



Hospice Vendor Update 6/24/2025

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Disclaimer



- This presentation was current at the time it was published or uploaded onto the web. Medicare policy is subject to change, so links to the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) and other related web pages have been provided as supplemental resources for your reference.
- This presentation was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This presentation may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The intent of the information provided is to be a general summary and not to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations, and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

Hospice Outcomes and Patient Evaluation (HOPE) Tool

What is the HOPE Tool?



- The **HOPE Tool version 1.01** is a new standardized patient level data collection tool.
- HOPE replaces the Hospice Item Set (HIS).
- HOPE will provide **assessment-based quality data** to enhance the HQRP.
- Hospices will begin collecting data using HOPE on **October 1, 2025.**

Transition from HIS to HOPE



- HOPE v1.01 contains **45 unique items**, an increase from the 32 items in the current HIS:
 - There are 13 new HOPE items and 2 new gateway questions.
 - 23 of the HOPE items are original HIS items.
 - 7 HIS items were **modified or changed**, including:
 - A0810. Sex has replaced A0800. Gender.
 - J2040C. Type(s) of treatment for shortness of breath initiated was removed.
 - 2 Items have been **removed**:
 - A1000. Race/Ethnicity
 - A0245. Date Initial Nursing Assessment Completed
- HOPE includes **new timepoints** called the HOPE Update Visits (HUV).

HOPE Data Collection Timepoints



HOPE Update Visits (HUV)



- Collected via **in-person visits** to inform updates to the plan of care.
- Timeframes:
 - **HUV1** is required **on or between days 6 and 15** of the hospice stay.
 - **HUV2** is required **on or between days 16 and 30** of the hospice stay.

Refer to Chapter 1 of the HOPE Guidance Manual for more details!

Sections in HOPE



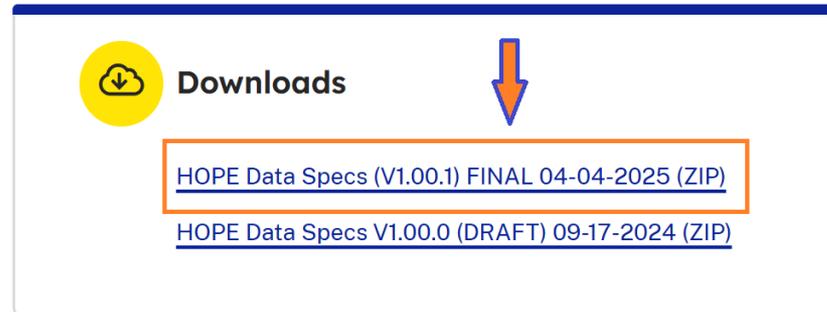
- Section A: Administrative Information (*new & modified items*)
- Section F: Preferences (unchanged)
- Section I: Active Diagnoses (*expanded list + co-morbidities*)
- Section J: Health Conditions (*new & modified items*)
- Section M: Skin Conditions (*all new*)
- Section N: Medications (unchanged)
- Section Z: Record Administration (*1 new item*)

For details, please review the HOPE Guidance Manual v1.01 on the HOPE webpage.

HOPE Data Submission Specifications

- The final **HOPE data submission specifications (V1.00.1)** and **Errata (V1.00.2)** are available on the CMS website.
- This FINAL version of the specifications and Errata will go into effect on **October 1, 2025**.
- The HOPE data submission specifications and errata can be accessed at the link below.
 - Navigate to the **downloads section** at the bottom of the page.

[Hospice Outcomes and Patient Evaluation \(HOPE\) Technical Information | CMS](#)



HOPE Data Submission Specifications

HOPE Data Submission Specifications

Notable changes since the DRAFT version include the following:

1. A0810. Sex replaces the A0800. Gender item.
2. New warning edit -3110, which includes the HUV timing rules.
3. New edit -3111, which addresses the handling of item Z0350 for inactivation records.
4. The Errata contains three issues (two edit changes, and the addition of caret as an allowed value for item J0915), which address item J0915 not being previously included in two skip pattern edits.

