

2019 Spotlight & Announcements archives

About this Page

The Spotlight & Announcements webpage provides recent news and updates pertinent to the HQRP. On this page, you will find announcements about newly-posted resource guides and factsheets, available Quarterly Update documents, and APU updates, amongst other notifications.

Find program guidance and information about our response to COVID-19 here: [COVID-19 Updates](#)

For Natural Disaster Protocols, visit the [Hospice QRP Extensions and Exemption Requests Page](#).

For all QRP web pages that reference [qtso.com](#) please update to new web address to [qtso.cms.gov](#)

Updates

December 19, 2019

Important Updates on the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP)

Swingtech sends informational messages to hospices related to the Quality Reporting Program (QRP) on a quarterly basis. Their latest outreach communication can be found on the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices webpage](#). If you want to receive Swingtech's quarterly emails, then add or update the email addresses to which these messages are sent by sending an email to QRPHelp@swingtech.com. Be sure to include your facility name and CMS Certification Number (CCN) along with any requested updates.

December 17, 2019

Frequently Asked Questions on the Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation (HOPE) and "HOPE Fundamentals" Available

CMS has posted two documents that articulate key information about efforts to develop a new patient assessment tool for hospice to be proposed in future rulemaking. The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document responds to common questions about patient assessment tools and the HOPE. The other document, called "HOPE Fundamentals," highlights differences between the Hospice Item Set (HIS) and what CMS currently expects of the HOPE. These documents are now available in the Downloads section of the HOPE page at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/HOPE.html>.

December 17, 2019

Recruitment Announcement – Alpha Test for the Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation (HOPE) Assessment Instrument

Abt Associates is currently recruiting hospice providers to participate in a field test (called an alpha test) of the new hospice patient assessment instrument, titled Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation (HOPE). Data collection is anticipated to begin in late spring 2020.

The detailed recruitment announcement with additional information about the alpha test is available on CMS's Hospice QRP Provider Engagement Opportunities webpage, at this link: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Hospice-QRP-Provider-Engagement-Opportunities.html>

Those interested in participating, please follow the survey link <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5311824/HOPE-Alpha-Test-Application> to complete the HOPE alpha test interest form.

Recruitment begins 11/22/2019 and ends 2/21/2020. We will notify each applicant on or about 3/5/2020 whether they have or have not been selected to participate in the HOPE alpha test.

We are seeking a representative group of hospices, with a range of characteristics, including ownership (profit, nonprofit); and rurality (urban, rural, both). Our goal is to include hospices that provide care for a wide range of patient populations, including people with cancer and non-cancer diagnoses, for example.

The HOPE development work is under CMS contract number 75FCMC18D0014 and task order number 75FCMC19F0001.

December 16, 2019

Hospice Provider Preview Reports Now Available

Hospice Quality Reporting Program provider preview reports and Hospice Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) Survey ® provider preview reports have been updated and are now available. These two separate reports are available in your Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) non-validation reports folder.

For additional information, view the Hospice Public Reporting Background and Announcements webpage at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Public-Reporting-Background-and-Announcements.html>

November 22, 2019

Recruitment Announcement – Alpha Test for the Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation (HOPE) assessment instrument

Abt Associates is currently recruiting hospice providers to participate in a field test (called an alpha test) of the new hospice patient assessment instrument, titled Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation (HOPE). Data collection is anticipated to begin in February 2020.

The detailed recruitment announcement with additional information about the alpha test is available on CMS's Hospice QRP Provider Engagement Opportunities webpage, at this link: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Hospice-QRP-Provider-Engagement-Opportunities.html>

Those interested in participating, please follow the survey link <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5311824/HOPE-Alpha-Test-Application> to complete the HOPE alpha test application.

Recruitment begins 11/22/2019 and ends 12/20/2019. We will notify each applicant on or about 12/31/2019 whether they have or have not been selected to participate in the HOPE alpha test.

We are seeking a representative group of hospices, with a range of characteristics, including ownership (profit, nonprofit); and rurality (urban, rural, both). Our goal is to include hospices that provide care for a wide range of patient populations, including people with cancer and non-cancer diagnoses, for example.

The HOPE development work is under CMS contract number 75FCMC18D0014 and task order number 75FCMC19F0001.

