

# **CMS Hospice Spotlights and Announcements- Archive 2016**

**December 29, 2016**

## **Training Materials for the January 2017 Hospice QRP Provider Training Available**

Training materials for the upcoming 1-day Hospice QRP Provider Training event on Wednesday, January 18, 2017, in Baltimore, MD, are now available under the download section of the [Hospice QRP Training webpage](#). The training will start at 8:30 a.m. ET and end at 4:30 p.m. ET.

There will be an optional Meet-and-Greet with CMS staff and presenters immediately following for those individuals participating in-person.

Visit the [Hospice QRP Training webpage](#) for more information and to register and/or find out how to participate.

**December 19, 2016**

## **Quality Measure Reports Now Available**

Two new reports are now available as Confidential Provider Feedback Reports–Hospice-Level Quality Measure (QM) Report and Hospice Patient Stay-Level Quality Measure (QM) Report within the CASPER application. These QM reports allow hospice providers to specify a reporting period and view their own quality data at both the hospice level and patient-stay level. Providers can access their QM reports in the CASPER system at <https://web.qiesnet.org/qiestosuccess/>.

View the “Getting Started with Hospice CASPER Quality Measure (QM) Reports” Fact Sheet on the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices](#) webpage for more information.

**December 16, 2016**

## **Hospice Care – National Average Quality Data Released**

National averages of the quality of care measure scores of Medicare-certified hospices are now available on [data.medicare.gov](#). National average data are available for two quality of care datasets – the Hospice Item Set (HIS) and the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) Hospice Survey. The HIS information reflects provider performance on the [seven National Quality Forum \(NQF\)-endorsed HIS measures](#) from Quarter 3 of 2015 through Quarter 2 of 2016 (July 2015 through June 2016).

The CAHPS® Hospice Survey information contains the national average “top-box” scores of Medicare-certified hospices on the eight NQF-endorsed CAHPS® Hospice Survey measures. Top-box scores reflect the proportion of respondents who gave the most favorable response or responses for each measure. Scores are calculated from CAHPS® Hospice Survey responses that reflect care experiences of informal caregivers (i.e., family

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members or friends) of patients who died while receiving hospice care in Quarter 2 of 2015 through Quarter 1 of 2016 (April 2015 through March 2016).

To access the HIS and CAHPS® Hospice Survey files, visit: <https://data.medicare.gov/>.

## **December 01, 2016**

### **HIS Manual V2.00 and Associated Change Table Now Available**

The HIS Manual V2.00 is available as a .zip file download on the [Hospice Item Set \(HIS\)](#) webpage. This version of the HIS Manual accompanies V2.00.0 of the HIS that will be effective April 1, 2017. Also included in the .zip file is a change table that outlines major changes from the HIS Manual V1.02 to V2.00.

## **December 01, 2016**

### **Hospice Quality Reporting Program Provider Training: Registration Open**

CMS is hosting a 1-day training event on the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP). This event will be held in Baltimore, MD on Wednesday, January 18, 2017.

Visit the [Hospice Quality Reporting Training](#) webpage for more information and to register.

## **November 16, 2016**

### **Extraordinary Circumstances Extension / Exception (ECE) due to Hurricane Matthew**

CMS intends to grant quality reporting data submission exceptions to Hospice Medicare providers adversely affected by the devastating impact of Hurricane Matthew. CMS is exercising its authority to grant exceptions for data submission requirements for the Hospice Quality Reporting Programs for providers located within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-designated “major disaster” counties of Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, and South Carolina. For further information, visit the [Hospice QR Reconsiderations and Exceptions and Extensions](#) webpage.

## **November 02, 2016**

### **Q+A Document for the Third Quarter of 2016 Now Available**

A new Question and Answer (Q+A) document is now available in the “Downloads” section of the [Hospice Item Set \(HIS\)](#). The Q+A document reflects frequently asked Hospice Item Set (HIS) related questions that were received by the Quality Help Desk during the third quarter (July-September) of 2016. This document also contains quarterly updates and events from the third quarter as well as a “HIS coding tip of the quarter.”

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**October 26, 2016**

As stated in the [FY 2016 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update and Hospice Quality Reporting Requirements](#), CMS has published a list of Hospices who successfully met the reporting requirements after all reconsideration requests have been processed. This report will be updated on an annual basis. View the list under the downloads section of the [Hospice Quality Reporting Program \(HQRP\) Requirements and Best Practices webpage](#).

**October 26, 2016**

An executive summary of the results from HIS measure testing analysis can be found in the “Downloads” section of the [Current Measures](#) webpage. This document contains measure testing analysis results for the current HIS-based quality measures, including reportability, distribution and variability, reliability, validity, and disparities.

