

## **IRF Quality Reporting Spotlight & Announcements • August 2017—February 2018**

**February 23, 2018**

### **Hurricane Nate - Disaster Exceptions/Exemptions for Medicare Certified Providers Affected by Severe Storms and Flooding**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is granting exceptions under certain Medicare quality reporting and value-based purchasing programs to acute care hospitals, inpatient psychiatric facilities, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, long-term care hospitals, renal dialysis facilities, ambulatory surgical centers as well as Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) eligible clinicians located in areas affected by Hurricane Nate. These healthcare providers and suppliers will be granted exceptions without having to submit a request if they are located in one of the counties listed in the memo posted on [February 8, 2018](#), all of which have been designated by the [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#) as a major disaster county.

The scope and duration of the exception under each Medicare quality reporting program is described in the memo as well, however, all of the exceptions are being granted to assist these providers while they direct their resources toward caring for their patients and repairing structural damages to facilities.

If FEMA expands the current disaster declaration to include additional counties, CMS will update this memo to expand the list of providers eligible to receive an exception without submitting a request.

In addition, CMS will continue to monitor the situation and adjust exempted reporting periods and submission deadlines accordingly.

Additional details and materials are available on the [CMS Hurricanes](#) webpage. Please check back frequently for updates.

**February 22, 2018**

### **California Wildfires - Disaster Exceptions/Exemptions for Medicare Certified Providers Affected by Severe Storms and Flooding**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is granting exceptions under certain Medicare quality reporting and value-based purchasing programs to acute care hospitals, inpatient psychiatric facilities, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, long-term care hospitals, renal dialysis facilities, ambulatory surgical centers as well as Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) eligible clinicians located in areas affected by the California wildfires (FEMA [DR-4353](#)). These healthcare providers and suppliers will be granted exceptions without having to submit a request if they are located in one of the California counties listed in the memo posted on [February 8, 2018](#), all of which have been designated by the [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#) as a major disaster county.

The scope and duration of the exception under each Medicare quality reporting program is described in the memo as well, however, all of the exceptions are being granted to assist these providers while they direct their resources toward caring for their patients and repairing structural damages to facilities.

If FEMA expands the current disaster declaration to include additional counties, CMS will update this memo to expand the list of providers eligible to receive an exception without submitting a request.

In addition, CMS will continue to monitor the situation and adjust exempted reporting periods and submission deadlines accordingly.

Additional details and materials are available on the [CMS Wildfires](#) webpage. Please check back frequently for updates.

## January 19, 2018

The submission deadline for the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) is approaching. IRF-PAI assessment data and data submitted via the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) for July-September (Q3) of calendar year (CY) 2017 are due with this submission deadline. **All data must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on February 15, 2018.**

It is recommended that the applicable CMS CASPER validation reports and NHSN analysis reports are run prior to each quarterly reporting deadline to ensure that all required data were submitted. We encourage you to verify all facility information prior to submission, including CCN and facility name.

View the list of measures required for this deadline in the Downloads section on the [IRF Quality Reporting Data Submission Deadlines](#) webpage.

For providers affected by hurricanes Harvey, Irma, or Maria or the California wildfires: Information on the exceptions can be found on the [IRF Quality Reporting Reconsideration and Exception & Extension](#) webpage.

For additional information, visit:

- [Quick Reference to IRF-PAI Submissions, Submission Status and Validation Reports](#)
- [CMS Resources for NHSN Users](#)

## January 16, 2018

### IRF Preview Reports: Flu Measure Error

CMS identified an error with the data displayed on the IRF Provider Preview Reports released on December 4, 2017, and related to the March 2018 refresh of the [IRF Compare](#) website. The December 2017 Preview Reports incorrectly included data from a reporting period different than that identified in the reports' headers. This error affected the following quality measures:

1. Percent of Residents or Patients Who Were Assessed and Appropriately Given the Seasonal Influenza Vaccine (NQF #0680)
2. Influenza Vaccination Coverage among Healthcare Personnel (NQF #0431).

