

Expanded Home Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP) Model

HHVBP Newsletter – April 2022

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 CMS and the HHVBP Model Technical Assistance (TA) Team. Please consider sharing this newsletter within your organization.

Information in this edition of the newsletter continues to introduce the expanded HHVBP Model and includes the following information:

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HHVBP Model Highlights

How are Baseline Years used in the expanded HHVBP Model?

There are two baseline years used in the expanded HHVBP Model: The Model baseline year and an HHA baseline year.

1. The **Model baseline year** is the calendar year (CY) used for calculating the **benchmarks and achievement thresholds** for each quality measure for each of the two nationwide cohorts. For the CY 2023 performance year/CY 2025 payment year, CY 2019 will serve as the Model baseline year for calculating the achievement thresholds and benchmarks for each cohort.
2. The **HHA baseline year** is the CY in which CMS will compare an HHA's performance score by measure during a performance year and calculate each HHA's unique **improvement threshold**.

Achievement threshold: The median (50th percentile) of Medicare-certified HHAs' performance on each quality measure during the designated baseline year, calculated separately for the larger- and smaller-volume cohorts.

Benchmarks: The mean of the top decile (90th percentile) of all HHAs' performance scores on the specified quality measure during the baseline year, calculated separately for the larger- and smaller-volume cohorts. Benchmarks are used to calculate both the achievement score and the improvement score.

Improvement threshold: An individual competing HHA's performance on an applicable measure during the HHA's baseline year.

CMS uses an HHA’s Medicare-certification date to determine the **HHA baseline year** as follows:

- **HHAs with Date of Medicare Certification *prior* to January 1, 2019:** The HHA’s baseline year is CY 2019 (January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019).
- **HHAs with Date of Medicare Certification *on or after* January 1, 2019:** The HHA’s baseline year is the HHA’s first full CY of service beginning after the date of Medicare certification, *except for HHAs certified on January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019.*
- **HHAs with a Date of Medicare Certification on January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019:** The HHA’s baseline year is CY 2021, and the first performance year is the first full calendar year (beginning with CY 2023) following the HHA’s baseline year.

An HHA must have sufficient data to establish the HHA baseline year for a particular quality measure. An HHA must meet the minimum threshold of data per measure per reporting period on five (5) or more of the applicable measures in the baseline and performance years, as illustrated in **Exhibit 1**. A complete list of the expanded HHVBP Model measure set is available in the [Expanded HHVBP Model Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Exhibit 1: Minimum threshold of data per reporting period

Measure Category	Threshold
OASIS-based	20 home health quality episodes
Claims-based	20 home health stays
HHCAHPS Survey-based	40 completed surveys

Exhibit 2 identifies the HHVBP Model baseline year, HHA baseline year, performance year, and payment year for Medicare-certification dates prior to January 1, 2019, and on January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2021. HHAs certified during these time periods are eligible for a payment adjustment in CY 2025.

Exhibit 2: Baseline, Performance, & Payment Years by Medicare-certification Date

Medicare-certification Date	Model Baseline Year* (for Achievement Threshold)	HHA Baseline Year** (for Improvement Threshold)	Performance Year (CY)	Payment Year (CY)
1	2	3	4	5
Prior to January 1, 2019	2019	2019	2023	2025
On January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019	2019	2021	2023	2025
On January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020	2019	2021	2023	2025
On January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021	2019	2022	2023	2025

* CY 2019 is the Model baseline year used to determine the benchmark and achievement threshold.

** For HHAs certified on or after January 1, 2019, the HHA baseline year will be the first full CY of services beginning after the date of Medicare-certification except for HHAs certified on January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019, where the baseline year is CY 2021.



ICYMI: In Case You Missed It

HHVBP Model Expansion 101 Live Event: Recording Now Available!

On Thursday, February 10th, the HHVBP TA Team hosted a live learning event: *HHVBP Model Expansion 101*. The team shared essential information regarding the expanded HHVBP Model, including topics such as participation criteria, cohort assignment, quality measures, payment adjustment methodology, and performance feedback reports. The webinar concluded with a live Q&A session.

To download the [recording](#), [slide deck](#), or [transcript](#), and to access other expanded HHVBP Model information and resources, please visit the [Expanded HHVBP Model webpage](#).

If you have questions about implementation of the expanded HHVBP Model, please email HHVBPquestions@lewin.com.



Resource Spotlight

FAQs and TNC Change Measures Resources Now Available

In addition to the recording and materials for the HHVBP Model Expansion 101 event, the following resources are now available on the [Expanded HHVBP Model webpage](#):

- [Expanded HHVBP Model Frequently Asked Questions](#) to assist HHAs in understanding common terms used in the expanded HHVBP Model and requirements under the [Calendar Year \(CY\) 2022 Home Health Prospective Payment System \(HH PPS\) final rule](#).
- Resources specific to the expanded HHVBP Model Total Normalized Composite (TNC) Change composite measures.
 - [HHVBP Model Composite Measure Calculation Steps](#)
 - [HHVBP Model Technical Specifications Composite Outcome Measures](#)



Literature Link

Impact of Home Care Services on Patient and Economic Outcomes: A Targeted Review

Lizano-Díez et al. examined home-based care initiatives in the context of Patient Support Programs (PSPs) through [an integrative literature review](#) of original research articles, meta-analyses, and guidelines focused on the delivery of care to individuals with chronic, complex conditions published

between 2009 and 2019.¹ Their goal was to outline the characteristics of home care services or home delivery systems worldwide and to describe the effect of these services or systems on adherence to medication, patient-reported outcomes (e.g., level of satisfaction and health-related quality of life, or HRQoL), and economic outcomes.

Regarding adherence to medication, findings showed that home visits, combined with patient education (e.g., training on medication administration, education on illnesses and treatments, and medication reminders), increased medication adherence. Findings also indicated home care services had a positive effect on patient-reported outcomes, highlighting the increase in patient knowledge, confidence, and control of their health. In addition, patients receiving home-based services reported elevated levels of satisfaction, citing the following reasons: less travel, no waiting at the hospital, less disruption to daily routines, and increased family support. Overall, patients found home-based services more convenient, accessible, and useful.

From an economic perspective, home-based services, as a form of PSPs, have the potential to reduce health costs, particularly when comparing home infusion services to those administered in an infusion clinic for the following diseases: multiple sclerosis, multiple myeloma, leukemia, and Crohn's. Cost savings also included reductions in hospital admissions and emergency department costs.

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 Help Desk at HHVBPquestions@lewin.com.
- To receive email updates about expansion, please [subscribe to the expanded HHVBP Model Expansion List Serv](#). Enter your email address in the contact form, then select "Home Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP) Expanded Model" from the *Innovations* list. To ensure you receive expanded HHVBP Model communications via email, please add "cmslists@subscriptions.cms.hhs.gov" to your email safe sender list.
- 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>.

¹ Lizano-Díez, I., Amaral-Rohter, S., Pérez-Carbonell, L., & Aceituno, S. (2021). Impact of Home Care Services on Patient and Economic Outcomes: A Targeted Review. *Home Health Care Management & Practice*, 10848223211038305.