

Hospice QRP Announcements & Spotlight

December 28, 2021

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, 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 02, 2021

REGISTRATION OPEN – CMS December 2021 Hospice Quality Reporting Program Forum

Registration open for “CMS December Hospice Quality Reporting Program Forum” scheduled for Thursday, December 16, 2021 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET. Please find the event details at [Provider and Stakeholder Engagement | CMS](#)

October 04, 2021

REGISTRATION OPEN – CMS October Hospice Quality Reporting Program Forum

Registration open for “CMS October Hospice Quality Reporting Program Forum” scheduled for Tuesday, October 19, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. ET. Please find the event details on the [Provider and Stakeholder Engagement | CMS](#)

September 28, 2021

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, 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.

August 18, 2021

REGISTRATION OPEN – The FY 2022 Hospice Final Rule: What Hospices Need to Know! Webinar

Registration open for “The FY 2022 Hospice Final Rule: What Hospices Need to Know! Webinar” scheduled for Tuesday, August 31, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET. Please find the event details on the [HQRP Training and Education Library Webpage](#).

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 on 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 1st 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 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 2nd 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. 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 the newly issued Fact Sheet and Question and Answer documents. 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.

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 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 1st 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 on the [HQRP Training and Education Library](#) webpage.

April 08, 2021

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

On April 08, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule (CMS-1754-P) that provides updates to and proposals for fiscal year (FY) 2022 Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP). This rule also includes a proposal 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 include this Home Health proposal in this rule because we plan to 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 are proposing to resume public reporting using 3 out of 4 quarters of data for the January 2022 refresh. In order to finalize 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 need the rule containing this proposal to finalize by October 2021.

The proposed 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>.

April 08, 2021

The Hospice Care Index – Introducing a New Measure of Quality for Hospice Care

CMS is proud to introduce the Hospice Care Index (HCI) as a new proposed measure for the Hospice Quality Reporting Program. The HCI is intended to strengthen our quality reporting program, while also providing families and patients the information they need to decide which hospice is right for them. The HCI takes ten claims-based indicators into consideration. Collectively, the indicators represent different aspects of hospice care and aim to convey a comprehensive characterization of the quality of care furnished by a hospice. To learn more about the background of the HCI, please watch this video: <https://youtu.be/by68E9E2cZc>.

This information can also be found on the [Quality Measure Development](#) webpage.

March 23, 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, 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 03, 2021

2020 Technical Expert Panel Meeting Summary Report Available

CMS has released the summary report from the Technical Expert Panel (TEP) meetings convened in 2020 by CMS's measure development contractor, Abt Associates. The standing TEP is composed of eleven members representing a wide range of hospice stakeholders, including providers, caregivers, and quality improvement experts. The TEP's role is to help develop and refine new hospice quality measures, focusing on measures derived from the Hospice Outcomes and Patient Evaluation (HOPE), a real-time hospice assessment instrument. The full TEP convened in March and November 2020, and a subset of TEP members convened between May and June 2020. This report provides a summary of these activities, including background on the focus of each TEP meeting, a summary of the discussion, and key recommendations.

The 2020 TEP Summary Report is available on the [Provider Engagement Opportunities](#) webpage.

If you have general questions about the Hospice Quality Reporting Program, please email HospiceQRP@abtassoc.com.

This work is being conducted under CMS contract number 75FCMC18D0014 and task order number 75FCMC19F0001.

March 02, 2021

Changes Made to Provider Reports

We made several updates to the Hospice Quality Reporting Program's (HQRP's) confidential reports available to you in CASPER. The reports updated include 1) the QM reports, which provide hospice agencies feedback on their quality measure scores, allowing them to continuously improve the quality of care delivered; and 2) the Review and Correct reports which provide hospice agencies an opportunity to identify any reporting errors that may affect quality measure performance related to public reporting.

With the new changes, the QM reports direct readers to the HQRP [Public Reporting: Key Dates for Providers](#) webpage to obtain more information on public reporting in light of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. In addition, the QM Reports and the Review and Correct Reports align with the Hospice Item Set (HIS) V3.00, which removes Section O from the Discharge Assessment and thus ends data collection for the Hospice Visits When Death Is Imminent (HVWDII) measure pair. The HIS Manual V3.00 received OMB approval as of February 16, 2021. Because of this change to the HIS, the QM and Review and Correct reports display HVWDII measure scores only when hospice agencies select quarters before or including Q4 2020; when hospice agencies select quarters after Q4 2020, the reports will display a dash for HVWDII. Please find more information on the QM reports on the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices](#) webpage and additional information on the HIS V3.00 on the [Hospice Item Set](#) webpage.

February 26, 2021

NOW AVAILABLE: Final Hospice Item Set (HIS) Manual V3.00

The final HIS Manual V3.00 is now available in the **Downloads** section of the [Hospice Item Set \(HIS\)](#) webpage. The updated Admission and Discharge Instruments, along with a Change Table showing what was updated from the HIS Manual V2.01 to V3.00, are also available for download.

The HIS Manual V3.00 is effective as of February 16, 2021. For more information and to download the new documents, please visit the [Hospice Item Set](#) webpage.

February 12, 2021

Update: Common Questions-Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) Claims-Based-Quality Measures: February 2021

A new document, entitled “Common Questions-HQRP Claims-Based-Quality Measures: February 2021” is now available in the **Downloads** section of the [Hospice Item Set \(HIS\)](#) webpage. This document will give providers information and answers to some common questions about the HQRP including changes in the draft HIS Manual V3.00; the new claims-based Quality Measure (QM) Hospice Visits in the Last Days of Life (HVLDL) replacing Hospice Visits When Death is Imminent (HVWDII); the Hospice Care Index (HCI); and HQRP in the future.

February 10, 2021

Updated Provider Demographic Data Process Available

CMS will be transitioning to a new data source for a provider’s demographic data for hospice and the other Post-Acute Care (PAC) provider types (Skilled Nursing Facilities / Nursing Facilities (SNF/NFs), Home Health Agencies (HHAs), Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRFs), and Long-Term Care Hospitals (LTCHs)). Historically provider demographic data have been maintained in the Automated Survey Processing Environment or ASPEN software; however, CMS will be transitioning to use the demographic information from Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System (PECOS). While this transition is underway, a final date when all demographic data will be obtained from PECOS has not been identified. During this transition, all PAC providers will be responsible to ensure their latest demographic data are updated and available in *both* the ASPEN and PECOS systems. A referencing document that outlines the steps each PAC provider should follow can be accessed in the **Downloads** section of the [Public Reporting: Background and Announcements](#) webpage. Should you have questions regarding this updated process, please contact the iQIES help desk by email at iQIES@cms.hhs.gov or by phone at (800) 339-9313.