepared or confident the family/caregiver felt.
- Family/caregiver confidence
Example: Family/caregiver confidence with providing care, about what to expect or do at the time of death, or other aspects of caregiving.
- Family education about managing symptoms
- Family Education about equipment use

- Family Education about safety
- Family education about Advance Directives/surrogate designation

Domain 6: Patient/Family Experience/Ratings of Care and/or Services

Topics:

- Overall ratings/willingness to recommend
Example: Indicators tracking overall ratings/satisfaction with hospice care and/or services (e.g., G1 and G3 from Family Evaluation of Hospice Care (FEHC), FEHC Composite, other overall ratings obtained from family surveys).
- Patient personal care needs met
Example: Indicators tracking whether personal care needs were met (e.g., C1 from FEHC or other similar).
- Respectful treatment
Example: Indicators tracking family perception of hospice care being respectful and/or culturally sensitive (e.g., C2 from FEHC, and other indicators related to respectful and culturally sensitive care).
- Improved comfort/wellbeing/quality of life
Example: Indicators tracking family perception of hospice care with respect to improving overall wellbeing, comfort, quality of life.
- Evening/weekend on-call service
Example: Indicators tracking family ratings of evening/weekend/on-call service availability, quality, responsiveness (e.g., G2 from FEHC and other indicators about evening/weekend/on-call service or care).
- Volunteer Services
Example: Family ratings about amount and quality of volunteer services.
- Family ratings of disciplines providing care
Example: Family ratings of quality or satisfaction with care or services provided by any and all disciplines (e.g., nursing care, aide care, social work care).

Domain 7: Spiritual

Topics:

- Screening/assessment/management of spiritual needs/issues
Example: Indicators tracking assessment and management of spiritual needs/issues. Includes indicators related to timely assessment, appropriate interventions.
- Patient/family experience/ratings of spiritual care
Example: Indicators tracking patient/family ratings of quality and/or quantity of spiritual care (e.g., percent who had as much spiritual or religious contact as they wanted E2 on the FEHC survey and other similar indicators).
- Spiritual care – other

Domain 8: Psychosocial

Subdomain 1: Depression

Topics

- Depression screening
Example: Screening for presence/absence and/or severity of symptom.
- Depression assessment
Example: comprehensive assessment of symptom; includes assessment of patient preferences/goals re: management of the symptom.

- Depression interventions/treatment
Example: Indicators tracking the initiation of treatment (e.g., interventions started within certain timeframe of screening or assessment) or other aspects of treatment and interventions to relieve symptom.
- Symptom control/comfort
Example: Indicators of improvement in the symptom following intervention (e.g., indicators of symptom control, comfort).
- Depression management/control/comfort in last 1-2 weeks of life
Example: Indicators of level of symptoms and management in the last 1-2 weeks of life.
- Patient/family education
Example: Indicators related to completing patient/family education related to symptom management. Does not include patient/family ratings of education.
- Patient/family experience/ratings of care
Example: Indicators of patient and/or family ratings of amount of care, quality of care, amount of relief from symptoms, and adequacy of education provided.

Subdomain 2: Anxiety

Topics:

- Anxiety screening
Example: Screening for presence/absence and/or severity of symptom.
- Anxiety assessment
Example: Comprehensive assessment of symptom. Includes assessment of patient preferences/goals re: management of the symptom.
- Anxiety treatment/intervention
Example: Indicators tracking the initiation of treatment (e.g., interventions started within certain timeframe of screening or assessment) or other aspects of treatment and interventions to relieve symptom.
- Symptom control/comfort
Example: Indicators of improvement in the symptom following intervention (e.g., indicators of symptom control, comfort).
- Anxiety management/control/comfort in last 1-2 weeks of life
Example: Indicators of level of symptoms and management in the last 1-2 weeks of life.
- Patient/family education
Example: Indicators related to completing patient/family education related to symptom management. Does not include patient/family ratings of education.
- Anxiety patient/family experience/ratings of care
Example: Indicators of patient and/or family ratings of amount of care, quality of care, amount of relief from symptoms.

