

**Screen Positive for Health-Related Social Needs  
Confidential Feedback Report for Post-Acute  
Care Quality Reporting Programs**

**Methodology Report**

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**Submitted by:**

Abt Global  
6130 Executive Boulevard  
Rockville, MD 20852

RTI International  
3040 East Cornwallis Road  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

**Submitted to:**

Division of Chronic and Post-Acute Care  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

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## Acronyms

<b>CMS</b>	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
<b>HARP</b>	Health Care Quality Information Systems Access Roles and Profile
<b>HRSN</b>	Health-Related Social Need
<b>HH</b>	Home Health
<b>IRF</b>	Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility
<b>IRF-PAI</b>	Patient Assessment Instrument
<b>iQIES</b>	Internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System
<b>LTCH</b>	Long-Term Care Hospital
<b>LCDS</b>	LTCH Continuity Assessment Record and Evaluation Data Set
<b>MDS</b>	Minimum Data Set
<b>OASIS</b>	Outcome and Assessment Information Set
<b>PAC</b>	Post-Acute Care
<b>ROC</b>	Resumption of Care
<b>SNF</b>	Skilled Nursing Facility
<b>SOC</b>	Start of Care

## 1. Introduction

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Division of Chronic and Post-Acute Care (PAC) developed a new Screen Positive for Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) Indicator Confidential Feedback Report. An HRSN is a social challenge that could impact a patient/resident's health outcome. The purpose of the Confidential Feedback Report is to help providers better understand their patients/residents' HRSNs so they can use that information to improve care delivery and quality of care. Screen positive for HRSN means that a patient has answered "yes" to one or more questions on the assessment instrument designed to identify HRSN needs. Screening positive indicates patients are experiencing challenges in areas like Health Literacy, Need for Interpreter Services, Social Isolation, and/or Transportation, which could impact their overall health.

The Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator Confidential Feedback Report presents PAC providers summary information for their facility/agency's patient/resident population alongside their state<sup>1</sup> and national data on four HRSNs: Health Literacy, Need for Interpreter Services, Social Isolation, and Transportation. This report was made available to Home Health (HH), Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF), and Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH) providers in October 2024. CMS plans to release this confidential report to Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) providers in October 2025, when a full Fiscal Year of data will become available for the first time.

This Methodology Report provides details on the analytical methods used to produce the Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator Confidential Feedback Report. It also contains a User Guide section, which explains how providers can review and interpret each table of the Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator Confidential Feedback Report. This document is intended to be referenced in conjunction with the Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator Confidential Feedback Report Fact Sheet, Educational Webinar materials, and Frequently Asked Questions document.<sup>2</sup>

## 2. Data Sources

The results presented in the Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator Confidential Feedback Report are calculated using data from each PAC setting's respective assessment tool via four standardized HRSN items. Details on setting-specific assessment tools, data collection time point, and the standardized HRSN items are provided in Exhibit 1 below.

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<sup>1</sup> State-level HRSN metrics are presented in the Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator Confidential Feedback Report for HH agencies only. This aligns with existing HH reporting, which includes state-level benchmarks. Consistent with existing reporting in IRF, LTCH, and SNF, state-level HRSN metrics are not presented in the Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator Confidential Feedback Report for these settings.

<sup>2</sup> Providers can access Education & Outreach materials from the following PAC QRP Training webpages: [HH Training Page](#), [IRF Training Page](#), [LTCH Training Page](#). Education & Outreach materials are expected to become available on the [SNF Training Page](#) in Fall 2025.