The IRF Provider Preview Report headers indicated that data for these measures represented patient assessment data for admissions and/or discharges that occurred between the dates of July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. However, the data displayed on the reports was for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Because of this discrepancy, CMS will be suppressing the display of this data for these two measures in the March 2018 IRF Compare refresh. Providers that have questions about this suppression should submit their inquiries to the IRF Public Reporting helpdesk: [IRFPRquestions@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:IRFPRquestions@cms.hhs.gov).

## January 04, 2018

### New Guidance on How to Update IRF Demographic Data

The demographic data displayed on the Provider Preview Reports and on [Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Compare](#) is generated from information stored in the Automated Survey Processing Environment (ASPEN) system.

If inaccurate demographic data is included on the Preview Report or on IRF Compare, facilities need to contact their [Medicare Administrative Contractor](#) (MAC) for assistance. When requesting updates to your demographic

data, it is important to specify that you want your data within the ASPEN system updated, instead of referring to your data on the Compare site.

View the How to Update IRF Demographic Data 1-4-18 PDF in the downloads section of the [IRF Quality Public Reporting](#) webpage.

Please note- updates to IRF Provider demographic information do not happen in real time and can take up to 6-months to appear on IRF Compare.

**December 20, 2017**

### **NEW TRAINING EVENT — Section GG Web-based Training Module Now Available**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is offering a web-based training module to address questions submitted by providers during trainings between November 2015 and August 2016 related to Section GG across the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF), Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH), Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF), and Home Health (HH) care settings. Visit the [IRF Quality Reporting Training](#) webpage for more information.

**December 12, 2017**

### **IRF Compare Quarterly Refresh**

The December 2017 quarterly Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Compare refresh, including new quality measure results based on data submitted to CMS is now available. Visit [IRF Compare](#) to view the data.

The following new measures were added to IRF Compare:

1. Percent of Residents or Patients Who Were Assessed and Appropriately Given the Seasonal Influenza Vaccination (NQF #0680)
2. Influenza Vaccination among Healthcare Personnel (NQF #0431)
3. National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Facility-wide Inpatient Hospital-onset Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) Bacteremia Outcome Measure (NQF #1716)
4. National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Facility-wide Inpatient Hospital-onset *Clostridium difficile* Infection (CDI) Outcome Measure (NQF #1717)

**December 08, 2017**

### **MSPB Measure Calculation Error in IRF Quality Measure Reports**

CMS has discovered an error in the Medicare Spending per Beneficiary (MSPB) measure calculation currently displayed on the facility-level quality measure reports for some IRF providers. The error affected the risk adjustment of the measure. CMS has corrected this issue and the data have been loaded into the Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (QIES) Assessment Submission and Processing (ASAP) system. These facility level quality measures reports are on-demand, user-requested reports in your Certification and Survey provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) Reporting System folder in QIES. Providers should request an updated version of the report to review the corrected MSPB measure calculation.

For more information, visit the [IRF Quality Reporting Measures Information](#) webpage.

**December 5, 2017**

## **IRF QRP Provider Preview Reports Now Available**

IRFs now have the opportunity to review their performance data on each quality measure based on Quarter 2 - 2016 to Quarter 1 - 2017 data, prior to the March 2018 [IRF Compare](#) refresh.

*Providers have until January 3, 2018 to review their performance data.*

For more information, visit the [IRF Quality Public Reporting](#) webpage and [Preview Report Access Instructions](#).

## **November 14, 2017**

### **IRF/LTCH Quality Measure Reports- Measures Added**

The Confidential Feedback Reports, also referred to as the Facility-Level and Patient-Level Quality Measure (QM) reports, for Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRFs) and Long-Term Care Hospitals (LTCHs) have been updated to include additional quality measures. These on-demand, user-requested reports, are available via the Certification and Survey provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) Reporting System. These reports can be used to provide feedback to help providers identify data errors and improve quality of care. For more information, view the [IRF LTCH QM Report-Measures Added- November 2017 PDF](#) on the [IRF Quality Reporting Measures Information](#) webpage.