November 21, 2019

Hospice Quality Reporting Program Compliance Tip Sheet Now Available

The **Hospice Quality Reporting Program Compliance Tip Sheet** is now available on the [Hospice Quality Reporting Training—Training and Education Library](#) webpage.

November 21, 2019

Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HGRP) Forum

Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Time: 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be hosting a webinar for Medicare-certified hospice providers to provide updates on the Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation (HOPE) Tool.

During this webinar, CMS subject matter experts will provide updates on the following:

- HOPE development
 - Update on Information Gathering Phase:
 - Focus group findings; and
 - EHR vendor listening session findings
- CMS will answer questions at the end of the webinar as time permits.

Please register at: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2592894011453861899>

November 19, 2019

Stay on Target with the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure - One Pager Now Available

CMS has posted a document that articulates key information about the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure. This one pager provides a visual to understand how the seven HIS measures contribute to the one Comprehensive Assessment Measure, and how to stay on target by completing all seven HIS measures for each patient. The document is now available in the Downloads section of the Current Measures page at: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Current-Measures.html>.

October 24, 2019

Recruitment Update – Technical Expert Panel (TEP) for HGRP Patient Assessment Instrument and Quality Measure Development

Abt Associates has selected 11 participants, representing a wide range of hospice stakeholders—for example, providers, caregivers, and quality improvement experts—to participate in a Technical Expert Panel (TEP) to provide input on an assessment instrument and corresponding quality measures for hospice care.

The TEP composition form and further details are available at this link: [/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/MMS/TEP-Current-Panels](#)

If you have general questions about the TEP and would like to contact Abt Associates, please email HospiceQRP@abtassoc.com.

The instrument development work is under CMS contract number 75FCMC18D0014 and task order number 75FCMC19F0001.

October 23, 2019

Register for the Hospice Webinar: *Success with the HQRP: Putting the Pieces Together to Meet Compliance -- Resources Included*

Date: Thursday, November 14, 2019

Time: 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET

Description: The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be hosting a webinar for Medicare-certified hospice providers to provide an overview on Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) requirements.

During this webinar, CMS subject matter experts will provide information on the following topics:

- Hospice Item Set (HIS) reporting requirements;
 - HQRP compliance cycle;
 - How to achieve hospice compliance;
 - CAHPS survey requirements; and
 - How to switch CAHPS survey research vendors.
- CMS will answer questions at the end of the webinar as time permits.

Please register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7023255168721815053>

October 16, 2019

Hospice QRP APU FY 2020: Successful Facilities

As stated in the [Fiscal Year 2016 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update and Hospice Quality Reporting Requirements Final Rule](#), CMS has published a list of Hospice providers 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 [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices webpage](#).

October 15, 2019

HQRP Quarterly Update for 3rd Quarter of 2019 is Available

The Hospice Quarterly Update for the third quarter of 2019 is now available. This update includes Hospice Quality Reporting Program highlights from this past quarter (July – September 2019), events and engagement opportunities planned for this coming quarter (October – December 2019), and selected questions and answers from the Hospice Quality Help Desk. Please navigate to the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices](#) page to download this document.

September 18, 2019

Important Updates on the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP)

CORMAC sends informational messages to hospices related to the Quality Reporting Program (QRP) on a quarterly basis. Their latest outreach communication can be found on the [HQRP Requirements and Best](#)

[Practices webpage](#). If you want to receive CORMAC's quarterly emails, then add or update the email addresses to which these messages are sent by sending an email to QRPHelp@swingtech.com. Be sure to include your facility name and CMS Certification Number (CCN) along with any requested updates

September 11, 2019

Hospice Provider Preview Reports Now Available

Hospice provider preview reports and Hospice Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) Survey® provider preview reports have been updated and are now available. These two separate reports are available in your Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) non-validation reports folder. Hospice providers are encouraged to review their Hospice Item Set (HIS) quality measure results from **Quarter 1, 2018 to Quarter 4, 2018** and their facility-level CAHPS® survey results from **Quarter 1, 2017 to Quarter 4, 2018**.

