

Questions and Answers from Home Health, Hospice and DME Open Door Forum- July 29, 2020

1. Will home health agencies, quarter 1 and 2 of 2020 be exempt from the Quality Reporting Program? I'm also trying to find out if the intent is the same, for home health caps?
 - a. We will not use quarter 1 or quarter 2 2020 data for the purposes of publically reporting, either for hospice or the home health program.
2. Is there an update on the final rule for hospice? Especially with regards to the discussion of implementation date for the addendum to the benefit election statement.
 - a. We're still working to get the hospice rule out and anything that is involved in that rule will be out when, when the rule comes out. But usually it's on or before August 1st. So, please stay tuned.
3. This is about the quarter 1, quarter 2 data not being publically reported for home health. So, are we saying that that data will be used in the Star Rating Report?
 - a. Any confidential reports that are only acceptable to providers may show that data. No data that is publically posted we'll use quarter 1 or quarter 2 data to be calculated, in our calculation of quality metrics.
 - i. When the preview report comes out for January, is that all going to use the same time period? What is the timeframe with our Star Rating Reports, particularly for quarter 1 and quarter 2?
 1. We'll exclude them from the data. How we will go about recording the data after considering those exclusions, that information will be forthcoming. So, you will expect to see some communications from CMS in the near future regarding exactly how we'll be handling the data and the specific, compare site refreshes, with respect to each of these programs.
 - a. How much data is in the report? Usually would be an annual, a year's worth of data in Star Rating Report and just skipping two quarters, you know, how would that be. So, we'll look for that information?
 - i. Fantastic question and we're definitely thinking that through and that information will certainly be forthcoming.
4. I understand the review choice demonstration is resuming August. Does that mean the target of COVID education audits will be reviewed then as well?
 - a. Unfortunately, I can't speak to that, I can only talk about the review choice demonstrations.
5. Understanding that during this suspension quarters, that that data will not ever be publically reported. However, it has not really been clearly articulated that the old storage will stay up for three additional quarters when new data is lacking or how this will be handled. What I take as an answer to that question is that information, will be forthcoming, and still has yet to be determined?
 - a. Yes. It will be forthcoming. It's not really yet to be determined but yes, it will make that information publically. We're dropping a communication right now and we expect to get you that information in the very near future. We will outline how

each of the refreshers subsequent to this fall refresh will be handled as quarter 1 and quarter 2 will for each of the performance for our quality metrics. And that will be outlined and will be clear within this communication.