## **November 02, 2017**

### **Northern California Wildfires - Disaster Exceptions/Exemptions for Medicare Certified Providers**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is granting exceptions under certain Medicare quality reporting and value-based purchasing programs to acute care hospitals, inpatient psychiatric facilities, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, long-term care hospitals, renal dialysis facilities, and ambulatory surgical centers located in areas affected by the devastating impacts of the Northern California wildfires since October 8, 2017, in and around counties in Northern California.. These providers will be granted exceptions without having to submit an extraordinary circumstances exception request if they are located in one of the California counties which has been designated by the [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#) as a major disaster county.

The scope and duration of the exception under each Medicare quality reporting program is described in the [memo](#) posted on 10-30-17, however, all of the exceptions are being granted to assist these providers while they direct their resources toward caring for their patients and repairing structural damages to facilities.

In addition, CMS will continue to monitor the situation and adjust exempted reporting periods and submission deadlines accordingly.

Further details and materials are available on the [CMS 2017 California Wildfires](#) webpage and the [IRF Quality Reporting Reconsideration and Exception & Extension](#) webpage. Please check back frequently for updates.

## **October 31, 2017**

A Quick Reference Guide for the IRF QRP is now available on the [IRF Quality Reporting Program Data Submission Deadlines](#) webpage. The guide includes frequently asked questions, information on QRP help desks, and helpful links to additional resources for the IRF QRP.

## **October 24, 2017**

The submission deadline for the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) is approaching. IRF-PAI assessment data and data submitted via the Center for Disease Control and Prevention

(CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) for April-June (Q2) of calendar year (CY) 2017 are due with this submission deadline. **All data must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on November 15, 2017.**

It is recommended that the applicable CMS CASPER validation reports and NHSN analysis reports are run prior to each quarterly reporting deadline to ensure that all required data were submitted. We encourage you to verify all facility information prior to submission, including CCN and facility name. Successful submissions for the Annual Increase Factor requirement count on you.

View the list of measures required for this deadline on the [IRF Quality Reporting Data Submission Deadlines](#) webpage.

For providers affected by hurricanes Harvey, Irma, or Maria: Information on the exceptions can be found on the [IRF Quality Reporting Reconsideration and Exception & Extension](#) webpage.

For additional information, visit:

- [Quick Reference to IRF-PAI Submissions, Submission Status and Validation Reports](#)
- [CMS Resources for NHSN Users](#)

#### **October 17, 2017**

CMS has updated the list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) addressing general questions about the IRF Quality Reporting Program, including information about the quality measures, data submission deadlines, training materials, and other useful resources. This document, posted in the Download section of the [IRF QRP FAQ web site](#) below, also includes details regarding topics or types of questions handled by each of the helpdesks.

#### **October 13, 2017**

Hurricane Harvey – The FEMA designated areas affected by the hurricane have been updated. Refer to the Downloads section of the [IRF Quality Reporting Reconsideration and Exception & Extension](#) webpage for updated information.

#### **October 13, 2017**

##### **Revised August 15 IRF QRP Refresher Webinar Q & A Document**

The question and answer (Q&A) document from the August 15 IRF QRP Refresher Webinar has been updated. The responses to Question 3 & 4 regarding coding instructions for the BIMS have been revised and additional information has been provided. The revised document is available in the Downloads section of the [IRF Quality Reporting Training](#) webpage.

#### **October 11, 2017**

##### **IRF QRP APU FY 2018: Successful Facilities**

As stated in the [Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System for Federal Fiscal Year 2016](#) rule, CMS has published a list of IRFs who successfully met the reporting requirements after all reconsideration requests have been processed. This report will be updated on an annual basis. View the list on the [IRF Quality Reporting Data Submission Deadlines](#) webpage.

