



## Hospice Comprehensive Assessment at Admission Quality Measure (QM) Background and Methodology Fact Sheet (CBE #3235)

*This fact sheet contains information about the Hospice and Palliative Care Composite Process Measure – Comprehensive Assessment at Admission (Consensus-Based Entity (CBE) endorsed #3235), also known as “the Comprehensive Assessment at Admission QM”.*

### What is the Hospice and Palliative Care Composite Process Measure – Comprehensive Assessment at Admission?

This **single** measure, also known as “the Comprehensive Assessment at Admission measure (CBE #3235),” captures whether **all seven key** care processes were conducted upon a patients’ admission to hospice. Historically, the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) Hospice Item Set (HIS) captured performance of these seven care process quality measures (QMs) individually, listed in **Table 1**, at the time of hospice admission. While performing each of these care processes is individually important, CBE #3235 captures, in a single measure, the proportion of patients for whom the hospice performed **all** seven care processes. As of October 1, 2025, all of these same processes will be captured using the data submitted via the Hospice Outcomes and Patient Evaluation (HOPE) tool.

**Table 1. Comprehensive Assessment at Admission (CBE #3235) Care Processes**

1. Treatment Preferences
2. Beliefs/Values Addressed (if desired by patient)
3. Pain Screening
4. Pain Assessment
5. Dyspnea Screening
6. Dyspnea Treatment
7. Patients Treated with an Opioid Who Are Given a Bowel Regimen

This is an “all or none” composite measure, which means that in order to receive credit for the measure for any given patient stay, the hospice must perform **all** seven care processes listed in **Table 1** for that patient, as applicable. This is **not an average** of the hospice’s performance on individual care processes. The “all or none” criterion sets a higher bar for performance.

### How does the Comprehensive Assessment at Admission measure account for conditional measures?

In addition to being an “all or none” measure, CBE #3235 also includes conditional components. Conditional measures (or components) are characterized by inclusion in the denominator being

“dependent” or “conditional” on a response to a previous item. For example, for a patient to be included in the denominator of the dyspnea treatment component, the patient must have screened positive for dyspnea.

This is because the hospice would not initiate treatment for shortness of breath unless the patient was actually short of breath.

Three of the seven care processes are conditional. These components’ conditions for inclusion are as follows:

- **Pain Assessment:** To be included, the patient must screen positive for pain as indicated by J0900C.
- **Dyspnea Treatment:** To be included, the patient must screen positive for shortness of breath as indicated by J2030C.
- **Patients Treated with an Opioid Who Are Given a Bowel Regimen:** To be included, a scheduled opioid must be initiated or continued as indicated by N0500A.

In the Comprehensive Assessment at Admission (#3235) measure, if a patient does not meet a conditional component’s denominator criteria (i.e., the care process was not clinically indicated), the hospice will by default ‘receive credit’ for that conditional component in the calculation of the CBE #3235.

*\*NOTE: Patients admitted prior to April 1, 2017, are not eligible for inclusion in the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure (because these admissions occurred prior to the implementation of this measure), but these patients are still eligible for inclusion in the seven component measures.*

**Table 2** below details how the three conditional components are accounted for when calculating CBE #3235.

<b>Table 2. What are the various ways that my hospice may receive credit for a conditional component in the calculation of the Comprehensive Assessment at Admission?</b>		
<i>Note that this methodology does not apply to the calculation of the individual components.</i>		
1	Pain Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The patient reported pain during the pain screening, and a comprehensive pain assessment was completed within 1 day of the initial nursing assessment during which the patient screened positive for pain, including at least five of the required characteristics, <b>OR</b></li> <li>➤ The patient reported that they had no pain during the pain screening.</li> </ul>
2	Dyspnea Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ If the patient screened positive for shortness of breath but declined treatment for shortness of breath, <b>OR</b></li> <li>➤ If the patient reported shortness of breath during the dyspnea screening, and treatment for shortness of breath was initiated within 1 day of the initial nursing assessment during which the patient screened positive for shortness of breath, <b>OR</b></li> <li>➤ The patient screened negative for shortness of breath.</li> </ul>

3	Patients Treated with an Opioid Who Are Given a Bowel Regimen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There is documentation that a bowel regimen was initiated or continued within 1 day of a scheduled opioid being initiated or continued, <b>OR</b></li> <li>➤ There is documentation of why a bowel regimen was not initiated, <b>OR</b></li> <li>➤ A scheduled opioid was not initiated or continued.</li> </ul>
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## Calculating the Comprehensive Assessment at Admission (CBE #3235)

This measure represents the percentage of patient stays during which the patient received **all seven of the individual care processes for which they are eligible**. **Exhibit 1**. below provides guidance on how to calculate the Comprehensive Assessment at Admission for your hospice.