**Exhibit 1. Data Source Information for the Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator Confidential Feedback Report**

Setting	Assessment Tool Used	Data Collection Time Point	Standardized HRSN Items
HH	Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS)	Start of Care (SOC) and Resumption of Care (ROC)*	<p><b>Health Literacy (B1300):</b> How often do you need to have someone help you when you read instructions, pamphlets, or other written material from your doctor or pharmacy?</p> <p><b>Need for Interpreter Services (A1110B):</b> Do you need or want an interpreter to communicate with a doctor or health care staff?</p> <p><b>Social Isolation (D0700):</b> How often do you feel lonely or isolated from those around you?</p> <p><b>Transportation (A1250):</b> Has lack of transportation kept you from medical appointments, meetings, work, or from getting things needed for daily living?</p>
IRF	IRF-Patient Assessment Instrument (IRF-PAI)	Admission	
LTCH	LTCH Continuity Assessment Record and Evaluation Data Set (LCDS)	Admission	
SNF	Minimum Data Set (MDS)	Admission	

\* In HH, Health Literacy, Social Isolation, and Transportation items are collected at both SOC and ROC; however, Need for Interpreter Services is only collected at SOC.

### 3. Defining the Population

The population for the Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator report is defined as unique patients/residents admitted by the facility/agency in the specified 12-month period. This means that admitted patients/residents with multiple records in the specified period are counted only once. No exclusions are applied so that results capture the entirety of the provider’s patient/resident population admitted in the defined reporting period. This total number of admitted patients/residents in the defined period is used as the denominator in calculating all facility/agency-level rates presented in the Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator Confidential Feedback Report (described in Section 4 below).

### 4. Construction of Facility/Agency-Level Metrics

The Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator Confidential Feedback Report presents results for three types of metrics, which are listed and defined in Exhibit 2 below. Your facility/agency’s results for each of these metrics are presented as both *counts* and *rates*. In the remainder of Section 4, we describe how to calculate your facility/agency’s count and rate for each metric.

**Exhibit 2. Types of Metrics in the Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator Confidential Feedback Report**

Type of Metric	Description
Individual HRSN Indicators	There are four Individual HRSN Indicators, each of which identifies patients/residents who screened positive for one of the four HRSNs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Literacy</li> <li>• Need for Interpreter Services</li> <li>• Social Isolation</li> <li>• Transportation</li> </ul>
Overall HRSN Indicator	This single indicator identifies patients/residents who screened positive for at least one of the four HRSNs.
Number of HRSNs Reported	There are five indicators relating to Number of HRSNs Reported, each of which identifies patients/residents who screened positive for a specific number of HRSNs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• One</li> <li>• Two</li> <li>• Three</li> <li>• Four</li> </ul>

**4.1 Individual HRSN Indicators**

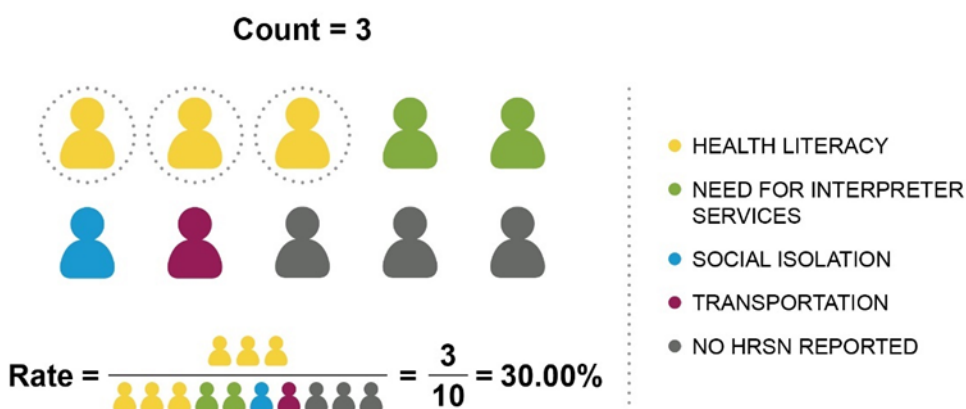
The Individual HRSN Indicators identify unique patients/residents who screened positive (i.e., had a documented social need) for each of the four HRSNs: Health Literacy, Need for Interpreter Services, Social Isolation, Transportation. For each Individual HRSN Indicator, the *count* is the total number of unique patients/residents who screened positive for the HRSN in the defined period. Exhibit 3 below displays the responses that indicate a positive screen for each HRSN item based on expert thresholds for a documented need. An individual patient/resident with multiple assessment records at the facility/agency in the defined period will be captured in an HRSN’s indicator’s count once if they screened positive for that HRSN on any given record in that period. To calculate each Individual HRSN Indicator *rate*, the Individual HRSN Indicator’s count (the numerator) is divided by the facility/agency’s total number of admitted patients/residents (the denominator) in the defined period and expressed as a percentage.