For further information view the [CMS Hospice Public Reporting: Background and Announcements webpage](#)

September 06, 2019

Recruitment Announcement – Technical Expert Panel (TEP) for HQRP Patient Assessment Instrument and Quality Measure Development

Abt Associates is currently recruiting a wide range of hospice stakeholders—for example, providers, patients, and quality improvement experts—to participate in a Technical Expert Panel (TEP) to provide input on an assessment instrument and corresponding quality measures for hospice care.

The Call for TEP materials, including the Nomination Form, are available at this link: [/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/MMS/TEP-Currently-Accepting-Nominations](#)

If you have general questions about the TEP and would like to contact Abt Associates, please email HospiceQRP@abtassoc.com.

The instrument development work is under CMS contract number 75FCMC18D0014 and task order number 75FCMC19F0001.

September 05, 2019

Presentation for the September 2019 HQRP Special Open Door Forum Available

CCSQ will host a Special Open Door Forum (SODF) in September to allow hospices and other interested parties to ask questions on the development of the Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation (HOPE). This SODF is part of a series of regular SODF's CMS plans to host on this patient assessment tool and other key topics related to the Hospice Quality Reporting Program. The presentation for this event is now available in the Downloads section of the HOPE page at [/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/HOPE](#).

August 15, 2019

Hospice Compare Quarterly Refresh Available

The August 2019 quarterly Hospice Compare refresh of quality data is now available. It is based on Hospice Item Set (HIS) quality measure results from data collected Q4 2017-Q3 2018 and Hospice Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) Survey® results reported Q4 2016 – Q3 2018.

For more information:

- [CMS Hospice QRP Public Reporting: Background and Announcements webpage](#), [Hospice Compare website](#)
August 14, 2019

Post-Training Materials for the June 11 Hospice Quality Reporting Program: Review and Correct Report Overview Webinar Are Now Available

The post-training materials for the **Hospice Quality Reporting Program: Review and Correct Report Overview Webinar** held on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. ET are now available on the [Hospice Quality Reporting Training—Training and Education Library](#) webpage.

August 07, 2019

Recruitment Announcement - Focus Groups for Hospice Patient Assessment Instrument

CMS is currently recruiting experienced hospice providers and clinicians to participate in focus groups to discuss and provide input as we develop a hospice patient assessment tool. All interested participants will be considered based on their hospice role, knowledge, and experience with the Hospice Quality Reporting Program or completing patient assessments. Selection will take into account hospice type and location to ensure a nationally balanced representation of diverse hospices.

The complete detailed Recruitment Announcement, with the link for completing the Focus Group Application, is posted in the Downloads section of the [Hospice QRP Provider Engagement Opportunities](#) webpage.

The current focus groups are targeted specifically at hospice providers at this point in the development of the instrument. We very much value feedback from all interested parties in this process and are grateful for your interest.

Those interested in participating, please [CLICK HERE to complete the Focus Group Application](#). The deadline for all applications is August 26, 2019. We plan to conduct 8 virtual focus groups, beginning after that date.

If you have general questions about the focus groups and would like to contact CMS, please email Cindy Massuda, CMS' Hospice Quality Reporting Program Coordinator, at Cindy.Massuda@cms.hhs.gov.

The instrument development work is under CMS contract number 75FCMC18D0014 and task order number 75FCMC19F0001.

FOR EHR VENDORS:

If you are an EHR Vendor interested in participating in the development of the instrument, we very much value your input in the development process. We are currently pursuing an engagement plan for EHR vendors to align our work efforts and would like to connect with you separately. Please email hospiceQRP@abtassociates.com

FOR Patients and Families:

If you are a patient and/or family member interested in participating in the development of the instrument, we very much value your input in the development process. We would like to hear from you, please email hospiceQRP@abtassociates.com

Getting Started with Hospice CASPER Review and Correct Reports is Available

August 06, 2019

New Version of CASPER Quality Measure Reports Fact Sheet now available

An updated version of the CASPER Quality Measure (QM) Reports Fact Sheet is now available in the Downloads section of the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices](#) page. This updated version reflects the addition of the Hospice When Death Is Imminent Measure Pair to both the Hospice-Level and Patient Stay-Level CASPER QM Reports.

August 06, 2019

Getting Started with Hospice CASPER Review and Correct Reports is now available for download. This document is intended to help providers understand what the Review and Correct Reports are and how to use them.

To download the Getting Started with Review and Correct Report, please refer to the “Downloads” section of the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices](#) webpage.

