

Expanded Home Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP) Model

HHVBP Newsletter – December 2023

The HHVBP Newsletter provides home health agencies (HHAs) with the latest information about the expanded HHVBP Model as well as important tools, news, and timely insights from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the HHVBP Model Technical Assistance (TA) Team. Please consider sharing this newsletter within your organization.

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HHVBP Model Highlights

Help Desk Transition

As of December 18, 2023, the HHVBP Model Help Desk email address will be replaced with HHVBPquestions@cms.hhs.gov. Please direct any questions about the expanded HHVBP Model to HHVBPquestions@cms.hhs.gov. Be sure to include your name, the HHA’s name, and the CMS Certification Number (CCN).

Final October 2023 Interim Performance Reports (IPRs) Available

Please note: For the CY 2023 performance year, only active HHAs that were Medicare-certified prior to January 1, 2022, and have sufficient data for at least one (1) quality measure, will receive an IPR. IPRs are only available to HHAs through iQIES. IPRs are not available to the public.

The Final October 2023 IPRs are available on [iQIES](#), in the “HHA Provider Preview Reports” folder, by the CCN assigned to the HHA. Only iQIES users authorized to view an HHA’s reports can access the expanded

HHVBP Model reports. If a provider has more than one (1) CCN, a report will be available for each CCN. The Final IPR reflects any changes resulting from an approved recalculation request. All HHAs that received a Preliminary IPR will receive a Final IPR, even if the HHA did not submit a recalculation request.

If an HHA needs to register a user or experiences trouble locating or downloading reports, please contact the QIES/iQIES Service Center at (800) 339-9313 or by email at iqies@cms.hhs.gov.

Note: Due to unforeseen circumstances, CMS decided to hold constant the OASIS based measure results for the Total Normalized Composite (TNC) Change in Mobility and TNC Change in Self-Care measures for the October 2023 IPRs. As a result, HHAs will see the same performance measure values in the October 2023 IPRs that were reported on the July 2023 IPRs for these two (2) OASIS-based measures. The performance periods for the remaining three (3) OASIS-based measures, claims-based measures, and HHAHPS Survey-based measures remain as planned, as shown in **Exhibit 1**. CMS anticipates returning to a normal reporting schedule for the January 2024 IPRs. While the delay in updating the TNC measures for the October IPR does impact the interim Total Performance Score (TPS) shown, this issue will be resolved in future IPRs and will not impact the final TPS that will appear in the August 2024 APR.

Exhibit 1. October 2023 IPR quality measure performance scores time periods for each measure category

Measure Category	Time Period	Minimum Threshold
OASIS-based	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023	20 home health quality episodes
Claims-based	April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023	20 home health stays
HHAHPS Survey-based	April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023	40 completed surveys



ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)

Post-Event Materials Available

On November 9, 2023, the expanded HHVBP Model Technical Assistance team hosted a live learning event, *Preparing for Calendar Year (CY) 2024 and CY 2025*. The presentation included a review of the CY 2024 and CY 2025 performance requirements and a Q&A session. The following post-event resources are now available:

- Recording available on the [CMS HHS YouTube channel](#).
- [Slide deck](#) and two (2) written resources available on the [Expanded HHVBP Model webpage](#):
 - [CY 2024 Measures & Reports At a Glance](#)
 - [CY 2025 Measures & Reports At a Glance](#)

Grab and Go Resources Available

The HHVBP Model TA Team released two (2) quality improvement resources for HHAs. The *Home Health Agency Perspectives* series features discussions with volunteer panelists discussing strategic approaches to managing and improving agency performance. Panelists are home health professionals working in

leadership positions. These discussions highlight strategies related to data capacity, staff engagement, and leadership.

- In the [Home Health Agency Perspectives on Quality Management](#) panel and accompanying [written resource](#) – panelists review their agency’s approaches to data-driven Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) and concurrent quality management strategies used to identify and correct problems before they result in negative outcomes.
- In the [Home Health Agency Perspectives on Innovation](#) panel and accompanying [written resource](#) – panelists review their agency’s approaches to care delivery and fostering an organizational culture where staff can thrive under value-based care.

