

# 2021 Hospice Spotlight & Announcements Archives

**July 29, 2021**

## **Fiscal Year 2022 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update, Hospice Conditions of Participation Updates, Requirements, and Home Health Quality Reporting Program Final Rule CMS-1754-F**

On July 29, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule (CMS-1754-F) that provided updates to and finalized proposals for fiscal year (FY) 2022 Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP). This rule includes finalizations for changes to the Home Health Quality Reporting Program beginning with January 2022 to address exceptions related to the COVID-19 public health emergency. We included Home Health in this rule because we will resume public reporting for the HH QRP with the January 2022 refresh of Care Compare. In order to accommodate the exception of 2020 Q1 and Q2 data, we finalized the resumption of public reporting using 3 out of 4 quarters of data for the January 2022 refresh. In order to complete this proposal in time to release the required preview report related to the refresh, which we release 3 months prior to any given refresh (Oct. 2021), we needed the rule containing this proposal to finalize by October 2021.

The final rule went on display at the Federal Register's Public Inspection Desk and will be available under "Special Filings," at <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection>.

For further information, visit <http://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Hospice-Center.htm>.

**July 21, 2021**

## **Register for the August 4 Hospice Quality Reporting Program Forum---Focus on the HQRP portion of the FY 2022 Hospice Final Rule**

On Wednesday, August 4th, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will host a webinar to share updates on the HQRP portion of the fiscal year (FY) 2022 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update and Hospice Quality Reporting Requirements Final Rule. By attending this webinar, you should be better prepared for the October 1<sup>st</sup> implementation of this final rule related to HQRP.

More information on the webinar, including how to register, can be found on the [Provider and Stakeholder Engagement](#) webpage.

**July 21, 2021**

## **Registration is Open for the August 4 Hospice Quality Reporting Program Forum**

On Wednesday, August 4th, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will host a webinar to share updates on the fiscal year (FY) 2022 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update and Hospice Quality Reporting Requirements Final Rule.

More information on the webinar, including how to register, can be found on the [Provider and Stakeholder Engagement](#) webpage.

**July 16, 2021**

## **HQRP Quarterly Update for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2021 is Available**

The Hospice Quarterly Update for the second quarter of 2021 is now available. This update includes HQRP highlights from April 2021 to June 2021, events and engagement opportunities for the third quarter of 2021 (July – September 2021), 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.

**July 14, 2021**

### **Hospice Quality Reporting Program: Non-Compliance Notifications**

CMS is providing notifications to hospices that were determined to be out of compliance with Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) requirements for calendar year (CY) 2020, which will affect their fiscal year (FY) 2022 Annual Payment Update (APU). Non-compliance notifications will be distributed by the Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) and will be placed into hospices' CASPER folders in QIES on **July 14, 2021**. Hospices that receive a letter of non-compliance may submit a request for reconsideration to CMS via **email no later than 11:59 pm, August 13, 2021**. 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.

**Please note:** Any reconsideration containing protected health information (PHI) will not be processed. All PHI must be removed in order for a reconsideration to be reviewed.

**July 02, 2021**

### **Training Materials Available for The HQRP – Understanding the Composite Quality Measure Webinar**

The training materials for “**The HQRP – Understanding the Composite Quality Measure**” webinar that took place on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 are now available under the **Downloads** section on the [HQRP Training and Education Library Webpage](#).

**June 22, 2021**

### **Important Updates on the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP)**

CMS 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 CMS' quarterly emails, add, or update the email addresses to which these messages are sent by sending an email to [QRPHelp@swingtech.com](mailto:QRPHelp@swingtech.com). Be sure to include your facility name and CMS Certification Number (CCN) along with any requested updates.

**May 27, 2021**

### **Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) May Forum Materials Available Now**

On Wednesday, May 12, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) hosted the Spring 2021 HQRP Forum to provide information on the Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation, or HOPE. Materials from this HQRP Forum, including a recording of the presentation, are now available in the **Downloads** section of the [Provider and Stakeholder Engagement](#) webpage.

**May 26, 2021**

### **May 2021 Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) Update Now Available**

The May 2021 update is now available on [Care Compare](#), the streamlined redesign of eight former CMS healthcare compare tools on [Medicare.gov](#), including Hospice Compare. We made several changes. First, data derived from the Post-Acute Care and Hospice Provider Utilization and Payment Public Use File (PUF) have been updated to include calendar year 2018 data. Furthermore, additional data elements from the PUF file have been added to inform users whether a hospice provided service to any Medicare Advantage patients, or patients with both Medicaid and Medicare coverage. Please visit the [Public Reporting: Background and Announcements](#) webpage to view a newly issued Fact Sheet and Question and Answer document. These resources provide an overview of the PUF information on hospices publicly reported by the HQRP.