#### **October 06, 2017**

## **Updated Section 4 (Quality Indicators) of IRF-PAI Training Manual Version 1.5**

An updated version of Section 4, the Quality Indicators sections, of the IRF-PAI Training Manual Version 1.5, along with a change table describing updates, has been added to the Downloads section of the [IRF-PAI and IRF QRP Manual](#) webpage. This file also contains the updated Section 9. These sections contain information regarding data collection for the quality measures on the IRF-PAI version 1.5, effective October 1, 2017.

**September 28, 2017**

### **Hurricane Maria - Disaster Exceptions/Exemptions for Medicare Certified Providers Affected by Severe Storms and Flooding**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is granting exceptions under certain Medicare quality reporting and value-based purchasing programs to inpatient psychiatric facilities, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, renal dialysis facilities, and ambulatory surgical centers located in areas affected by Hurricane Maria due to the devastating impact of the storm. These providers will be granted exceptions without having to submit an Extraordinary Circumstances Exceptions (ECE) request if they are located in one of the Puerto Rico municipios or U.S. Virgin Islands county-equivalents listed below, all of which have been designated by the [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#) as a major disaster municipio or county-equivalent. The scope and duration of the exception under each Medicare quality reporting program is described below; however, all of the exceptions are being granted to assist these providers while they direct their resources toward caring for their patients and repairing structural damages to facilities.

The scope and duration of the exception under each Medicare quality reporting program is described in the memo posted on [9-25-17](#), however, all of the exceptions are being granted to assist these providers while they direct their resources toward caring for their patients and repairing structural damages to facilities.

CMS will continue to monitor the situation and adjust exempted reporting periods and submission deadlines accordingly.

Additional details and materials are available on the [CMS Hurricane page](#) and the [IRF Quality Reporting Reconsideration and Exception & Extension](#) webpage. Please check back frequently for updates.

**September 26, 2017**

**Hurricane Irma** – The FEMA designated areas affected by the hurricane have been updated. Refer to the **Downloads** section of the [IRF Quality Reporting Reconsideration and Exception & Extension](#) webpage for updated information.

**September 14, 2017**

### **Hurricane Irma - Disaster Exceptions/Exemptions for Medicare Certified Providers Affected by Severe Storms and Flooding**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is granting exceptions under certain Medicare quality reporting and value-based purchasing programs to acute care hospitals, PPS-exempt cancer hospitals, inpatient psychiatric facilities, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, renal dialysis facilities, long-term care hospitals, and ambulatory surgical centers located in areas affected by Hurricane Irma due to the devastating impact of the storm. These providers will be granted exceptions without having to submit an extraordinary circumstances exception request if they are located in one of the Florida counties, Puerto Rico municipios, or U.S. Virgin Islands county-equivalents, all of which have been designated by the [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#) as a major disaster county, municipio, or county-equivalent.

The scope and duration of the exception under each Medicare quality reporting program is described in the memo posted on [9-14-17](#), however, all of the exceptions are being granted to assist these providers while they direct their resources toward caring for their patients and repairing structural damages to facilities.

CMS will continue to monitor the situation and adjust exempted reporting periods and submission deadlines accordingly.

Additional details and materials are available on the [Hurricane page](#) and the [IRF Quality Reporting Reconsideration and Exception & Extension](#) webpage. Please check back frequently for updates.

## **September 14, 2017**

### **August 15 IRF QRP Refresher Webinar Video Recording & Post-Training Materials Are Now Available**

A video recording of the **August 15 IRF QRP Refresher Webinar** is now available along with post-training materials (with answers to knowledge checks revealed) and the question and answer (Q+A) document. See the [IRF Quality Reporting Training](#) webpage for details.