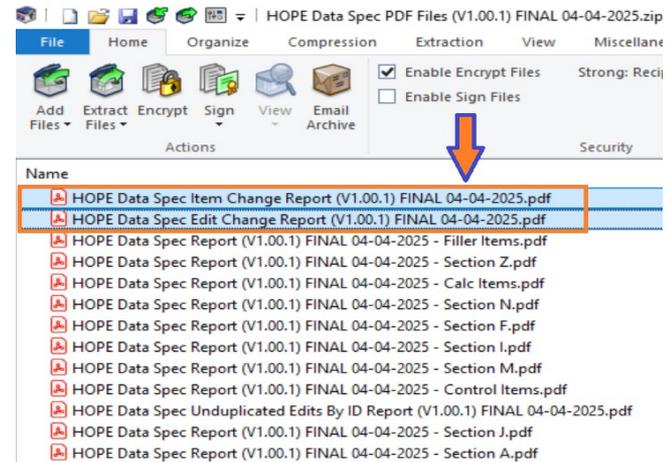
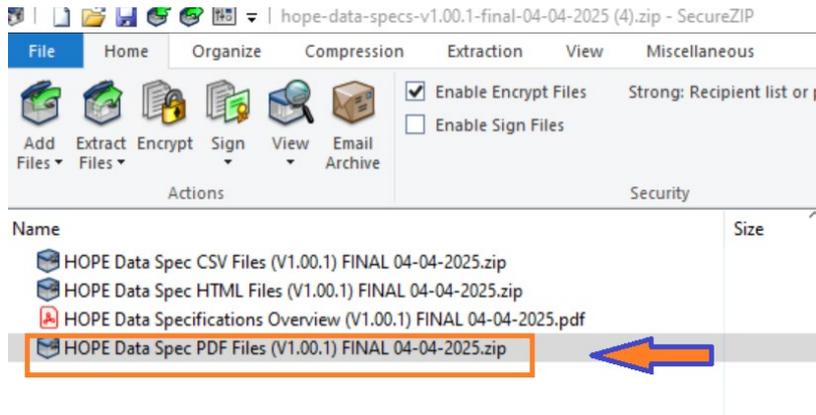
A0810. Sex	
Enter Code <input type="checkbox"/>	1. Male 2. Female



A0800. Gender	
Enter Code <input type="checkbox"/>	1. Male 2. Female

HOPE Data Submission Specifications

- **Please review** the HOPE Data Spec **Item Change** and the HOPE Data Spec **Edit Change** reports to see all the revisions.
- These reports are within the PDF attachments, inside the data submission specifications.



Internet Quality Improvement & Evaluation System (iQIES)

Submission System



- HOPE assessments will be submitted within the iQIES System.
- More information about iQIES, including training, user guide and onboarding information will be provided starting in **late July of 2025**.
- When vendor onboarding begins in **September**, vendors will register for the **Assessment Submitter** role in iQIES.

Register to receive information about iQIES at the link below:

<http://iqies.cms.gov/>

Navigate to the bottom of the right side of the page. Input your email and select subscribe.

Stay Connected

Sign up for the iQIES Newsletter *

Validation Utility Tool (VUT)



- The VUT for HOPE will be available in **August 2025**.
- A communication will be sent when the VUT is available.

<https://iqies.cms.gov/vut>



Validation Utility Tool (VUT)

Select a provider data specification version and upload a test file to validate assessment upload compatibility. Results will be displayed in the Final Validation report below.

All required fields are marked with an asterisk (*)

Provider Data Specification *

Select one

Submission Date (Optional)

MM/DD/YYYY

Supported file formats: XML (.xml) and ZIP (.zip) with a 5MB maximum size

- A link to the *Upload an Assessment for MDS Users* training video is to the right.
 - The functionality demonstrated in this video **will work the same** for uploading HOPE Assessments.

[Upload an Assessment for MDS Users](#)



VIDEO TUTORIAL

Inactive User Policy

- As of May 2024, CMS security policy requires deactivation of user roles if the account is inactive.
- System audits are conducted on a regular basis to identify users who have not logged in for more than **60 days**.
- Inactive users will receive an email indicating that they will need to log into iQIES to keep their iQIES User Role(s) and account active.
- If inactive users do not log into the iQIES system, their iQIES role(s) will be revoked and they will not be able to access the system.



[iQIES will Implement an Inactive User Policy | QIES Technical Support Office](#)

Inactive User Policy

- Even if iQIES role(s) are revoked, HARP credentials are still active.
 - Your HARP account information will not be affected and will be accessible once your iQIES user role(s) are restored.
- To restore your account, you will need to log into iQIES and **re-request your user role(s)**.





Q&A

- You can submit questions to the HQRP Help Desk: HospiceQualityQuestions@cms.hhs.gov.
- Technical and system related questions can be submitted to: iQIES@cms.hhs.gov



Resources

Important Resources



CMS.gov – HOPE Tool

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality/hospice/hope>

CMS.gov – HOPE Guidance Manual

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality/hospice/hope>

CMS.gov – HOPE Data Specifications

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality/hospice-quality-reporting-program/hospice-outcomes-and-patient-evaluation-hope-technical-information>

CMS.gov – Hospice Help Desks

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality/hospice/hqrp-help-desks>

Important Resources



CMS.gov – Hospice Quality Reporting Program Websites

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality/hospice>

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality/hospice/hospice-grp-announcements-spotlight>

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality/hospice/hgrp-training-and-education-library>

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality/hospice/provider-and-stakeholder-engagement>

iQIES Website

<https://iqies.cms.gov/>

<https://iqies.cms.gov/vut>

<https://iqies.cms.gov/known-issues>

<https://iqies.cms.gov/help>

HOPE Technical Issues E-mail

iQIES@cms.hhs.gov

ODF Listserv

https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/OpenDoorForums/ODF_HHDMME

THANK YOU!