In addition, Care Compare visitors can now use a new link to the FY 2021 Annual Payment Update Compliance File to identify hospices which have been compliant with HQRP requirements in their area. This file is already publicly available on the [HQRP Requirements](#) webpage. As an integral part of Care Compare, it will now be more accessible to consumers and thus help inform their decisions.

Finally, as of May 2021, we also updated the claims-based zip codes using CY 2019 Medicare claims data. This routine annual update ensures that the Care Compare search engine continues to provide accurate and up-to-date hospice information to consumers. Hospice Item Set zip code data continue to come from January-December 2019 Hospice Item Set records.

Please note that all Hospice Item Set and CAHPS measures remain frozen due to the temporary exemption to the HQRP data submission requirements in responding to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). For additional information on COVID-19 PHE data exemption, please see the [Hospice COVID-19 Public Reporting Tip Sheet \(PDF\)](#) in the [Downloads](#) section of the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices](#) webpage. For more information about public reporting, please see the [Public Reporting: Key Dates for Providers](#) webpage.

**May 19, 2021**

#### **REGISTRATION OPEN – The HQRP – Understanding the Composite Quality Measure Webinar**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be hosting a webinar on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. ET. The purpose of this training is to provide a general overview of the Hospice Quality Composite Measure and how it differs from individual quality measures. Specific topics include:

- What is a Composite Measure?
- Current HQRP Composite Measure.
- Calculation of a Composite Measure.
- Interpreting and Using Composite Measure Results.
- HQRP resources.

**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 – Understanding the Composite Quality Measure 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](mailto:PACTraining@econometricainc.com).

**May 12, 2021**

#### **CMS Announces Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation (HOPE) Beta Test Recruitment**

CMS and their contractor, Abt Associates are now recruiting Medicare-certified hospice providers to participate in a beta test of the draft hospice patient assessment instrument called Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation (HOPE). Recruitment ends June 14, 2021. Data collection is anticipated to begin in fall 2021.

The detailed recruitment announcement and application for participation are available on CMS's [Hospice QRP Provider and Stakeholder Engagement](#) webpage.

Those interested in participating should complete the application and email to [HospiceAssessment@CMS.hhs.gov](mailto:HospiceAssessment@CMS.hhs.gov) by June 14, 2021.

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

**April 16, 2021**

#### **HQRP Quarterly Update for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2021 is Available**

The Hospice Quarterly Update for the first quarter of 2021 is now available. This update includes Hospice Quality Reporting Program highlights from January 2021 to March 2021, events and engagement opportunities for the second quarter of 2021 (April – June 2021), and selected questions and answers from the Hospice Quality Help Desk. Please navigate to the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices](#) webpage to download this document.

**April 14, 2021**

#### **Training Materials Available for The Changes in the Hospice Item Set (HIS) Manual V3.00 Webinar**

The training materials for “**Changes in the Hospice Item Set (HIS) Manual V3.00 Webinar**” scheduled for Thursday, April 15, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET. are now available under the Downloads section below.

If you have not yet registered, please [CLICK HERE to register for Changes in the Hospice Item Set \(HIS\) Manual V3.00 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](mailto:PACTraining@econometricainc.com).

**January 29, 2021**

#### **Update Regarding Hospice Visits in Last Days of Life (HVLDL) Measure**

As of January 1, 2021, the Hospice Visits in the Last Days of Life (HVLDL) claims based measure replaces the information previously collected in Section O of the HIS-Discharge. This is a re-specified, claims-based version of the Hospice Visits when Death is Imminent (HVWDLII) measure pair. Per the measure specifications, HVLDL indicates the hospice provider’s proportion of patients who have received visits from a registered nurse or medical social worker (non-telephonically) on at least two out of the final three days of the patient’s life.

The calculation of the last three days remains unchanged from the last three days documented in Section O. Information defining the last three days can be found on page 20-3 in [HIS Manual V2.01 \(PDF\)](#). Specifically these three days as “indicated by the day of death, the day prior to death, and two days prior to death.”

- The day of death is the same as the date provided in A0270, Discharge Date. (or the day of death)
  - One day prior to death is calculated as A0270 minus 1.
  - Two days prior to death is calculated as A0270 minus 2.
- This new measure is expected to be publicly reported in spring 2022. This date will be finalized once the draft HIS Manual V3.00 receives final OMB approval.

**January 19, 2021**

**HQRP Quarterly Update for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2020 is Available**

The Hospice Quarterly Update for the fourth quarter of 2020 is now available. This update includes Hospice Quality Reporting Program highlights from October 2020 to December 2020, events and engagement opportunities for the first quarter of 2021 (January – March 2021), 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.