



**Dialysis Facility Care Compare on Medicare.gov (DFCC)
July – August 2022 Preview for October 2022 Release
Questions and Answers**

Summary of Important Dates

Preview Period	Data Included	DFCC Refresh/Release Timing
Summer 2022	- Updates to clinical measures using calendar year (CY) 2020 data, excluding the Extraordinary Circumstance Exception (ECE) periods - No update to Quality of Patient Care Star Ratings	Autumn 2022 Release
Autumn 2022	- Updates to clinical measures using CY 2021 data - No update to Quality of Patient Care Star Ratings	Early 2023 Release
	- Dry Run of new emergency department measures	TBD

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

[Dialysis Facility Care Compare on Medicare.gov](https://www.cms.gov/dialysis), 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 Changing in the Autumn 2022 Release?

CY 2020 results will be released in autumn 2022.

- The clinical measures will be calculated using CY 2020 data, excluding the Extraordinary Circumstance Exception (ECE) period, except for prevention of bloodstream infections and ICH CAHPS measures and star ratings which will use CY 2021 data.
- The following clinical measures will be updated with new data:
 - Frequency of patient death, hospital admission, or readmission
 - Frequency of transfusions
 - Transplant waitlist within a year of dialysis initiation
 - Patients who were on the kidney or kidney-pancreas transplant waiting list
 - Adult patients who received treatment through an arteriovenous fistula
 - Prevention of bloodstream infections
 - Hemoglobin management (Downloadable Data Only)
 - 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
 - Phosphorus concentrations in the blood (Downloadable Data Only)
 - 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
- The following ICH CAHPS survey of patients’ experiences measures will be updated with new data:
 - Individual measures and Star Ratings of ICH CAHPS survey of patients’ experiences
 - Kidney doctor’s 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 facility
- Overall Star Rating of ICH CAHPS survey of patients' experiences
- The 2021 summer dry run versions of Standardized Mortality Ratio (SMR), Standardized Hospitalization Ratio (SHR), Standardized Readmission Ratio (SRR), and Standardized Transfusion Ratio (STrR) will be used for this release
- The preview period for this release will be held during July 15 – August 15, 2022

What is Changing in the Early 2023 Release?

CY 2021 results will be released in early 2023.

- Each of the clinical measures will be calculated using CY 2021 data. For measures that also include CY 2020 data, the ECE period of 2020 will continue to be excluded.
- The same measure methodology from the autumn 2022 release will be used
- The preview period for this release will be held in autumn 2022

Will the Quality of Patient Care Star Ratings Be Updated?

The Quality of Patient Care Star Ratings will not be updated at this time.

Who is Affected by the Refresh/Release of Data on DFCC?

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 have an opportunity to review the data and raise any concerns with CMS before a refresh/release goes live.

Important Note

In 2018, CMS initiated the policy that patient list requests should be submitted within the first ten days of the Dialysis Facility Care Compare (DFCC) preview period to allow sufficient time for facility review and inquiry during the preview period. This policy has been stated in the *Quarterly Dialysis Facility Care Compare on Medicare.gov - Preview Report*. CMS has decided to enforce this policy starting with the DFCC Autumn 2022 Preview Period for the early 2023 Release.

###