August 1, 2019

HIS 4.5 Month Data Correction Deadline: August 15, 2019

The 4.5 month Data Correction Deadline for the Hospice Item Set (HIS) data that will be included in quality measure calculations for the November 2019 Hospice Compare refresh is August 15, 2019. All HIS records, including modifications and inactivations, need to be submitted and accepted by the Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (QIES) Assessment Submission and Processing (ASAP) system by 11:59:59 p.m. E.T. August 15, 2019 to be reflected in the Hospice Provider Preview Report that will be available on September 2, 2019.

This announcement reflects the final transition from “freeze dates” to the 4.5 month data correction deadline policy. For the February, May, and August 2019 Hospice Compare refreshes, the preview period preceded the 4.5 month data correction deadline. Therefore, a “freeze date” was still required to ensure that the data included in the HIS Provider Preview Reports were an accurate representation of data to be displayed on Hospice Compare. Starting with the November 2019 Hospice Compare refresh, the 4.5 month data correction deadline falls on the same day or precedes the “freeze date.” Therefore, the “freeze date” will no longer be required for Hospice Compare refreshes starting with the November 2019 refresh, and instead all data must be corrected by the new data correction deadline to be reflected on Hospice Compare.

This means that providers will have 4.5 months following the end of each calendar year (CY) quarter to review and correct their HIS records with target dates (which is the admission date for HIS-Admission records and discharge date for HIS-Discharge record) in that quarter for public reporting. After this 4.5 month data correction deadline has passed, HIS data from that calendar quarter will be permanently frozen for the purposes of public reporting. Updates made after the correction deadline will **not appear** in any subsequent refresh. This policy is at the HIS record-level, meaning a patient’s HIS-Admission and HIS-Discharge records may have different data correction deadlines.

For more information about the data correction deadlines, preview reports, and key public reporting dates for providers, please see the [Public Reporting: Key Dates for Providers](#) webpage.

July 30, 2019

Recruitment Announcement - Focus Groups for Hospice Patient Assessment Instrument

CMS is currently recruiting experienced hospice providers and clinicians to participate in focus groups to discuss and provide input as we develop a hospice patient assessment tool. All interested participants will be considered based on their hospice role, knowledge, and experience with the Hospice Quality Reporting Program or completing patient assessments. Selection will take into account hospice type and location to ensure a nationally balanced representation of diverse hospices.

The complete, detailed Recruitment Announcement with the link for completing the Focus Group Application is posted in the Downloads section of the [Hospice QRP Provider Engagement Opportunities](#) webpage.

Those interested in participating, please [CLICK HERE to complete the Focus Group Application](#). Please respond by August 26, 2019.

If you have general questions about the focus groups and would like to contact CMS, please email Cindy Massuda, CMS' Hospice Quality Reporting Program Coordinator, at Cindy.Massuda@cms.hhs.gov.

The instrument development work is under CMS contract number 75FCMC18D0014 and task order number 75FCMC19F0001.

JULY 25, 2019

Important Reminder on Reconsideration Requests

Facilities that will be submitting reconsideration requests to CMS for the FY 2020 Annual Payment Update (APU) for the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (QRP) are reminded that **any documentation submitted for review that includes protected health information (PHI) will not be accepted, nor reviewed for reconsideration**. Please redact any PHI prior to sending by completely removing all PHI from supporting documentation. If any of the documents included in a reconsideration request contain PHI, the entire request will be rejected and your reconsideration will not be reviewed. Facilities are encouraged to carefully review all supporting materials to ensure all PHI has been removed.

For more information visit the [Hospice Reconsideration Requests webpage](#).

July 16, 2019

Hospice Web-Based Courses Available: Courses Provide An Overview of the Hospice Quality Reporting Program

Links to the following new courses can be found on the [Hospice Quality Reporting Training—Training and Education Library](#) webpage.

- Introduction to the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP)
- HQRP Data Submission Requirements and Reports

JULY 16, 2019

Hospice Quality Reporting Program: Non-Compliance Letters

CMS is providing notifications to hospices that were determined to be out of compliance with Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) requirements for CY 2018, which will affect their FY 2020 Annual Payment Update (APU). Non-compliance notifications are in the process of being mailed by the Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) and will be placed into hospices' CASPER folders in QIES on July 16, 2019. Hospices that receive a letter of non-compliance may submit a request for reconsideration to CMS **via email no later than 11:59 pm PST, August 15, 2019**. If you receive a notice of non-compliance and would like to request a reconsideration, see the instructions in your notification and on the [Reconsideration Requests webpage](#).

