Expanded Home Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP) Model

HHVBP Newsletter – March 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.

Information in this edition of the newsletter includes the following:

Reminder: HHVBP Model Survey Available

CMS is seeking feedback on HHAs' experience with the expanded HHVBP Model resources and information for future resources.
The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete.
Responses are anonymous unless you choose to share your name and email.

HHVBP Model Highlights

New Quality Improvement Resources Available

Two (2) new 20-minute on-demand recordings are available for HHAs to use as they consider clinical strategies and refine their quality improvement efforts to improve performance in the expanded HHVBP

Model measures. Watch the recordings listed in **Exhibit 1** to learn more about each approach and the potential impact on expanded Model measure performance.

Exhibit 1. New Quality Improvement Resources

Learning Resource Title	Featured Quality Improvement Strategies
Patient and Family/Caregiver Engagement: Assessment and Goal Setting (On-demand)	• Patient communication techniques • Outreach calls • Self-report tools • Remote patient monitoring • Goal setting approaches • Decision-making aids
Care Transitions: Provider Communication (On-demand)	• Critical elements of communication • Using an SBAR (Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation) communication framework • Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) Meetings

Materials for these two (2) resources are available on the Expanded HHVBP Model webpage under "Quality Improvement." Each resource includes an on-demand video recording with closed captions and slides. For questions, email the HHVBP Model Help Desk at HHVBPquestions@lewin.com.

On the Horizon

Upcoming Live Streaming Event! Strategies for Success Self-Assessment Tool

The *Strategies for Success Self-Assessment Tool* provides resources HHAs can use to identify specific strategies that have the potential to improve quality performance results. This resource is available on the Expanded HHVBP Model webpage under "Quality Improvement."

Features of this resource include:

• A step-by-step guide and self-assessment tool for evaluating the application of nine (9) recommended strategies in the areas of assessment, care planning, monitoring, patient engagement, and maintenance coverage;
• An action plan template to track progress on the recommended strategies selected for quality improvement, based on the results of the self-assessment;
• Detailed descriptions of the nine (9) strategies for success; and
• An example self-assessment from a fictional HHA.

Additionally, there will be a live stream of the on-demand video at 2:00 PM ET on March 30, 2023. Attendees will have the opportunity to submit questions during the event. Click here to register: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Bcl3AWXgQuuc-5HhIO7IsA. Look for *Strategies for Success* highlights in future newsletters!

For questions, please email the HHVBP Model Help Desk at HHVBPquestions@lewin.com.

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)

CMS Health Equity Technical Assistance

CMS created the Health Equity Technical Assistance webpage to assist health care organizations with taking action to address health disparities. Resources include the Mapping Medicare Disparities Tool, the Guide to Developing a Language Access Plan, and a step-by-step guide to developing a disparities impact statement for your organization.

For more information about CMS efforts to reduce disparities, read the CMS Framework for Health Equity 2022-2032.

Public Health Emergency Resource Update

On February 9, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19 will end on May, 11, 2023. COVID-19 remains a significant priority for the Biden-Harris Administration and over the next several months, CMS will work to ensure a smooth transition. During the PHE, CMS has used a combination of emergency authority waivers, regulations, enforcement discretion, and sub-regulatory guidance to ensure easier access to care during the PHE for health care providers and their beneficiaries.

Some of the flexibilities that were created during the pandemic were recently expanded by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. Others, while critical during our initial responses to COVID-19, are no longer needed. CMS has made further updates to the CMS Emergencies Page with useful information for providers – specifically around major telehealth and individual waivers – that were initiated during the PHE.

Provider-specific fact sheets about COVID-19 PHE waivers and flexibilities are available at https://www.cms.gov/coronavirus-waivers.

The COVID-19 PHE Transition Roadmap is available at https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/02/09/fact-sheet-covid-19-public-health-emergency-transition-roadmap.html.

Please refer to the CMS Emergencies Page for the most up-to-date information.

Reminder: January 2023 Pre-Implementation Performance Reports Available on iQIES

CMS issued the January 2023 Pre-Implementation Performance Report (PIPR) to competing HHAs via the Internet Quality Improvement Evaluation System (iQIES). The PIPRs provide HHAs with data on their quality measure performance used in the expanded HHVBP Model, with comparison to HHAs nationally within peer cohorts. Instructions on how to access the PIPRs are available below and on the Expanded HHVBP Model webpage, under "Model Reports." To assist HHAs with 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."

For questions, please email the Expanded HHVBP Model Help Desk at HHVBPquestions@lewin.com.

Locating the PIPR in iQIES

1. Log into iQIES at https://iqies.cms.gov/.
2. Select the My Reports option from the Reports menu.
3. From the My Reports page, select the HHA Provider Preview Reports folder.
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.

Contact Us

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

- For program questions about the expanded HHVBP Model, contact the **HHVBP 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!