**Exhibit 3. HRSN Assessment Tool Items and Responses Indicating a Positive Screen**

HRSN Indicator	HRSN Item	Responses that Indicate a Positive Screen
Health Literacy	B1300: How often do you need to have someone help you when you read instructions, pamphlets, or other written material from your doctor or pharmacy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sometimes</li> <li>• Often</li> <li>• Always</li> </ul>
Need for Interpreter Services	A1110B: Do you need or want an interpreter to communicate with a doctor or health care staff?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes</li> </ul>
Social Isolation	D0700: How often do you feel lonely or isolated from those around you?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sometimes</li> <li>• Often</li> <li>• Always</li> </ul>
Transportation	A1250: Has lack of transportation kept you from medical appointments, meetings, work, or from getting things needed for daily living?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, it has kept me from medical appointments or from getting my medications</li> <li>• Yes, it has kept me from non-medical meetings, appointments, work, or from getting things that I need</li> </ul>

**Example:** The fictitious IRF<sup>3</sup> depicted in Exhibit 4 below has a total patient population of 10. The IRF’s Health Literacy Indicator has a *count* value of three patients who screened positive for a health literacy need. The IRF’s Health Literacy Indicator *rate* is calculated using the count value of three (the numerator) and dividing by the total patient population of 10 (the denominator): 30% of the IRF’s patients screened positive for a health literacy need.

**Exhibit 4. Example Calculation of Facility/Agency-Level Individual HRSN Indicator Results (Health Literacy)**



<sup>3</sup> The example uses a fictitious IRF but applies to all PAC settings.

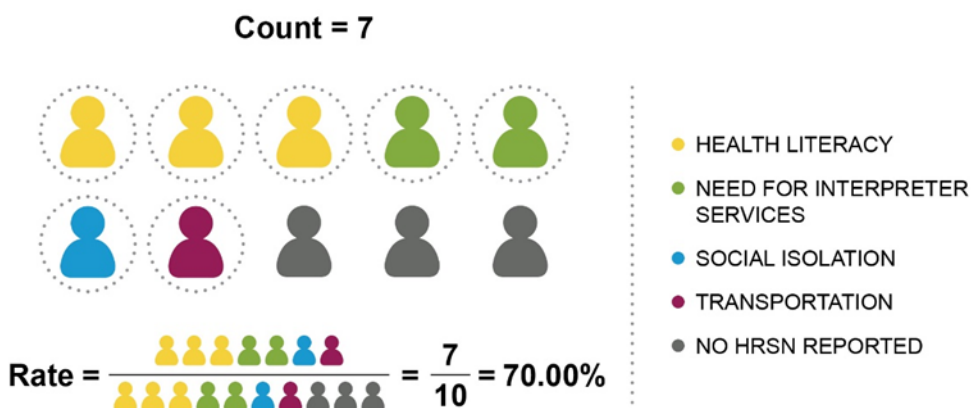


## 4.2 Overall HRSN Indicator

The Overall HRSN Indicator identifies patients/residents who screened positive for at least one of the four HRSNs. The Overall HRSN Indicator *count* is the total number of unique patients/residents who screened positive for at least one (i.e., one or more) of the HRSNs in the defined period. To calculate the Overall HRSN Indicator *rate*, the Overall HRSN Indicator's count (numerator) is divided by the facility/agency's total number of admitted patients/residents (denominator) in the defined period and expressed as a percentage.