July 09, 2019

Public Reporting: Key Dates for Hospice Providers

Key dates are important for Public Reporting. When data are updated affects when the data are displayed on Hospice Compare. The data shown on your Preview Reports are the data that will be displayed on the next Hospice Compare refresh.

For example, the June 2019 Preview Reports (available in the CASPER folder 05/30/2019) will be the data displayed on the August 2019 refresh of Hospice Compare.

For more information about the freeze date, preview reports, and key public reporting dates for providers, please see the [Public Reporting: Key Dates for Providers](#) webpage.

July 09, 2019

HQRP Quarterly Update for 2nd Quarter of 2019 is Available

The Hospice Quarterly Update for the second quarter of 2019 is now available. This update includes Hospice Quality Reporting Program highlights from this past quarter (April -June 2019), events and engagement opportunities planned for this coming quarter (July-September 2019), and selected questions and answers from the Hospice Quality Help Desk. Please navigate to the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices](#) page to download this document.

June 28, 2019

Important Updates on the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP)

CORMAC sends informational messages to hospices related to the Quality Reporting Program (QRP) on a quarterly basis. Their latest outreach communication can be found on the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices](#) webpage. If you want to receive CORMAC's quarterly emails, then add or update the email addresses to which these messages are sent by sending an email to QRPHelp@swingtech.com. Be sure to include your facility name and CMS Certification Number (CCN) along with any requested updates.

June 05, 2019

June 11—Hospice Quality Reporting Program: Review and Correct Report Overview Webinar Pre-Training Materials Are Now Available

The training materials for the upcoming **Hospice Quality Reporting Program: Review and Correct Report Overview Webinar** scheduled for Tuesday, June 11, 2019, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. ET are now available at the bottom of the Downloads section on the [Hospice Quality Reporting Training—Training and Education Library](#) webpage.

If you have not yet registered, please [CLICK HERE to register for the Hospice Quality Reporting Program: Review and Correct Report Overview Webinar.](#)

If you would like your name placed on a list to receive an email notification when the recorded version of the webinar is available, please [CLICK HERE to be placed on an email notification list.](#)

If you have questions or need additional information regarding the logistics of this training session, please email the PAC Training mailbox at PACTraining@econometricainc.com.

May 31, 2019

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Special Open Door Forum:

Developing a Hospice Assessment Tool---Status Update

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

2:00-3:00 pm Eastern Time

Conference Call Only

CCSQ will host a Special Open Door Forum (ODF) to allow hospices and other interested parties to ask questions on the development of a Hospice Assessment Tool. This SODF is part of a series of regular SODF's CMS plans to host on this tool and other key topics related to the Hospice Quality Reporting Program.

The purpose of a hospice assessment tool is to develop a tool that enables CMS and hospices to understand the care needs of people through the dying process and to ensure the safety and comfort of individuals enrolled in hospice institutions nationwide. The SODF will provide a status update and welcomes your questions.

You can learn about the hospice assessment tool by going to: </Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/HEART>

Feedback and questions on the hospice assessment tool can be sent to: HospiceAssessment@cms.hhs.gov

We look forward to your participation.

Special Open Door Participation Instructions:

Participant Dial-In Number: 1-800-837-1935

Conference ID #: 9490006

Note: TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the Hearing Impaired. For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880. A Relay Communications Assistant will help.

A transcript and audio recording of this Special ODF will be posted to the Podcast and Transcripts website at </Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/OpenDoorForums/PodcastAndTranscripts> for downloading.

For automatic emails of Open Door Forum schedule updates (E-Mailing list subscriptions) and to view Frequently Asked Questions please visit our website at </OpenDoorForums/>.

Thank you for your interest in CMS Open Door Forums.

May 30, 2019

Hospice Provider Preview Reports Now Available

Hospice provider preview reports and Hospice Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) Survey ® provider preview reports have been updated and are now available. These two separate reports are available in your Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) non-validation reports folder. Hospice providers are encouraged to review their Hospice Item Set (HIS) quality measure results from **Quarter 4, 2017 to Quarter 3, 2018** and their facility-level CAHPS® survey results from **Quarter 4, 2016 to Quarter 3, 2018**.

