



Common Questions – HQRP Claims-Based Quality Measures: February 2021

This document provides information and answers to some common questions about 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) upon Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval; and the Hospice Care Index (HCI).

Additionally, this fact sheet clarifies the definition of the last three days of life, the calculation of visits for the new claims-based-measure, and describes the future of the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) that includes Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation (HOPE).

HIS Manual V3.00

Understanding the Changes:

The major change to in the HIS Manual V3.00 is the elimination of Section O (Service Utilization). The HIS Manual V3.00 has deleted Section O in its entirety from the HIS-Discharge. Hospice providers are no longer required to collect this information at discharge.

When do these changes take effect?

The HIS Manual V3.00 is effective upon the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval, which is expected soon. Once approved by the OMB, the HIS Manual V3.00 becomes final.

Where can I find the HIS Manual V3.00?

The [draft HIS Manual V3.00](#), and related [HIS Manual: Change Table from V2.01 to V3.00](#) highlighting the manual updates were posted in October, 2020 and are available in the Downloads section of the [HIS webpage](#).

Do hospices still need to submit a HIS-Discharge?

The requirements for the HQRP remain unchanged. The HQRP includes both the Hospice Item Set (HIS) and Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) Hospice survey. According the HIS Manual, hospices shall continue to submit two HIS records (HIS-Admission record and HIS-Discharge record) for each patient admission occurring on or after July 1, 2014. Hospices no

longer need to submit Section O (Service Utilization). The HIS-Discharge form contained in the draft HIS Manual V3.00 is replacing the older version. To prevent hospice providers from encountering any fatal errors or rejected records whether submitting HIS records with or without section O, both V2.00 and V3.00 HIS-Discharge records can be accepted by the ASAP system.

Hospice Visits in the Last Days of Life (HVLDDL)

What is the HVLDDL?

As described in the report, [Hospice Visits When Death is Imminent: Measure Validity Testing Summary and Re-Specifications](#) (posted in September, 2020) Hospice Visits in the Last Days of Life (HVLDDL) is a re-specified, claims-based version of the Hospice Visits when Death is Imminent (HVWDII) measure pair. Per the measure specifications, HVLDDL 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.

How are the last three days of life calculated in the HVLDDL?

The calculation of the last three days remains unchanged from the last three days documented in Section O. Currently, information defining the last three days can be found on page 2O-3 in HIS Manual V2.01. Specifically these three days are "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.

How are the visits calculated in the HVLDDL?

HVLDDL 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. While all patient visits are meaningful, only patients with visits on two different days during the last three days of life will count towards the numerator for this measure. These visits can be made by either the nurse, the social worker, or both.

When will this new claims-based-measure, HVLDL be publicly reported?

CMS will rely solely on existing administrative data (claims) for the calculation of this measure, removing the need for data collection through clinician assessment. The date for public reporting of this measure will be finalized once the OMB approves the draft HIS Manual V3.00 and HIS V3.00 instrument. As required by statute¹, CMS will publicly report all HVWDII data and begin publicly reporting HVLDL thereafter. The data reported for these measures will not overlap and will be discussed in future rulemaking.

Hospice Care Index (HCI)

What is the HCI?

The Hospice Care Index (HCI) is a claims-based-measure concept based on multiple indicators. The HCI, like any other new measure would complement the current hospice quality measures (QM's) that are already in place. HCI would not replace any existing measures or any of the HQRP requirements. Like any new measure, the HCI must go through future rulemaking and be finalized before it can become a part of the HQRP.

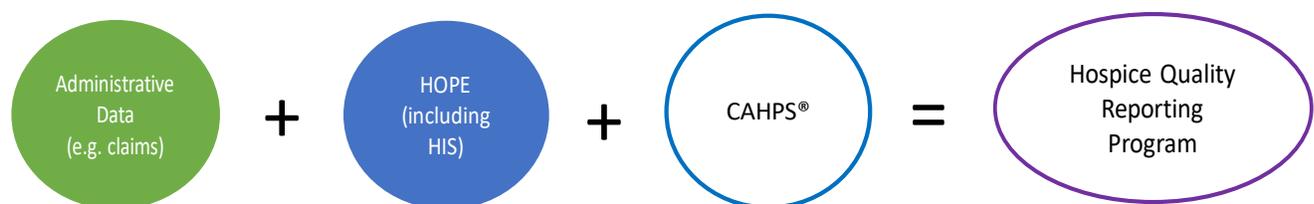
The Future of the Hospice Quality Reporting Program

How will the new hospice assessment tool, HOPE, impact the HQRP?

HOPE is a real-time patient assessment tool that is currently being tested. CMS's goal for HOPE is to be more comprehensive in capturing patient and family care needs in real-time and throughout the hospice stay. It will include the HIS data needed to calculate those measures. HOPE, after rulemaking, will become the assessment tool for the hospice industry.

What will happen to the current HIS quality measures?

Currently, CMS collects data at admission and discharge via the HIS. These data are used to calculate measures in the HQRP. Future outcome and other quality measures arising from HOPE will be in addition to the current HIS quality measures.



¹ https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title18/1814.htm
February 2021

Resources Available to Hospice Providers

For additional updates, continue to monitor the Spotlight and Announcement page:

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Spotlight>

For access to the draft HIS Manual V3.00, the HIS Manual Change Table, please visit the Downloads section of the [HIS webpage](#).

For more information on how quality measures are calculated, the current measures, Hospice Visits When Death is Imminent: Measure Validity Testing Summary and Re-Specifications report see the HQRP QM User's Manual in the Downloads section of the [Current Measures](#) portion of the CMS HQRP website.

For questions about HIS and general questions about the HQRP program, reporting requirements, quality measures, and reporting deadlines, please contact the Quality Help Desk at HospiceQualityQuestions@cms.hhs.gov.

For questions about the Hospice Care Index (HCI) review the materials from the *August 2020 HQRP Forum* found in the Downloads section of the [Hospice Outcomes & Patient Evaluation \(HOPE\) and Stakeholder Engagement page](#).