

Expanded Home Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP) Model

HHVBP Newsletter – October 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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Register Today!

Join us on Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 2 PM ET, for an expanded HHVBP Model live learning event, ***Expanded HHVBP Model: Preparing for Calendar Year (CY) 2024 and CY 2025.*** The webinar will focus on CY 2024 and CY 2025 performance year requirements and conclude with a Q&A session. We invite you to submit questions about the expanded HHVBP Model when registering for this event.

[Click here to register!](#)



HHVBP Model Highlights

Now Available: The October 2023 Interim Performance Report (IPR)

The second quarterly Preliminary Interim Performance Reports (IPRs) for the expanded HHVBP Model were published on the [Internet Quality Improvement Evaluation System \(iQIES\)](#) on October 26, 2023. The quarterly IPRs provide HHAs with the cohort assignment, performance year measure data for the 12 most recent months, and interim Total Performance Score (TPS). Using the IPR, an HHA can assess and track their performance relative to peers in their respective cohort throughout the expanded Model performance year.

An HHA will receive an IPR during the calendar year (CY) 2023 performance year if the HHA:

- Was Medicare-certified prior to January 1, 2022, and
- Meets the minimum threshold of data for at least one (1) quality measure in the quarterly reporting period for the performance year shown in **Exhibit 1**.

Note: Due to unforeseen circumstances, CMS has 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 OASIS-based measures. The performance periods for the remaining three (3) OASIS-based measures, claims-based measures, and HHCAHPS Survey-based measures remain as planned, as shown in **Exhibit 1**. CMS anticipates returning to a normal reporting schedule for the January 2024 IPRs.

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
HHCAHPS Survey-based	April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023	40 completed surveys

IPRs are only available to HHAs through iQIES. IPRs are not available to the public.

IPRs are available via [iQIES](#) in the “HHA Provider Preview Reports” folder, by the CMS Certification number (CCN) assigned to the HHA. If your organization has more than one (1) CCN, then a report will be available for each CCN. Only [iQIES](#) users authorized to view an HHA’s reports can access expanded HHVBP Model reports. For assistance with downloading your HHA’s IPR, please contact the iQIES Service Center at 1-800-339-9313, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM-8:00 PM ET, or by [email](#) (iqies@cms.hhs.gov). To create a ticket online or track an existing ticket, please go to [CCSQ Support Central](#).

Locating the IPR in iQIES

1. Log into iQIES at <https://iqies.cms.gov/>.
2. Select the My Reports option from the Reports.
3. From the My Reports page, select the HHA Provider Preview Reports.
4. Select the HHVBP file to view the desired report. To quickly locate the most recently published report, select the down arrow adjacent to the Created Date label at the top of the table. This will order the reports in the folder from newest to oldest.
5. Select the file name link and the contents of the file will display.

Instructions on how to access the IPRs are also available on the [Expanded HHVBP Model webpage](#), under “Model Reports.”

Submitting an IPR Recalculation Request

There are two (2) versions of the quarterly IPRs: a Preliminary IPR and a Final IPR. The Preliminary IPR provides an HHA with an opportunity to submit a **recalculation request** for applicable measures and interim performance scores if the agency believes there is evidence of a discrepancy in the calculation. Please note, the recalculation request does not apply to errors in data submission since submission requirements for the expanded Model align with current Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

To dispute the calculation of the performance scores in the *Preliminary IPR*, an HHA must submit a recalculation request **within 15 calendar days after publication** of the Preliminary IPR. **For the October 2023 IPR, HHAs must submit a recalculation request by November 10, 2023.** The *Final IPR* will reflect any changes resulting from an approved recalculation.

HHAs may submit requests for recalculation by emailing hhvbp_recalculation_requests@abtassoc.com. Recalculation requests must contain the following information, as cited in the [CY 2022 HH PPS final rule](#) (p. 62331) and CFR [§484.375](#):

- The provider’s name, address associated with the services delivered, and CCN.
- The basis for requesting recalculation to include the specific data that the HHA believes is inaccurate or the calculation the HHA believes is incorrect.
- Contact information for a person at the HHA with whom CMS or its agent can communicate about this request, including name, email address, telephone number, and mailing address (must include physical address, not just a post office box).
- A copy of any supporting documentation, not containing PHI, the HHA wishes to submit in electronic form.

These instructions are also available on the [Expanded HHVBP Model webpage](#), under “Model Reports.”

Comparing the July and October IPRs

IPRs provide HHAs with an opportunity to monitor their performance in the expanded Model and compare performance to other agencies in their cohort. Upon receipt of the October 2023 IPR, HHAs

can compare their October performance scores with those in the July 2023 IPR. *Note – the final version of the July 2023 IPR, published August 21, 2023, is available for download in [IQIES](#).*

Data time periods. It is important to note that the performance data time periods for the October 2023 IPR will differ from those used for July 2023, as shown in **Exhibit 2**. The October 2023 IPR will report 12 months of data, ending June 30, 2023, for OASIS-based measures, and ending March 31, 2023, for both the claims-based measures and Home Health Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HHAHPS) Survey-based measures.