For further information view the [CMS Hospice Public Reporting: Background and Announcements webpage](#).

May 23, 2019

Hospice Compare Quarterly Refresh Available

The May 2019 quarterly Hospice Compare refresh of quality data is now available. In addition to the updated quality metrics, CMS will begin posting new data on hospice characteristics on Hospice Compare, beginning with this refresh. For more information, we invite you to view the [CMS Hospice Quality Public Reporting](#) webpage.

May 16, 2019

REGISTRATION OPEN – Hospice Quality Reporting Program: Review and Correct Report Overview Webinar

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be hosting a webinar on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. ET. The primary purpose of the webinar is to increase providers' awareness of how to use the new Review and Correct Report to verify the data displayed on the Hospice Compare website for their facility is accurate. This webinar will cover:

- An overview of public reporting in the context of the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP).
- The purpose of the Review and Correct Report.
- How to access the Review and Correct Report.
- How to use and interpret the information in the Review and Correct Report.
- How and when you can submit corrections to errors found in the Review and Correct Report.

Registration for this webinar is limited to 1,000 attendees on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Please register only if you know you will be able to attend the webinar, as space is limited. If you would like your name placed on a list to receive an email notification when the recorded version of the webinar is available, please [CLICK HERE to be placed on an email notification list](#).

[CLICK HERE to register for the Hospice Quality Reporting Program: Review and Correct Report Overview Webinar.](#)

If you have questions or need additional information regarding the logistics of this training session, please email the PAC Training mailbox at PACTraining@econometricainc.com.

April 30, 2019

Policy Change for Assessment Submission Timeframe

The current CMS policy for submission of patient assessment records allows providers to submit records for up to 36 months from the assessment target date. Effective October 1, 2019, the CMS policy for patient

assessment submission will be changed to 24 months from the assessment target date. The policy change applies to new, modified, and inactivated records.

April 01, 2019

Update to Public Reporting of the Hospice Visits when Death is Imminent Measure Pair

The Hospice Visits when Death is Imminent measure pair assesses whether a hospice patient and caregiver's needs were addressed by hospice staff in the last three and seven days of life. CMS will publicly report the three-day Hospice Visits when Death is Imminent measure on Hospice Compare in summer 2019, as planned. The seven-day Hospice Visits when Death is Imminent measure will not be publicly reported at this time because it did not currently meet readiness standards for public reporting.

For more information please see the "Public Reporting of the Hospice Visits when Death is Imminent Measure Pair Fact Sheet" in the Downloads section of the [Public Reporting: Background and Announcements](#) webpage.

April 01, 2019

Hospice Visits when Death is Imminent measure pair added to CASPER QM Reports

Starting on April 1, 2019, the **Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced** Reports Quality Measure (CASPER QM) Reports now include the Hospice Visits when Death is Imminent measure pair. This measure pair assesses whether a hospice patient's and caregiver's needs were addressed by hospice staff in the last three and seven days of life.

For more information please see the "Public Reporting of the Hospice Visits when Death is Imminent Measure Pair Fact Sheet" in the Downloads section of the [Public Reporting: Background and Announcements](#) webpage.

March 19, 2019

Important Updates on the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP)

CORMAC sends informational messages to hospices related to the Quality Reporting Program (QRP) on a quarterly basis. Their latest outreach communication can be found on the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices webpage](#). If you want to receive CORMAC's quarterly emails, then add or update the email addresses to which these messages are sent by sending an email to QRPHelp@swingtech.com. Be sure to include your facility name and CMS Certification Number (CCN) along with any requested updates

March 1, 2019

Hospice Provider Preview Reports Now Available

Hospice provider preview reports and Hospice Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) Survey ® provider preview reports have been updated and are now available. These two separate reports are available in your Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) non-validation reports folder. Hospice providers are encouraged to review their Hospice Item Set (HIS) quality measure results from Quarter 3, 2017 to Quarter 2, 2018 and their facility-level CAHPS® survey results from Quarter 3, 2016 to Quarter 2, 2018.

For further information view the [CMS Hospice Public Reporting: Background and Announcements webpage](#).