**Example:** The fictitious IRF<sup>4</sup> depicted in Exhibit 5 below has a total patient population of 10. The IRF's Overall HRSN Indicator has a *count* value of seven patients who screened positive for at least one HRSN. The IRF's Overall HRSN Indicator *rate* is calculated using the count value of seven (the numerator) and dividing by the total patient population of 10 (the denominator): 70% of the IRF's patients screened positive for at least one HRSN.

**Exhibit 5. Example Calculation of Facility/Agency-Level Overall HRSN Indicator Results**



## 4.3 Number of HRSNs Reported

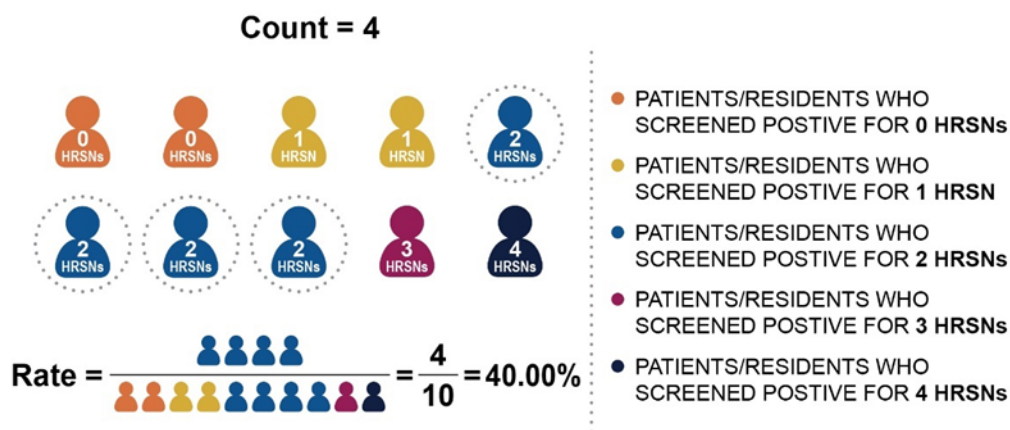
The “Number of HRSNs Reported” refers to the total number of HRSNs (in any combination) that can be reported by a unique patient/resident: zero, one, two, three, or four HRSNs. Therefore, there are five indicators relating to Number of HRSNs Reported, each of which identifies patients/residents who screened positive for a specific number of HRSNs (zero, one, two, three, four HRSNs). For example, the “Two HRSNs Reported” indicator refers to patients/residents who report any two of the four HRSNs at a facility/agency.

For each “Number of HRSNs Reported” indicator, the *count* is the total number of unique patients/residents who screened positive for the specified number of reported HRSNs.

To calculate the *rate* for each “Number of HRSNs Reported” indicator, the count of unique/patients who reported the specified number of HRSNs (numerator) is divided by the facility/agency's total number of admitted patients/residents (denominator) in the defined period and expressed as a percentage.

**Example:** The fictitious IRF<sup>4</sup> depicted in Exhibit 6 below has a total patient population of 10. The IRF has a *count* value of four patients who reported two HRSNs. The IRF’s *rate* of patients who reported two HRSNs is calculated using the count value of four (the numerator) and dividing by the total patient population of 10 (the denominator): 40% of the IRF agency’s patients screened positive for two HRSNs.

**Exhibit 6. Example Calculation of Facility/Agency-Level Number of HRSNs Reported (Two HRSNs)**



## 5. Construction of National-Level Metrics

National-level metrics are presented in the Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator Confidential Feedback Reports for all PAC providers. These are included to give a sense of how your facility/agency’s patient/resident HRSN results compare to those of patients/residents in the same setting nationally. For each of the facility/agency-level metrics described above in [Section 4](#), the total numerator and denominator counts are aggregated at the national level to calculate a national-level rate. That is to say, the sum of all facility/agency-level numerator counts nationally is divided by the sum of all facility/agency-level denominator counts nationally. This rate is expressed as a percentage.