## **September 11, 2017**

### **Technical Specifications for Reporting Assessment-Based Measures for IRF-PAI 1.4 and IRF-PAI 1.5**

This table presents information to understand the reporting requirements for the assessment-based quality measures that are included in the IRF QRP for the IRF-PAI 1.4 and IRF-PAI 1.5. This table provides details for each IRF-PAI item and assessment type as well as allowable item values when coding for the assessment-based quality measures. The table is available for download on the [IRF Quality Reporting Measures Information](#) webpage.

### **IRF Quality Reporting Program Measures Calculations and Reporting User's Manual V2.0**

The IRF Quality Reporting Program Measures Calculations and Reporting User's Manual V2.0 has been added to the Downloads section of the IRF Quality Reporting Measures Information page. This version of the IRF-PAI-based QRP User's Manual provides detailed information for each quality measure, including quality measure definitions, inclusion and exclusion criteria and measure calculation specifications. This manual is also available for download on the [IRF Quality Reporting Measures Information](#) webpage.

## **September 08, 2017**

### **Hurricane Irma**

CMS is tracking Hurricane Irma closely with respect to the quality reporting programs' data submission requirements, we will provide guidance and further information as it becomes available.

Additional details and materials are available on the [Hurricane](#) page. Please check back frequently for updates.

*Please note, that the FEMA designated areas affected have been updated in the Hurricane Harvey memo from August 31, 2017.*

## **September 1, 2017**

### **IRF Compare Quarterly Refresh**

The September 2017 quarterly Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Compare refresh, including quality measure results based on data submitted to CMS between Q4 2015 – Q3 2016, is now available. Visit [IRF Compare](#) to view the data.

**September 1, 2017**

### **IRF QRP Provider Preview Reports Now Available**

IRFs now have the opportunity to review their performance data on each quality measure based on Quarter 1 - 2016 to Quarter 4 - 2016 data, prior to the December 2017 IRF Compare refresh.

*Providers have 30 days to review their performance data (September 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017).*

For more information, visit the [IRF Quality Public Reporting](#) webpage and [Preview Report Access Instructions](#).

**August 31, 2017**

### **Hurricane Harvey - Disaster Exceptions/Exemptions for Medicare Certified Providers Affected by Severe Storms and Flooding**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is granting exceptions under certain Medicare quality reporting and value-based purchasing programs to acute care hospitals, PPS-exempt cancer hospitals, inpatient psychiatric facilities, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, outpatient dialysis facilities, long-term care hospitals, and ambulatory surgical centers located in areas affected by Hurricane Harvey due to the devastating impact of the storm. These providers will be granted exceptions without having to submit an extraordinary circumstances exception request if they are located in one of the Texas counties or Louisiana parishes, all of which have been designated by the [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#) as a major disaster county.

The scope and duration of the exception under each Medicare quality reporting program is described in the [memo posted on 8-31-17](#), however, all of the exceptions are being granted to assist these providers while they direct their resources toward caring for their patients and repairing structural damages to facilities.

If FEMA expands the current disaster declaration for Hurricane Harvey to include additional counties or parishes, CMS will update this memo to expand the list of providers eligible to receive an exception without submitting a request to include the hospitals, PPS-exempt cancer hospitals, inpatient psychiatric facilities, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, long-term care hospitals, and ambulatory surgical centers located in the additional counties and parishes.

In addition, CMS will continue to monitor the situation and adjust exempted reporting periods and submission deadlines accordingly.

Additional details and materials are available on the [Hurricane page](#) and the [IRF Quality Reporting Reconsideration and Exception & Extension](#) webpage. Please check back frequently for updates.

**August 11, 2017**

### **Training Materials Available for the August 15 IRF QRP Refresher Webinar**

Training materials (without answers to polling and knowledge check questions) for the upcoming **IRF (Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Refresher Webinar on Tuesday, August 15, 2017, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. ET** are now available in the Downloads section of the [IRF Quality Reporting Training](#) webpage.

For more information and to register, visit the [IRF Quality Reporting Training](#) webpage.