

# Expanded Home Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP) Model

## HHVBP Newsletter – December 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 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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#### Expanded HHVBP Model’s First Performance Year Begins on January 1, 2023

The first performance year of the expanded HHVBP Model will begin on **January 1, 2023** and includes Medicare-certified HHAs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories.

The HHVBP TA Team encourages HHAs to review and download resources available on the [Expanded HHVBP Model webpage](#) to assist in understanding the expectations of the expanded Model. For questions about the expanded Model, please email the Expanded HHVBP Model Help Desk at [HHVBPquestions@lewin.com](mailto:HHVBPquestions@lewin.com).

#### Reminder: CMS Published the Calendar Year (CY) 2023 Home Health Prospective Payment System (HH PPS) Final Rule

On October 31, 2022, CMS published the [CY 2023 HH PPS final rule](#) on the Federal Register. This final rule set forth the changes to the expanded HHVBP Model’s Model baseline year and HHA baseline year,

stemming from an analysis of national trends in expanded HHVBP Model quality measures and the continued impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). The Model baseline year is the CY used to determine the achievement threshold and benchmark for each cohort on each measure. The HHA baseline year is the CY used to establish HHA improvement thresholds on each measure for each competing agency.

To measure competing HHAs’ performance against achievement thresholds and benchmarks with more current data, CMS changed the Model baseline year from CY 2019 to CY 2022, and designated CY 2022 as the HHA baseline year for HHAs certified by Medicare prior to January 1, 2022. For HHAs certified after January 1, 2022, the HHA baseline year will be the first full calendar year of services beginning after the date of Medicare certification. An HHA must have sufficient data to establish a baseline year for a particular quality measure.

Additional information about the expanded HHVBP Model baseline years is available in the *Expanded HHVBP Model Guide – November 2022* and the *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*. These resources and others designed to support HHAs with implementation of the expanded Model are available on the [Expanded HHVBP Model webpage](#).

### Home Health Help Desks

HHVBP Model Help Desk	iQIES Help Desk
<p>Questions related to implementation, measures, resources, HHVBP performance feedback report content, or other questions related to the expanded HHVBP Model.</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:HHVBPquestions@lewin.com">HHVBPquestions@lewin.com</a></p>	<p>Technical questions related to Internet Quality Improvement Evaluation System (iQIES) platform registration, navigation, or assistance with accessing reports.</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:iQIES@cms.hhs.gov">iQIES@cms.hhs.gov</a></p> <p>Phone: 1 (800) 339-9313</p> <p>Webpage: <a href="#">iQIES Help</a></p>

Home Health Quality Reporting Program Help Desks	
Home Health Quality Help Desk	Home Health CAHPS
<p>Questions related to: Home Health Quality, including Care Compare (excluding HHCAHPS), OASIS coding and OASIS documentation, quality reporting requirements &amp; 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).</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:homehealthqualityquestions@cms.hhs.gov">homehealthqualityquestions@cms.hhs.gov</a></p>	<p>Questions related to the Home Health CAHPS Survey or the Patient Survey Star Ratings.</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:hcahps@rti.org">hcahps@rti.org</a></p> <p>Phone: 1 (866) 354-0985</p>

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



## ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)

### November 2022 Pre-Implementation Performance Report Available in iQIES

As the expanded HHVBP Model prepares to start the first performance year on January 1, 2023, CMS issued the November 2022 Pre-Implementation Performance Report (PIPR) to all active HHAs. The PIPRs provide HHAs with their specific performance data for the quality measure set used in the expanded Model, with comparison to HHAs nationally within peer cohorts. Additionally, the PIPRs provide a preview of the agency's performance in advance of the release of the first Interim Performance Reports (IPRs) in July 2023, including preliminary achievement thresholds and benchmarks.

The November 2022 PIPR is available to download from [iQIES](#). Instructions on how to access the PIPRs are available on the [Expanded HHVBP Model webpage](#), under "Model Reports".

To assist HHAs in understanding the purpose, content, and use of the PIPRs, the HHVBP TA Team provided an on-demand video and downloadable resource, "*Introduction to the Pre-Implementation Performance Report (PIPR)*", available on the [Expanded HHVBP Model webpage](#) under "Model Reports". The video is also available on the [Expanded HHVBP Model YouTube channel](#).

*How are the PIPRs different from the Interim Performance Reports (IPRs) and Annual Performance Reports (APRs)?*

The PIPRs are similar in layout, terminology use, and content compared to IPRs and APRs. However, while IPRs provide a detailed report of an HHA's measure-specific improvement, achievement, and corresponding Total Performance Score (TPS) performance, the PIPRs are limited to presenting measure performance values based on the most current data available and the HHA's cohort's performance. PIPRs will only be available for November 2022, January 2023, and April 2023, whereas the IPRs will be available each quarter beginning with the July 2023 IPR.

Additional details on the IPR and APR are available in the *Expanded HHVBP Model Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), Section V. Reports*, on the [Expanded HHVBP Model webpage](#).

A live streaming event for the "*Introduction to the PIPR*" recording was held on November 17, 2022. The December edition of the Expanded HHVBP Model FAQs includes questions received upon event registration or during the live event. If you do not see an answer to your specific question, please email the Expanded HHVBP Model Help Desk at [HHVBPquestions@lewin.com](mailto:HHVBPquestions@lewin.com).



## Resource Spotlight

### Updated Editions of FAQs and Model Guide Available

Updated editions of two (2) key expanded HHVBP Model resources are available on the [Expanded HHVBP Model webpage](#):

- **Expanded Model Guide – November 2022:** The Model Guide includes an overview of the expanded Model, information on eligibility and cohorts, quality measures used in the expanded Model, Total Performance Score (TPS) methodology and payment adjustment methodologies, and an overview of the performance feedback reports.
- **Expanded HHVBP Model Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – December 2022:** The FAQs assist HHAs in understanding common terms and essential elements of the expanded HHVBP Model.

### Quality Improvement Resources

The following written resources will assist HHAs with quality assurance and performance improvement (QAPI) efforts related to the expanded HHVBP Model.

Title	Location
"How to use Existing Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Processes to Support Improvement in Expanded Home Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP) Model"	Quality Measures
"Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Program Self-Assessment"	Quality Improvement
"Quality Measure Category-Focused Performance Improvement"	

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 expansion, 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](mailto: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).