### Exhibit 1. Calculating the Comprehensive Assessment at Admission (CBE #3235)

**Step 1: Identify patients that are eligible for the measure denominator.** The denominator for the measure includes all patient stays except for those that meet the denominator exclusion criteria outlined below:

**Exclusion Criteria:** Patients meeting any of the three conditions below will be excluded from the denominator:

1. Patients younger than 18 (as indicated by the birth date (A0900) and admission date (A0220),
2. Patients stays with the discharge record but no admission record (i.e., discharged stays missing the admission records).
3. Patient stays with the admission record but no discharge record (i.e., active stays as of the end of the reporting period, or missing the discharge record).

**Step 2:** After identifying the patient stays that meet the denominator inclusion criteria (see above), **for each of these patient stays, check the seven individual components for which you have met the requirements and received credit for**; remember that you may receive credit for conditional components even if the patient was not eligible for the conditional component itself: see **Table 2** above (conditional measures are indicated by an “\*”):

- Treatment Preferences**
- Beliefs/Values Addressed (if desired by patient)**
- Pain Screening**
- Pain Assessment \***
- Dyspnea Screening**
- Dyspnea Treatment \***
- Patients Treated with an Opioid Who Are Given a Bowel Regimen \***

**Step 3: For each patient stay, add up the number of components for which you met the requirements:**

If your total = 7, this patient stay met the numerator criteria for CBE #3235 and you **will receive credit** for this patient for the QM.

If your total is less than 7, this patient stay did not meet the numerator criteria for CBE #3235 and you **will not** receive credit for this patient for this QM.

**Step 4: To calculate your hospice’s overall Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure score:**

$$\frac{\text{Number of patient stays that met the numerator and received credit for the QM (Step 3)}}{\text{Number of patient stays that met the denominator, after exclusions criteria (Step 1)}} \times 100$$

**Reporting of the Comprehensive Assessment at Admission Measure**

Providers are able to view their Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure scores on their Hospice-Level Quality Measure Report and Hospice Patient- Level Quality Measure Report (QM Reports), as well as on their Preview Reports in advance of public reporting on Care Compare.

**Exhibit 2. Understanding why your hospice’s Comprehensive Assessment at Admission score may be lower than your individual component scores**

The following simplified example, using school performance, may help explain why the “all or none” composition of the Comprehensive Assessment at Admission measure could result in a lower measure score than your lowest component score.

A school has three students: Alex, John, and Erin. The school was supposed to teach the students three subjects: Math, Science, and English. Let’s look at how the school did:

- The school taught Alex: Math and Science.
- The school taught John: Science and English.
- The school taught Erin: Math, Science, and English.

	Math	Science	English
Alex	Yes	Yes	No
John	No	Yes	Yes
Erin	Yes	Yes	Yes

**How well did the school do at teaching each of the subjects?**

- Teaching Math: 66% – 2 out of 3 students learned Math
- Teaching Science: 100% – 3 out of 3 students learned Science
- Teaching English: 66% – 2 out of 3 students learned English

**How well did the school do at teaching each student all of the subjects (i.e., “all or none” composite measure)?**

The school only taught Math, Science, and English to 1 out of 3 students (Erin) – **33%** of students.

**How does this example relate to the Comprehensive Assessment at Admission measure?**

Calculating how well the school did at teaching each of the three subjects is similar to calculating how you did on each of the seven components. The rate at which the school taught Math had no relation to its rate of teaching science, just as a hospice’s score on treatment preferences has no relation to its pain screening score. The measure scores, or subjects in this example, are independent of each other.

Calculating how well the school did in teaching each student all the subjects is similar to calculating how

you did on CBE #3235. Since this composite measure is an “all or none” measure, you have to complete all seven component processes to receive credit for the composite, just as you had to teach all three subjects to the students to receive credit in the above example. The composite measure sets a higher performance threshold, as can be seen in the school example, and this makes it possible for the “all or none” composite measure score to be lower than any individual component score.

**Need more information about the Comprehensive Assessment at Admission measure?**

- More information, including measure specifications for all of the HQRP measures, can be located in the HQRP QM Specifications User's Manual available in the Downloads section of the HQRP [Current Measures](#) Page.
- Additional questions can be emailed to the Hospice Quality Help Desk at: [HospiceQualityQuestions@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:HospiceQualityQuestions@cms.hhs.gov)