Subdomain 3: Assessment and management of social support

Topics:

- Assessment and management of social support
Example: Assessment and management of caregiver and other social supports.

Subdomain 4: Assessment and management of psychosocial distress

Topics:

- Assessment and management of psychosocial distress
Example: Assessment and management of psychosocial distress.

Subdomain 5: Other psychosocial

Topics:

- Other psychosocial

Domain 9: Structure and Process of Care

Includes indicators tracking structures and processes of care, such as availability of certain services or professionals and meeting internal or external policies or requirements.

Topics:

- Visit frequency
Example: indicators tracking frequency of visits, variances in frequency versus predicted frequency for example.
- Volunteer services
Example: Indicators tracking utilization of/number of care hours provided by volunteers. Excludes ratings of volunteer services.
- Other structures and processes of care
Example: Indicators of meeting internal or external policies or requirements. Includes indicators such as PEACE measure: comprehensive assessment in 5 days, IDT POC completed, physical and psychological symptoms screening on initial assessment, supervision of aides.

Domain 10: Grief, Bereavement, and Emotional Support

Topics:

- Grief and bereavement assessment and care
Example: Indicators tracking completion of bereavement assessment, anticipatory grief assessment, grief assessment, family ratings of grief and bereavement care.
- Emotional care for patient/family before and/or at time of death
Example: Indicators tracking provision of emotional care for the patient and/or family before and/or at the time of death. Includes family ratings of the quality and quantity of emotional care.
- Emotional care for family after the death
Example: Indicators tracking provision of emotional care for the patient and/or family after the time of death. Includes family ratings of the quality and quantity of emotional care.
- Culturally sensitive caregiving
Example: Family ratings of the degree to which bereavement, grief, and emotional care was culturally sensitive.

Appendix C: NQF #0209 Measure Worksheet

This worksheet contains the seven data elements as they will appear on the CMS data entry website. For further instructions on filling in answers to the seven data elements listed below, please see section NQF #0209 Measure Reporting in this User Guide.

In order to allow providers the full window to ask the follow-up comfort question by then end of the data collection period (11:59 PM on December 31, 2012), a patient must be *admitted* no later than 11:59 PM on December 26, 2012 to be included in NQF #0209 Measure Reporting for this reporting period.

Data Element 1.

Enter the number of admissions during the data collection period (October 1, 2012 through December 26, 2012). Providers should answer Data Elements 2-7 based on the patients included in the total number of admissions for Data Element 1.

Data Element 2.

Pain Measure Denominator: Enter the number of patients who answered YES to the question “Are you uncomfortable because of pain?” at the initial assessment (after admission to hospice services) during the data collection period.

Data Element 3.

Enter the number of patients who answered NO to the question “Are you uncomfortable because of pain?” at initial assessment (after admission to hospice services) during the data collection period .

Data Element 4.

Enter the number of patients excluded.

Data Element 5.

Pain Measure Numerator: Enter the number of patients who answered YES to the follow-up question “Was your pain brought to a comfortable level within 48 hours of the start of hospice care?” during the data collection period.

Data Element 6.

Enter the number of patients who answered NO to the follow-up question “Was your pain brought to a comfortable level within 48 hours of the start of hospice care?” during the data collection period.

Data Element 7.

Enter the number of patients unable to self-report at follow-up.

