

APU FAQs

	Question	Answer
1	How do I change incorrect facility characteristics on Hospital Compare?	<p>You must contact your state OSCAR/ASPEN Coordinator. Click on the following link to see your OCSAR/ASPEN state coordinator: http://www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov/Hospital/Static/Resources-Links.asp?dest=NAV Home Resources RelatedWebsites - TabTop</p>
2	How much do hospitals stand to gain or lose in annual payments if they fail to meet all the requirements for the RHQDAPU?	<p>Hospitals who fail to meet all the requirements for RHQDAPU will have their annual payment update reduced by 0.4 percentage points.</p>
3	What is the process for new acute care hospitals?	<p>New hospitals should move forward with meeting the RHQDAPU requirements as soon as possible. You can find the requirements for RHQDAPU on QualityNet (QNet) Exchange. Please refer to the link below: http://qnetexchange.org/public/docs/hdc/rhqdapu/rhqdapu_checklist_2006.pdf</p>
4	What are the data submission deadlines for RHQDAPU?	<p>The required clinical data for each facility must be submitted to and successfully accepted into the QIO Clinical Warehouse by 11:59 p.m. Central Time no later than 15 calendar days after the fourth month following the end of each quarter. This timeline allows for 15 calendar days beyond Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) submission requirements. This information can be found at www.qnetexchange.org. Please refer to the link below for data submission deadlines. http://qnetexchange.org/public/docs/hdc/datatrnsmnsn/data_trans_req.pdf</p>
5	What is Hospital Compare?	<p>Hospital Compare is a consumer-oriented website that displays information on hospital quality of care. The website was created through the efforts of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) along with the Hospital Quality Alliance (HQA). The HQA is a public-private collaboration established to promote reporting on hospital quality of care. The HQA consists of organizations that represent consumers, hospitals, doctors, employers, accrediting organizations, and Federal agencies. The information on this website can be used by any adult needing hospital care.</p> <p>You can find Hospital Compare at: www.medicare.gov or</p>

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		www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov
6	If I am an APU eligible hospital, must I be registered for QualityNet Exchange?	Yes, you must register for QualityNet Exchange (QNet Exchange). Go to the QualityNet Exchange (QNet Exchange) web site at www.qnetexchange.org , click on "Getting Started," and proceed with registration using the outlined steps. The hospital must provide the name of its QNet Exchange Administrator. This applies whether or not they are using a vendor to transmit data. For detailed instructions on registering for QNet Exchange please go to www.qnetexchange.org .
7	If I am an APU eligible hospital, must I complete a RHQDAPU Pledge of Participation form?	Yes, you must complete a RHQDAPU Pledge of Participation Form. This form can be found on QualityNet (QNet) Exchange at the following link: http://qnetexchange.org/public/docs/hdc/rhqdapu/rhqdapu_notice.doc .
8	What hospital quality data must a hospital report if it wishes to be eligible for the full annual payment update?	The 10 measures that were selected are for three common and serious medical conditions. They were derived from evidence in the medical literature and tested extensively in hospital settings. The measures include: AMI: Aspirin at Arrival Aspirin Prescribed at Discharge ACEI or ARB for LVSD Beta Blocker Prescribed at Discharge Beta Blocker at Arrival HF: LVF Assessment ACEI or ARB for LVSD PN: Oxygenation Assessment Pneumococcal Vaccination Initial Antibiotic Received Within 4 Hours of Hospital Arrival.

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		For more information please refer to the document at the following link: http://qnetexchange.org/public/docs/hdc/hqa/cms_jcaho_hri_compare.pdf
9	Where can a hospital obtain information on the implementation of Section 501 (b) of the Medicare Drug Prescription and Modernization Act of 2003?	Information on the implementation of the Section 501 (b) is available on www.qnetexchange.org . Information is also available at "Reporting Hospital Quality Data for Annual Payment Update" on http://www.cms.hhs.gov/quality/hospital/ . In addition, the hospital should stay in contact with their QIO to obtain the latest information.
10	What does Section 501 (b) of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) require that a hospital do in order to receive a full payment update?	Section 501(b) of the MMA requires that certain inpatient hospitals submit quality data to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on a set of 10 indicators, as established by the Secretary as of November 1, 2003, in order to received a full payment update. Eligible hospitals that do not submit data in the form and manner that the Secretary specifies will have their payment update reduced by 0.4 percentage points for fiscal years 2005-2007. Please refer to the following document: http://qnetexchange.org/public/docs/hdc/rhqdapu/rhqdapu_checklist_2006.pdf
11	How do I submit the 10 measures to CMS to qualify for RHQDAPU?	Hospitals have two options for submitting data to the QIO Clinical Warehouse: 1. Through the CMS Abstraction and Reporting Tool (CART), which is available via www.qnetexchange.org . 2. Through their QRYX Vendor.
12	How does The Hospital Quality Alliance (HQA): Improving Care Through Information relate to the Reporting Hospital Quality Data for Annual Payment Update (RHQDAPU)?	The HQA and RHQDAPU are strategically related around 10 measures in three conditions, Acute Myocardial Infarction, Heart Failure and Pneumonia.
13	Will hospitals have the opportunity to check the accuracy of the data submitted before it is published on Hospital Compare?	CMS affords hospitals a "preview period" prior to publication on Hospital Compare, during which hospitals can check their data. Notification of that a preview period has begun is made through the hospital's QNet Exchange Administrator.
14	If a hospital changes from acute care to a critical access hospital, would they still receive the annual payment update?	No. They would no longer be an APU eligible hospital under the terms of the provision, which limits the incentive payments to subsection (d) hospitals, as defined by Section 1886(d) of the Social Security Act.