**Exhibit 2. Interim Performance Reports (IPRs):
Performance Data Time Periods for the July 2023 and October 2023 IPRs**

Report Title	OASIS-based Measures	Claims-based and HHAHPS Survey-based Measures
July 2023 Interim Performance Report (IPR)	4/1/2022 – 3/31/2023	1/1/2022 – 12/31/2022
October 2023 IPR	7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023	4/1/2022 – 3/31/2023

Improvement points. The improvement point value for each measure is available on the **Improvement Tab**. The value in the *Your Performance Year Measure Value* column must exceed the value in the *Your HHA’s Improvement Threshold* column for an HHA to receive improvement points for a measure. An HHA will receive improvement points if the measure value is greater than the improvement threshold.

- For the July 2023 IPR, improvement points were not available for the claims-based and HHAHPS Survey-based measures because the data time periods, CY 2022, were the same for the HHA baseline year, and performance year. Therefore, improvement points were zero (0) given there was no opportunity for an HHA to demonstrate improvement.
- For the October 2023 IPR, the HHA baseline year will remain CY 2022, for the entire CY 2023 performance year, and the performance year data period for the claims-based and HHAHPS Survey-based measures is 4/1/2022 – 3/31/2023. HHAs have an opportunity to receive improvement points, depending on whether the measure value equals or exceeds the improvement threshold.

Care points. Care points, available on the **Care Points Tab**, indicate the higher of either the achievement points or improvement points for a quality measure. For the July 2023 IPR, only achievement points for claims-based and HHAHPS Survey-based measures were used to calculate care points, since improvement points were zero (0), as described above. For the October 2023 IPR, care points will be calculated by comparing achievement and improvement points.



New! Grab and Go Resource

Home Health Agency Perspectives: Quality Management

The HHVBP Model TA Team is pleased to announce the release of new quality improvement resources for HHAs. The Home Health Agency Perspectives series features discussions with volunteer home panelists reviewing strategic approaches to managing and improving agency performance. Panelists are home health professionals working in leadership positions.

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 become negative outcomes. The discussion highlights strategies related to data capacity, staff engagement, and leadership.

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

You can easily access and listen to *Grab and Go Resources* when time is limited. Enjoy listening in the car or on a walk. Explore other Grab and Go resources, such as Expanded HHVBP Model podcasts, on the [Expanded HHVBP Model webpage](#) under “Quality Improvement.”



ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)

iQIES Idea Portal: Create, Up-Vote, and Comment

The iQIES Team recently announced the Idea Portal, a central place to collect, curate, and promote ideas to help CMS add user feedback to future software product development. The iQIES Idea Portal has dozens of ideas submitted by users that can be viewed, up-voted, and commented on. Users can share which ideas are important to them by voting and commenting on others’ ideas and by creating and submitting their own ideas. When submitting, commenting, or subscribing to an idea, CMS will send a status email when there is any change, comment, or reply to that idea.

To access the Idea Portal, go to the Idea Portals tab in the top menu bar of [CCSQ Support Central](#). Please note, users need a [HARP \(HCQIS Access Roles and Profile\)](#) account to access the Idea Portal. Reference material for the Idea Portal can be accessed at [iQIES Idea Portal User Manual and FAQs](#).

For questions about this information, please contact the QIES/iQIES Service Center by phone at (800) 339-9313 or by email at iqies@cms.hhs.gov.



Strategies for Success

Comprehensive Assessment, Involving All Required Disciplines

This month’s *Strategies for Success* highlights strategic practices related to patient assessment. **Exhibit 3** 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 the [Briefing Card Compendium](#) and other resources available on the [Expanded HHVBP Model webpage](#) under “Quality Improvement.”

Exhibit 3. Briefing Card: Clinical Assessment Involves All Required Disciplines

Assessment:	<i>Clinical assessment involves all required disciplines. This includes: HHA has established procedures for initiating request for orders for needed nursing or rehabilitation therapy assessment when not included in physician referral.</i>
Situation	Patients may have needs for skilled care beyond those included in their care plan that are either not identified by home health clinicians or not accessed through care coordination efforts with the referring physician.
Background	Through interactions with patients in their homes, home health clinicians gain a unique perspective on the patient’s health and care needs. Home health clinicians – including nurses and therapists – are in an ideal position to identify potential needs for skilled care from other disciplines beyond those included in the original physician referral.
Assessment	Unmet skilled care needs can significantly and negatively impact patient outcomes and HHA operations.
Recommendation	HHAs should establish procedures to ensure that initial and ongoing patient assessments identify needs for skilled care beyond those included in the current care plan. This should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interdisciplinary orientation and education that promotes understanding the roles and functions of other clinical disciplines.• Assessment procedures that include identification of potential unmet skilled care needs.• Care coordination procedures to effectively communicate assessment findings to referring physicians to approve additions or modifications to the care plan.



Resource Spotlight

Updated Edition of FAQs Available

The October 2023 edition of the “*Expanded HHVBP Model Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*,” is available on the [Expanded HHVBP Model webpage](#). The FAQs assist HHAs in understanding common terms and essential elements of the expanded HHVBP Model. The HHVBP TA Team provides updates to the FAQs as needed and notifies HHAs that have signed up to receive communications when an updated version is available on the Expanded HHVBP Model webpage.

Contact Us

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

- For program questions about the expanded HHVBP Model, contact the **HHVBP Model Help Desk** at HHVBPquestions@lewin.com.
- 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.

Not sure which help desk to use? Check out the [Guide to Home Health Help Desks!](#)