

LISTSERVE

Reference #: **2017-133-IP**

From: Hospital Inpatient Value, Incentives, and Quality Reporting Outreach and Education Support Contractor
Sent: September 25, 2017
To: IQR and Public Reporting
Subject: Applicability of Reporting Requirements for Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Home Health Agencies, Hospices, Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities, Ambulatory Surgical Centers, and Renal Dialysis Facilities Affected by Hurricane Maria

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.

CMS is closely monitoring the situation for future potential widespread catastrophic events, and will update exception lists soon after any events occur in the future.

The affected municipios and county-equivalents designated by FEMA as of the date of this communication are as follows:

Puerto Rico Municipios	U.S. Virgin Islands County-Equivalents
<ul style="list-style-type: none">All 78 municipios in Puerto Rico are within the FEMA designated areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All 3 county-equivalents in the U.S. Virgin Islands are within the FEMA designated areas.

Please Note: This exception expands the list of Puerto Rico municipios that received exception for Hurricane Irma.

The following providers located outside of the municipios and county-equivalents listed above are not covered by this communication, but may request an exception to the reporting requirements under one or more Medicare quality reporting or value-based purchasing programs using the applicable extraordinary circumstances exception procedure: inpatient psychiatric facilities, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, renal dialysis facilities, and ambulatory surgical centers. If FEMA expands the current disaster declaration for Hurricane Maria to include additional municipals, counties, or states, CMS will update this communication to expand the list of providers eligible to receive an

exception without submitting a request to include the inpatient psychiatric facilities, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, and ambulatory surgical centers located in the additional municipalities, counties, or states. In addition, CMS will continue to monitor the situation and adjust exempted reporting periods and submission deadlines accordingly.

Home Health Agencies (HHAs), Hospices, Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRFs), and Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs)

CMS is granting an exception to all Quality Reporting Program (QRP) reporting requirements, including the reporting of data on measures and any other data requested by CMS for the post-acute care (PAC) QRP for calendar year 2017 quarters 2 and 3:

- HHAs – Home Health QRP
- Hospices – Hospice QRP
- IRFs – Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility QRP
- SNFs – Skilled Nursing Facility QRP

CMS will provide additional information about the extensions and exceptions related to the PAC QRP submission requirements in subsequent announcements.

For further information about extensions and exemptions, view the program-specific webpages:

- [Home Health Quality Reporting Requirements](#)
- [Hospice Quality Reporting Extensions and Exemption Requests](#)
- [IRF Quality Reporting Reconsideration and Exception & Extension](#)
- [SNF Quality Reporting Reconsideration and Exception & Extension](#)

End-Stage Renal Disease Quality Incentive Program (ESRD QIP)

Renal dialysis facilities located in the above designated municipalities and county-equivalents that were closed will be exempt from all reporting requirements of the ESRD QIP clinical and reporting measures from September 2017 through December 2017. Facilities that desire an exemption beyond December 2017 may submit an ECE request via the established process.

For ESRD QIP clinical and reporting measures, facilities will be exempt as shown in the following table:

Exempt Clinical Month	Reporting Deadline
July 2017	September 30, 2017
August 2017	October 31, 2017
September 2017	November 30, 2017
October 2017	December 31, 2017
November 2017	January 31, 2017
December 2017	February 28, 2017

For the NHSN Measure topic, facilities will not be scored for Payment Year (PY) 2019 since facilities will be unable to submit 12 months of data in NHSN in order to receive the maximum number of points on this measure topic.

Closed facilities covered under this waiver will not be required to participate in the CROWNWeb or NHSN validation studies for PY 2019. Facilities in other municipalities, counties, or states that may have been impacted by Hurricane Maria may submit ECE requests based on individual circumstances with all required documentation completed. Please refer to the ECE request process and form located on *QualityNet* for additional information. The form must be signed by the Renal Dialysis Facility's chief executive officer (CEO) or designee, and submitted via email to the ESRD QIP Mailbox at esrdqip@cms.hhs.gov. This form must be submitted within 90 days of the extraordinary circumstances event.

Please do not respond directly to this email. For further assistance, please contact the ESRD QIP at esrdqip@cms.hhs.gov.

Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities (IPFs)

CMS is granting an exception to inpatient psychiatric facilities located in the municipios described above for the following reporting requirements under the Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR) Program:

For the Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Healthcare Personnel (HCP) measure:

- May 15, 2018 submission deadline for the 2017 – 2018 flu season:
 - October 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018 (4th Quarter 2017 through 1st Quarter 2018)

Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs)

CMS is granting an exception to ASCs located in the municipios described above for the following reporting requirements under the Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reporting (ASCQR) Program:

- Data collection and submission requirements that apply for the remainder of Calendar Year (CY) 2017 and the 2017/2018 Influenza Season that relate to CY 2019 payment determinations are exempt. These exemptions apply to all data submitted via the *QualityNet Secure Portal* and the NHSN web-based measure collection tools that are due May 15, 2018, including claims-based measures calculated from submitted Quality Data Codes (QDCs). This exemption does not apply to claims-based measures that do not utilize QDCs for calculation purposes.

IPFQR and ASCQR ECE Request Process

IPFs and ASCs outside of the designated areas may submit ECE requests based on individual circumstances by one of the following methods:

- Secure File Transfer via *QualityNet Secure Portal*, “WAIVER EXCEPTION WITHHOLDING” group,
- E-mail to QRSupport@hcqis.org,
- Secure fax to (877) 789-4443, or

- Mail to HSAG, Attention: Quality Reporting Support Contractor, 3000 Bayport Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33607.

Please refer to the ECE Request process and form specific to the program of interest located on *QualityNet* for additional information.

- ASCQR Program: Select “Ambulatory Surgical Centers Reporting Program” from the **[Ambulatory Surgical Centers]** tab drop-down list, followed by selecting the “Extraordinary Circumstances Form” link in the left side navigation bar:
<https://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier3&cid=1228772757396>.
 - The National Support Team for the ASCQR Program is available to answer questions or supply any additional information you may need. Please contact the team at qrsupport@hsag.com or qrsupport@hcqis.org or call toll-free at (866) 800-8756.
- IPFQR Program: Select “Extraordinary Circumstances” from the **[Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities]** tab drop-down list:
<https://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier2&cid=1228772518249>.
 - The National Support Team for the IPFQR Program is available to answer questions or supply any additional information you may need. Please contact the team at InpatientSupport@vigrel.hcqis.org or call toll-free at (844) 472-4477.

For questions regarding technical issues, contact the QualityNet Help Desk at the following email address: qnetsupport@hcqis.org.

Please do not respond directly to this email. For further assistance regarding the information contained in this message, please contact the Hospital Inpatient Value, Incentives, and Quality Reporting Outreach and Education Support Team at <https://cms-ip.custhelp.com> or (844) 472-4477.