

Dialysis Facility Care Compare on Medicare.gov (DFCC) April 2023 Refresh Questions and Answers

What is Dialysis Facility Care Compare on Medicare.gov (DFCC)?

<u>Dialysis Facility Care Compare</u> on Medicare.gov, formerly known as Dialysis Facility Compare, is a website that allows patients and health centers to view and compare quality data about dialysis facilities. CMS also uses these data, organized into a series of measures, to create a star rating system that can help patients make educated decisions about where to get their dialysis treatments.

What is the April 2023 refresh?

The April 2023 refresh is one of a series of updates made each year to the data featured on DFCC. New data is scheduled to be refreshed on April 26th, 2023.

What is changing in the April 2023 refresh?

With the April 2023 refresh, the following measures on Dialysis Facility Care Compare will be updated with data from July 2021-June 2022:

- Adult and child patients who had enough waste removed from their blood during hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis
- Adult patients who had too much calcium in their blood
- Hemoglobin management (Downloadable Data Only)
- Phosphorus concentrations in the blood (Downloadable Data Only)
- Adult patients who received treatment through an arteriovenous fistula
- Adult patients who had a catheter (tube) left in a vein for at least 3 consecutive complete months, for their regular hemodialysis treatments
- Measurement of nPCR for Pediatric Hemodialysis Patients
- Patients who were on the kidney or kidney-pancreas transplant waiting list

Individual measures and Star Ratings of ICH CAHPS Survey of patients' experiences:

- Kidney doctors' communication and caring
- Dialysis center staff care and operations
- Providing information to patients
- Rating of kidney doctors
- Rating of dialysis center staff
- Rating of dialysis center

The Overall Star Rating of ICH CAHPS Survey of patients' experiences is also updated with this release.

Who is affected by the refresh?

DFCC displays ratings of the quality of care provided by dialysis facilities based on a series of quality measures. Facilities have had their individual measure scores updated based on the latest data for a number of these quality measures. Facilities had an opportunity to review the data and raise any concerns with CMS before the refresh went live. The Quality of Patient Care Star Ratings will not be updated during the April 2023 refresh. Star Ratings from October 2020 will continue to be visible on Medicare.gov.