What is the HAC Reduction Program?

- The HAC Reduction Program is a Medicare value-based purchasing program that reduces payments to hospitals based on their performance on measures of hospital-acquired conditions.
- Under the HAC Reduction Program, CMS incentivizes hospitals to implement best practices to improve patient safety and reduce the number of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs).

Which measures are included?

1. Claims-based composite measure of patient safety:
   - CMS PSI 90 (Patient Safety and Adverse Events Composite)

2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Healthcare Safety Network (CDC NHSN) HAI measures:
   - CLABSI (Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection)
   - CAUTI (Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection)
   - SSI (Surgical Site Infection for Abdominal Hysterectomy and Colon Procedures)
   - MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) bacteremia
   - CDI (Clostridium difficile Infection)

3. CMS PSI 90 (Patient Safety and Adverse Events Composite)

How does CMS determine payment reductions?*

1. Step 1: Calculate measure scores
   - Measure scores are calculated as the Winsorized z-score of measure results for a given measure.
   - Using measure results across all subsection (d) hospitals, including Maryland hospitals:
     - Winsorize each hospital's measure results.
     - Calculate each measure score as the z-score of Winsorized results.
   - (Negative Winsorized z-scores indicate worse performance. Positive Winsorized z-scores indicate better performance.)

2. Step 2: Calculate Total HAC Score
   - Total HAC Scores are calculated as the equally weighted average of each hospital's measure scores.
   - Apply an equal weight to each measure for which a hospital has a measure score.
   - If a hospital does not receive a measure score for a measure, it will be excluded from the Total HAC Score calculation.
   - (A negative Total HAC Score indicates better performance. A positive Total HAC Score indicates worse performance.)

3. Step 3: Determine payment reduction
   - Hospitals with a Total HAC score in the worst-performing quartile are subject to a 1-percent payment reduction.
   - **Determine the 75th percentile of Total HAC Scores across all subsection (d) hospitals.

   - **Hospitals with a Total HAC Score greater than the 75th percentile are in the worst-performing quartile.

   - **Determine the worst-performing quartile.

For more information about measure score calculations, see the HAC Reduction Program Scoring Methodology Infographic.

* CMS is not calculating measure scores for any hospital for the FY 2023 HAC Reduction Program.

**Maryland hospitals are exempt from payment reductions under the HAC Reduction Program because of an agreement between CMS and Maryland. These hospitals are not included in the 75th percentile distribution.

What changes did CMS make to the FY 2023 HAC Reduction Program?

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency:

- CMS is excluding Calendar Year 2020 data from HAC Reduction Program calculations.
- CMS is not calculating measure scores or Total HAC Scores for any hospital for the FY 2023 program year.

For more information, please refer to the HAC Reduction Program Frequently Asked Questions on the QualityNet Website.

How can hospitals review their HAC Reduction Program results?

CMS distributes Hospital-Specific Reports via the Hospital Quality Reporting managed File Transfer inbox at the beginning of the 30-day Scoring Calculations Review and Correction period.

How does CMS publicly report HAC Reduction Program results?

For each hospital, CMS will post select information from the FY 2023 HAC Reduction Program on the Provider Data Catalog and Care Compare websites.

Where can I go for more information about the HAC Reduction Program?

For more information visit the QualityNet Website HAC Reduction Program page or the CMS HAC Reduction Program page.

Submit questions about CMS’ calculations, issues accessing Hospital-Specific Reports, discharge-level data, CMS PSI software, and methodology via the QualityNet Question & Answer Tool.