## 6. Construction of State-Level Metrics for HH<sup>5</sup>

For HH only, state-level metrics are presented in the Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator Confidential Feedback Report. This aligns with existing HH reporting, which includes state-level benchmarks. These are included to give a sense of how your patient/resident HRSN results compare to those of patients/residents in the same setting across your state. For each of the facility/agency-level metrics described above in [Section 4](#), the total HH agency numerator and denominator counts are aggregated at the state level to calculate a state-level *rate*.<sup>6</sup> That is to say, the sum of the HH

<sup>4</sup> The example uses a fictitious IRF but applies to all PAC settings.

<sup>5</sup> Consistent with other reports for IRF, LTCH, and SNF, state-level metrics are not presented in the Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator Confidential Feedback Reports for providers in these settings.

<sup>6</sup> Each HH agency is assigned a state code based on the state or territory in which it is located. The U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands are combined with Hawaii for state-level metrics.

agency-level numerator counts in a given state is divided by the sum of the HH agency-level denominator counts in the same state. This rate is expressed as a percentage.

## 7. User Guide

This section describes the information contained in each of the two tables that comprise the Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator Confidential Feedback Report. Exhibits in this section list and describe each column in each table of the Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator Confidential Feedback Report. Please refer to [Appendix A](#) and [Appendix B](#) for example reports for IRF and HH,<sup>7</sup> respectively.

### 7.1 Results for Individual and Overall HRSN Indicators

Below in Exhibit 7, we describe the columns in the first table of the Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator Report, entitled “Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) Indicator.” This table shows results for the Individual and Overall HRSN Indicators at the Facility/Agency-Level, State-Level (HH only),<sup>8</sup> and National-Level.

**Exhibit 7. Column Descriptions for “Health-Related Social Need (HRSN) Indicator” Table**

Column	Column Name	Description
<b>Column 1</b>	Health-Related Social Need (HRSN) Indicator	Specifies the HRSN indicator being examined in each row: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least one of four HRSNs (i.e., Overall HRSN Indicator),</li> <li>• Need for Interpret Services,</li> <li>• Need for Transportation,</li> <li>• Health Literacy, or</li> <li>• Social Isolation.</li> </ul>
<b>Column 2</b>	Unique Patient/Resident Count	Indicates the number of unique patients/residents at your facility/agency that screened positive for the specified HRSN indicator.
<b>Column 3</b>	Facility/Agency Rate (%)	Indicates the percentage of unique patients/residents at your facility/agency that screened positive for the specified HRSN indicator.
<b>Column 4</b> [HH only]	State Average Rate (%) [HH only]	Indicates the percentage of unique patients that screened positive for the specified HRSN indicator among HH agencies in the same state as your agency.
<b>Column 4</b> [IRF/LTCH/SNF]  Or <b>Column 5</b> [HH]	National Average Rate (%)	Indicates the percentage of unique patients/residents that screened positive for the specified HRSN indicator among facilities/agencies in the nation.

<sup>7</sup> The example IRF report (presented in [Appendix A](#)) also serves as an example for the LTCH and SNF settings.

<sup>8</sup> State-level metrics are presented in the Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator Confidential Feedback Report for HH providers only. This aligns with existing HH reporting, which includes state-level benchmarks. State-level metrics are not presented in the Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator Confidential Feedback Reports for providers IRF, LTCH, and SNF settings, because state-level benchmarks are not presented in other reports for these settings.

## 7.2 Results for Number of HRSNs Reported

Below in Exhibit 8, we describe the columns in the second table of the Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator Report, entitled “Patients/Residents with Health-Related Social Need (HRSN).” This table in the report shows results for the “Number of HRSNs Reported” indicators at the Facility/Agency-Level, State-Level (HH only),<sup>10</sup> and National-Level.

