

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



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### Hospice Quality Data Reporting Reminders

**Note:** This article was revised on March 2, 2016, to add reference to MLN Matters® Articles [MM9460](#) that alerts providers to changes in the payment reduction reconsideration process for hospice agencies that do not submit required quality data. All other information remains unchanged.

### Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Special Edition is intended for hospices submitting claims to Medicare contractors (Regional Home Health Intermediaries (RHHIs) or A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs)) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

### Provider Action Needed

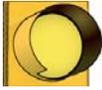


#### **STOP – Impact to You**

The Affordable Care Act, Section 3004, requires each hospice to collect data on quality measures specified by the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and submit the data timely to the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

#### Disclaimer

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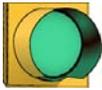
### CAUTION – What You Need to Know

Beginning in January 2013, you must:

- Submit data for the first year of reporting; and
- Collect data for the second year of reporting.

For the second year of data reporting impacting the Annual Payment Update for FY 2015, you need to collect data for both the Structural/Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Program measure and the National Quality Forum (NQF) 0209 measure starting in January 2013.

You should note that, beginning with Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 and each subsequent FY, your failure to submit required quality data will result in a 2 percentage point reduction to the market basket percentage increase for that fiscal year.



### GO – What You Need to Do

Make sure that your staffs are aware of these data submission requirements and that required data is submitted timely in order to avoid payment reductions..

## Background

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### *Requirements for the First Year of Reporting by Hospices*

For the first year of reporting (affecting the FY 2014 payment determination), hospices are required to submit data for the data collection period of October 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012 for two measures:

- The Structural/QAPI measure, and
- The NQF 0209 measure.

To avoid a reduction in your Annual Payment Update (APU),

- The structural measure must be reported by January 31, 2013, and
- The NQF #0209 by April 1, 2013.

### *Requirements for the Second Year of Reporting*

- The Hospice Wage Index Final Rule, published in the Federal Register in August 2011, finalized that, after the first year of reporting, all subsequent years of reporting would be based on a calendar year. Therefore, the data collection cycle is for a duration of 12 months. For the FY 2015 payment determination, hospices will collect data from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. You may view the

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FY2012 Hospice Wage Index Final Rule at <https://federalregister.gov/a/2011-19488> on the Internet.

- The Home Health Final Rule (November 2012) finalized that, for the second year of reporting (affecting the FY 2015 payment determination), the data submission periods for the two measures are consolidated; both measures will be submitted by April 1, 2014. The Home Health Final Rule, Nov 2012, which contains information on the hospice quality reporting requirements for CY 2013, is available at <https://federalregister.gov/a/2012-26904> on the Internet.

### *Educational Materials for Hospice Quality Reporting*

You are encouraged to refer to the training materials available on the Hospice Quality Reporting Program website. These materials, which include webinars, user guides, and a Question & Answer document, are available at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Spotlight.html> and <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Data-Submission.html> both on the CMS website.

The link to the Hospice Quality Reporting Program Data Entry and Submission website is available at <https://hospice.qtso.com> on the Internet. This link will take you to the Hospice Quality Reporting Data Entry and Submission home page where you may begin registration for the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (QRP) data submission. Details regarding registration, account deactivation and data submission can be found on the Data Submission page, available at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Data-Submission.html> on the CMS website.

### Additional Information

If you have any questions, please contact your RHHI or A/B MAC at their toll-free number, which may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/provider-compliance-interactive-map/index.html> on the CMS website.

### DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
March 2, 2016	The article was revised to add reference to MLN Matters® Articles <a href="#">MM9460</a> to alert providers to changes in the payment reduction reconsideration process for hospice agencies that do not submit required quality data.
May 26, 2015	The article was revised to add a reference to MLN Matters® Article <a href="#">MM9091</a> that provides a summary of the penalties for hospice agencies that do not comply with the quality data submission requirements of Medicare.

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