The *Home Health Agency Perspectives on Quality Management* and *Innovation* resources are available on the [Expanded HHVBP Model webpage](#) under “Quality Improvement” and on the [Expanded HHVBP Model YouTube playlist](#).

You can easily access and listen to *Grab and Go Resources* when time is limited. Enjoy listening in the car or on a walk.



Strategies for Success

Medication Review

This month’s *Strategies for Success* highlights strategic practices related to medication review, highlighting procedures that can reliably identify potential adverse effects and drug reactions. **Exhibit 2** shows the briefing card, which follows an SBAR (situation, background, assessment, and recommendation) format, leading to a recommendation on how an HHA can address opportunities for improvement.

For more information, please see resources available on the [Expanded HHVBP Model webpage](#) under “Quality Improvement.”

Exhibit 2. Briefing Card: Clinical Assessment Involves All Required Disciplines

Assessment:	<i>Medication review strategies and procedures reliably identify potential adverse effects and drug reactions for all patients.</i>
Situation	Medication review for home health patients may not reliably identify potential adverse effects and drug reactions, including ineffective drug therapy, significant side effects, significant drug interactions, and duplicate drug therapy.
Background	Home health patients, including those with multiple chronic conditions and complex care needs, who may be under the care of multiple prescribing clinicians, and who experience frequent care transitions are at significant risk for adverse drug effects (ADEs). In this population, ADEs are a common cause of emergency department visits, hospitalization, and treatment failures.
Assessment	Failure to identify potential ADEs can significantly and negatively impact patient outcomes and HHA operations. With the modern pharmacopeia, identifying potential ADEs in this patient population is an exceptionally challenging cognitive task – even for experienced HHA nurses.

Recommendation	<p>HHAs should establish procedures to ensure that, during medication review, the HHA nurse considers the potential for ADEs of each medication the patient is taking and for their medication regimen as a whole. This review for potential ADEs should be documented in the clinical record. Medication review procedures should include or consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation and education on the standards and expectations for medication review. • Tools and decision aids to support HHA nurses in this task. • Care coordination procedures to effectively communicate medication review findings of potential ADEs to referring physicians.
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Resource Spotlight

Updated Resources Available

Updates to the following resources are available on the [Expanded HHVBP Model webpage](#):

- “Expanded HHVBP Model Resource Index,” updated to reflect current resources available on the webpage
- “Expanded HHVBP Model Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQs) (December 2023 edition)
- “Expanded HHVBP Model Guide” (December 2023 edition)

In addition to the resources listed above, the [Expanded HHVBP Model webpage](#) includes links to monthly newsletters, the CMS Health Equity Strategy, and the Home Health Prospective Payment System (HH PPS) final rules.

Contact Us

Please **do not reply to this email**. This is an unmonitored inbox. If you require assistance, use the following options:

- As of December 18, 2023, the HHVBP Model Help Desk email address will be replaced with HHVBPquestions@cms.hhs.gov. Please direct any questions about the expanded HHVBP Model to HHVBPquestions@cms.hhs.gov. Be sure to include your name and the HHAs name and CMS Certification Number (CCN).
- For support with registration for the Internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System ([iQIES](#)), please contact the **QIES/iQIES Service Center** by phone at **(800) 339-9313** or by email at iqies@cms.hhs.gov. You may also refer to the *iQIES Onboarding Guide* posted to QTSO for registration support: <https://qtso.cms.gov/software/iqies/reference-manuals>.
- To receive email updates about the expanded Model, please subscribe to the [Expanded HHVBP Model listserv](#). Enter your email address in the contact form, then select “Home Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP) Expanded Model” from the Innovations list.
- Please contact the **Home Health Quality Reporting Program (HH QRP) Help Desk** at homehealthqualityquestions@cms.hhs.gov for questions about the following: Home Health Quality, including Care Compare (excluding HHCAHPS), OASIS coding and OASIS documentation, quality reporting requirements & deadlines, data reported in quality reports, measure

calculations, Quality of Patient Care Star Rating (excluding suppression requests), public reporting, risk adjustment, and Quality Assessment Only (QAO)/Pay for Reporting (P4P).

- Please contact the **Home Health CAHPS Help Desk** at hhcahps@rti.org for questions related to the HHCAHPS Survey or Patient Survey Star Ratings.