Appendix D: Glossary

Term	Definition
CCN	CMS Certification Number, also known as the Medicare provider number. This is a 6-digit number, usually in the format: xx-xxxx.
Denominator	The number in the bottom part of a fraction; represents the total population in terms of which statistical values are expressed.
Electronic Medical Record	Any computer-based system used to manage a patient's medical record. Systems may be purchased from EMR vendors or internally developed by hospice providers.
Family survey/questionnaire	Any survey or questionnaire (phone-, paper-, or electronic-based) where the family or caregiver is asked about the hospice care process including family/caregiver report of the <i>patient's</i> experience of care. Examples of family survey/questionnaires include the Family Evaluation of Hospice Care (FEHC) or other FEHC-like surveys. Family surveys are usually taken after patient discharge.
Incident report/log	Any log or report that tracks incidents or occurrences in a hospice organization, including, but not limited to, falls, injury, medication errors/adverse events, infections, hospitalizations, and pressure ulcers/wounds. Incident reports/logs can track events involving hospice patients or hospice employees.
Look-back period (data collection period)	The timeframe in which data for a quality measure is collected. For both the Structural Measure and the NQF #0209 Pain Measure, the look-back period is October 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012.
NQF #0209 Measure	The NQF #0209 Pain Measure reflects the number of patients who report being uncomfortable because of pain at the initial assessment (after admission to hospice services) who report that pain was brought to a comfortable level within 48 hours.
Numerator	The number in the top portion of a fraction; represents a subset of the entire population in terms of which statistical values are expressed.
Paper Medical Record	A paper-based system used to manage a patient's medical record.
Patient care-related Quality Indicator	Quality Indicators that include patient care domains such as management of physical or physiological symptoms. They might also address care coordination, transitions, communication with the patient and family, or patient safety issues like falls and medication errors. Patient care-related indicators do NOT address organizational or business goals.
Patient survey/questionnaire	Any survey/questionnaire (phone-, paper-, or electronic-based) where the patient is asked about his or her experience with the process of care. A requirement for patient surveys is that the <i>patient</i> is asked to <i>self-report</i> on his/her experience with the care process; any survey or questionnaire given after patient discharge is likely a family/caregiver survey, not a patient survey/questionnaire.
QAPI program	A CMS Condition of Participation (CoP) that requires hospice providers to develop, implement, and maintain an effective, ongoing, hospice-wide data-driven quality assessment and performance improvement (QAPI) program. The hospice organization's governing body must ensure that the program reflects the complexity of its organization and services; involves all hospice services (including those services furnished under contract or arrangement); focuses on indicators related to improved palliative outcomes; and takes actions to demonstrate improvement in hospice performance. The hospice provider must maintain documentary evidence of its quality assessment and performance improvement program and be able to demonstrate its operation to CMS. For more details about the QAPI program CoP please see: http://www.ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=818258235647b14d2961ad30fa3e68e6&rgn=div5&view=text&node=42:3.0.1.1.5&idno=42#42:3.0.1.1.5.3.3.4 .
Quality Indicator (QI)	A metric used to track quality of care. It should be clearly defined and measurable. Data for quality indicators may come from a variety of data sources including paper or electronic medical records, patient or family surveys/questionnaires, and/or incident reports/logs.
Structural Measure	The Structural Measure provides CMS with details about the number and types of patient care quality indicators currently being used by hospice providers in their QAPI programs.

Appendix E: Quality Reporting Timeline

2012:

October 2012	November 2012	December 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection and recording for NQF #0209 Pain Measure begins 10/1/12. • “Data collection” for structural measure begins 10/1/12 – for structural measure data collection, providers should complete Appendix A worksheet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection and recording for NQF #0209 Pain Measure • Complete structural measure “data collection” by completing the Appendix A worksheet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection and recording for NQF #0209 Pain measure ends 12/31/12. • Complete structural measure “data collection” by completing the Appendix A worksheet.

2013:

January 2013	February 2013	March 2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/1/13 – data entry site opens for provider use/data submission. • Measure submission for structural measure due to CMS no later than 1/31/12. • NQF #0209 Pain Measure aggregation and data submission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NQF #0209 Pain Measure aggregation and data submission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NQF #0209 Pain Measure aggregation and final data submission to CMS no later than April 1, 2013.