February 26, 2018

Post-Training Materials for the January 23 HQRP: Achieving a Full APU Webinar Are Now Available

The training materials for the **Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP): Achieving a Full Annual Payment Update (APU) Webinar** held on Wednesday, January 23, 2019, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. EST are now available on the [Hospice Quality Reporting Training—Training and Education Library](#) webpage.

February 21, 2019

Hospice Compare Quarterly Refresh Available

The Hospice Compare website has been updated.

For more information, view the [CMS Hospice Quality Public Reporting](#) webpage.

February 20, 2019

Post-Acute Care Quality Reporting Program Quarter 3 Data Submission Deadline Extension

CMS is aware of the issue with CMSNet that impacted post-acute care (PAC) providers' ability to submit assessment data for the quality reporting programs (QRP) to the QIES-ASAP system on the Quarter 3 data submission deadline of February 15, 2019. We have extended the data submission deadline, and we will be accepting QRP assessment data submissions through, Thursday, February 21, 2019. Providers can also apply for an extension following the instructions listed on the PAC QRP Reconsiderations and Exception & Extension webpages if they are unable to meet this extension deadline.

February 08, 2019

Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) Quarterly Update document for the Fourth Quarter of 2018 Now Available

The HQRP Quarterly Update for the fourth quarter (October – December) of 2018 is now available for download. This document features frequently asked questions that were received by the Hospice Quality Help Desk, as well as general HQRP updates and events, from the fourth quarter of 2018. It also highlights upcoming events in the first quarter of 2019.

To download the HQRP Quarterly Update document for the fourth quarter of 2018, please refer to the "Downloads" section of the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices](#) webpage.

January 24, 2019

Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) Data Collection for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Reporting Year begins January 1, 2019

This is the first quarter for data collection for the FY2021 reporting year (data collection period 1/1/19 – 12/31/19). For Hospice Item Set (HIS) data, remember that the timeliness threshold requirement for the FY2021 reporting year and beyond is 90%. This means that to be determined compliant with HIS requirements, hospices must submit at least 90% of their HIS records on time (within 30 days of the patient's admission or discharge date). There are no size or newness exemptions for HIS reporting. For more information on the

Timeliness Compliance Threshold, please refer to the Timeliness Compliance Threshold Fact Sheet in the Downloads section of [Hospice Item Set \(HIS\)](#) webpage.

Hospice Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) data collection period for the FY2021 reporting year began on January 1, 2019, and will continue through December 31, 2019. This data collection period impacts hospice payments for FY2021. Providers who have not been participating in CAHPS® and do not qualify for an exemption should begin immediate preparations to participate in the survey. For assistance, please email or call the CAHPS® survey technical assistance team at hospicecahpsurvey@HCQIS.org or 1-844-472-4621.

For additional tips on ensuring compliance for the HQRP overall, please refer to the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices](#) webpage.

January 14, 2019

New Version of HQRP QM User's Manual now available for Download on the Current Measures Page

Version 3.00 of the HQRP QM User's Manual is now available for download in PDF format. The measure specifications for Hospice Visits when Death is Imminent Measure 1 and Measure 2 are included in this new version. Please refer to the "HQRP QM Users Manual v3.00" document in the Downloads section of the [Current Measures](#) web page to download the QM User's Manual v3.00.

January 10, 2019

REGISTRATION OPEN –HQRP: Achieving a Full APU Webinar, January 23, 2019

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be hosting a webinar on Wednesday, January 23, 2019, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. EST. The purpose of the webinar is educate providers as to the Annual Payment Update (APU) process to achieve full APU. This webinar will cover:

- The relationship between the APU and the Hospice Quality Reporting Program,
- Associated data submission requirements, and
- The reconsideration process for providers who are identified as being noncompliant.

Registration for these webinars is limited to 1,000 attendees per event on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Please register only if you know you will be able to attend the webinar, as space is limited. If you would like your name placed on a list to receive an email notification when the recorded version of the webinar is available, please [CLICK HERE to be placed on an email notification list](#).

[CLICK HERE to register for the HQRP: Achieving a Full APU Webinar.](#)

If you have questions or need additional information regarding the logistics of this training session, please email the PAC Training mailbox at PACTraining@econometricainc.com.