



Dialysis Facility Care Compare on Medicare.gov (DFCC) October Release

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 measures will be updated in the October 2023 release?

With the October 2023 release, the following measures on Dialysis Facility Care Compare (DFCC) will be updated with data from Calendar Year (CY) 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
- Frequency of patient death, hospital admission, or readmission
- Frequency of transfusions
- 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
- Transplant waitlist within a year of dialysis initiation
- Prevention of bloodstream infections
- Emergency department encounters
- Emergency department encounters within 30 days of hospitalization
- Individual measures and individual Star Ratings (Downloadable Data Only) of ICH CAHPS Survey of Patients' Experiences
 - Kidney doctor's communication and caring
 - Quality of dialysis center care and operations
 - Providing information to patients
 - Rating of kidney doctors
 - Rating of dialysis center staff
 - Rating of dialysis center
- Overall Star Rating of ICH CAHPS Survey of Patients' Experiences

What are the new measures being added to the DFCC October release?

Two new measures are being added to DFCC for the October 2023 release:

- Standardized Emergency Department Encounter Ratio (SEDR)
- Standardized Ratio of Emergency Department Encounters Occurring Within 30 Days of Hospital Discharge (ED30) for Dialysis Facilities

These measures were included in a dry run table in the November 2022 and February and May 2023 DFCC preview reports.



What is the Standardized Emergency Department Encounter Ratio (SEDR)?

The SEDR is defined to be the ratio of the observed number of emergency department (ED) encounters that occur for adult Medicare ESRD dialysis patients treated at a particular facility to the number of encounters that would be expected given the characteristics of the dialysis facility's patients and the national norm for dialysis facilities.

What is the Standardized Ratio of Emergency Department Encounters Occurring Within 30 Days of Hospital Discharge (ED30) for Dialysis Facilities?

ED30 is defined to be the ratio of observed over expected events. The numerator is the observed number of index discharges from acute care hospitals that are followed by an outpatient emergency department encounter within 4-30 days after discharge for eligible adult Medicare dialysis patients treated at a particular dialysis facility. The denominator is the expected number of index discharges followed by an ED encounter within 4-30 days given the discharging hospital's characteristics, characteristics of the dialysis facility's patients, and the national norm for dialysis facilities.

Why are these measures being added to DFCC?

Even when patients are getting dialysis treatments regularly, patients with kidney failure often get sick and may have to go to the emergency department for immediate care because of infections or other acute problems. In some cases, these problems may be related to the dialysis treatment itself or their underlying kidney disease. Dialysis centers whose patients have lower ratios of emergency department encounters or lower ratios of emergency department encounters within 30 days of hospitalization may be proactive at addressing problems early, better at helping their patients avoid serious problems, and may help patients avoid hospitalization.

What measures will be updated in the October 2023 release?

With the October 2023 release, we have incorporated patient-level, time-limited risk adjustment for COVID-19 for the following measures:

- Standardized Mortality Ratio (SMR)
- Standardized Hospitalization Ratio (SHR)
- Standardized Readmission Ratio (SRR)
- Standardized Transfusion Ratio (STrR)

These updates have been included in a dry run table in the February and May 2023 DFCC preview reports.

What updates will be made to the October 2023 Patient Quality of Care Star Rating Release?

- Reset the Star Rating distribution
- Domain 1 measures will be risk-adjusted to reflect COVID-19 impact
- Down-weight of Domain 3 (Total Kt/V and Hypercalcemia)
- Addition of two transplant waitlist measures currently reported on Care Compare (PPPW and SWR)

These updates have been included in a dry run table in the February and May 2023 DFCC preview reports and only baseline year of CY 2021 data was used. The October 2023 Release will report CY 2022 data with CY 2021 as the baseline.

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