**Exhibit 8. Column Descriptions for “Patients/Residents with Health-Related Social Need (HRSN)” Table**

Column	Column Name	Description
<b>Column 1</b>	Patients/Residents with Health-Related Social Need (HRSN)	Specifies the number of HRSNs reported by patients/residents being examined in each row: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patients/Residents with 4 HRSNs,</li> <li>• Patients/Residents with 3 HRSNs,</li> <li>• Patients/Residents with 2 HRSNs,</li> <li>• Patients/Residents with 1 HRSN, or</li> <li>• Patients/Residents with 0 HRSNs.</li> </ul>
<b>Column 2</b>	Unique Patient/Resident Count	Indicates the number of unique patients/residents at your facility/agency that screened positive for the specified number of HRSNs.
<b>Column 3</b>	Facility/Agency Rate (%)	Indicates the percentage of unique patients/residents at your facility/agency that screened positive for the specified number of HRSNs.
<b>Column 4</b> [HH only]	State Average Rate (%)	Indicates the percentage of unique patients/residents that screened positive for the specified number of HRSNs among facilities/agencies in the same state as your facility/agency.
<b>Column 4</b> [IRF/LTCH/SNF]  Or <b>Column 5</b> [HH]	National Average Rate (%)	Indicates the percentage of unique patients/residents that screened positive for the specified number of HRSNs among facilities/agencies in the nation.

## Appendix A. Example Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator Report: Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (also applies to SNFs and LTCHs)

IRF Screen Positive for Health-Related Social Need Indicator Report

iQIES Report

### Health-Related Social Need (HRSN) Indicator

Total Facility Patient Count (N): 821

Health-Related Social Need (HRSN) Indicator	Unique Patient Count (N)	IRF Rate (%)	National Average Rate (%)
At least one of four HRSNs	248	30.21%	35.02%
Need for Interpreter Services (A1110B)	49	5.97%	2.63%
Need for Transportation (A1250)	36	4.38%	2.66%
Health Literacy (B1300)	200	24.36%	27.57%
Social Isolation (D0700)	65	7.92%	9.00%

### Patients with Health-Related Social Need (HRSN)

Total Facility Patient Count (N): 821

Patients with Health-Related Social Need (HRSN)	Unique Patient Count (N)	IRF Rate (%)	National Average Rate (%)
Patients with 4 HRSNs	2	0.24%	0.01%
Patients with 3 HRSNs	7	0.85%	0.46%
Patients with 2 HRSNs	50	6.09%	5.88%
Patients with 1 HRSNs	189	23.02%	28.66%
Patients with 0 HRSNs	573	69.79%	64.98%

## Appendix B. Example Screen Positive for HRSN Indicator Report: Home Health (only HH includes the State Average Rate)

HHA Screen Positive for Health-Related Social Need Indicator Report

iQIES Report

### Health-Related Social Need (HRSN) Indicator

Total Agency Patient Count (N): 3,822

Health-Related Social Need (HRSN) Indicator	Unique Patient Count (N)	HHA Rate (%)	State Average Rate (%)	National Average Rate (%)
At least one of four HRSNs	1,959	51.26%	54.07%	55.55%
Need for Interpreter Services (A1110B)	118	3.09%	2.94%	4.05%
Need for Transportation (A1250)	390	10.23%	10.23%	9.51%
Health Literacy (B1300)	1,456	38.12%	46.14%	47.44%
Social Isolation (D0700)	567	14.86%	11.92%	15.02%

### Patients with Health-Related Social Need (HRSN)

Total Agency Patient Count (N): 3,822

Patients with Health-Related Social Need (HRSN)	Unique Patient Count (N)	HHA Rate (%)	State Average Rate (%)	National Average Rate (%)
Patients with 4 HRSNs	4	0.10%	0.15%	0.15%
Patients with 3 HRSNs	73	1.91%	2.18%	2.96%
Patients with 2 HRSNs	580	15.18%	12.36%	14.07%
Patients with 1 HRSNs	1,302	34.07%	39.38%	38.37%
Patients with 0 HRSNs	1,863	48.74%	45.93%	44.45%