**October 26, 2016**

CMS 2016 Quality Conference- Baltimore, MD

December 13-15

Join more than nearly 2,000 thought leaders in American health care quality improvement at the CMS 2016 Quality Conference. This conference will explore how patients, advocates, providers, researchers, and the many leaders in health care quality improvement can develop and spread solutions to some of America's most pervasive health system challenges. The 2016 CMS Quality Conference will be the most expansive yet, with both new and existing participants from programs across CMS, HHS, and community stakeholders. The collaborative format of the conference, and strong focus on data-proven outcomes is underscored by this year's conference theme, Aligning for Innovation and Outcomes.

For more information and to register, visit the [CMS Quality Conference](#) webpage.

**October 25, 2016**

The Regional Office (RO) and State coordinator list has been updated on the Hospice Data Directory page, located at <https://data.medicare.gov/>. This is the contact list for updating information in the CMS Automated Survey Processing Environment (ASPEN). If the information on the Hospice Data Directory is incorrect, contact the RO or State coordinator listed for your area.

Of note: information on the Hospice Data Directory is updated quarterly.

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August 22, 2016

## Hospice Data Specs Effective April 1, 2017

An updated version of the HIS data submission specifications (v2.00.0) is now available. This final version of the specifications will go into effect on April 1, 2017. Note that there were no changes from the previously posted draft version of these specifications. These files are available in the Downloads section of the [HIS Technical Information](#) webpage.

August 2, 2016

## May 10 Hospice QRP Webinar: Post-Training Materials Available

Post-training materials from the May 10 Hospice QRP (HQRP) webinar are now available under the download section of the [Hospice QRP Training webpage](#). These include the PowerPoint presentation with answers to polling scenarios and a Q&A document. A recording of the webinar is posted on [YouTube](#).

This webinar details HQRP submission requirements including the HIS related and Hospice CAHPS requirements, provides useful insights into how to download and use the Hospice Final Validation Reports and other Certification And Survey Provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) reports available to providers, and assists providers in understanding how to interpret error messages and correct errors. It also includes a demonstration of the Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (QIES) Assessment Submission and Processing (ASAP) system.

June 29, 2016

## New Hospice Report Available on July 17, 2016 in CASPER Reporting Application

CMS is pleased to announce a new Hospice Quality Reporting (QRP) report - **Hospice Timeliness Compliance Threshold Report** that will be available starting July 17, 2016 to Hospice providers in the Hospice Provider report category in the CASPER Reporting application.

**Hospice Timeliness Compliance Threshold Report** - This report displays provider level data regarding Hospice Item Set (HIS) records submitted successfully to CMS.

- The report displays the following information:
- Provider identification information
- Provider CCN and FAC ID
- # of HIS Records Submitted
- # of HIS Records Submitted on Time
- % of HIS Records Submitted on Time

**Table 1. Compliance Threshold Requirements by Reporting Year**

Reporting Year (& Affected APU)	Dates	Requirement
FY 2018	01/01/16 - 12/31/16	70% of all required HIS records submitted w/in 30 days

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FY 2019	01/01/17 - 12/31/17	80% of all required HIS records submitted w/in 30 days
FY 2020 & Beyond	01/01/18 - 12/31/18	90% of all required HIS records submitted w/in 30 days

### **Summary of Timeliness Compliance Threshold for HIS Submission**

In Sections E.6.d and E.6.e of the FY 2016 Final Rule, CMS finalized a timeliness compliance threshold for HIS submissions. These policies went into effect for the FY 2018 reporting year, which begins January 1, 2016.

- Section E.6.d of the Final Rule states that hospices are required to submit all HIS; records (HIS- Admission and HIS-Discharge records) by the submission deadline. The submission deadline for HIS records is 30 days from the event date (the patient's admission to or discharge from the hospice).
- Section E.6.e of the Final Rule states that beginning with the FY 2018 reporting year, in order to avoid the 2-percentage point reduction in their Annual Payment Update (APU), hospices will be required to submit a minimum percentage of their HIS records by the 30-day submission deadline. CMS will implement this compliance threshold over a 3-year period. For the FY 2018 APU determination, at least 70% of all required HIS records must be submitted within the 30-day submission deadline to avoid the 2-percentage point reduction in the FY 2018 APU. For the FY 2019 APU determination, providers must submit 80% of all required HIS records by the 30-day deadline. Finally, for the FY 2020 APU determination and all subsequent years, providers must submit 90% of all required HIS records according to the 30-day deadline. See **Table 1**, above.
- Please note that this compliance threshold is related to the submission deadline for HIS records only, completion deadlines will not be considered in the timeliness compliance threshold calculations.

**June 20, 2016**

### **Hospice Quality Reporting: Annual Payment Update**

CMS is mailing notifications to hospices that are not in compliance with Hospice Quality Reporting requirements; all notifications will be mailed by June 29. For CY 2015 (FY 2017) and after, CMS considers both Hospice Item Set (HIS) and Hospice CAHPS® survey data from January 1 through December 31 to determine the Annual Payment Update (APU) compliance threshold. If you receive a notice of non-compliance, you have the opportunity to submit a request for reconsideration on quality data submissions affecting your FY 2017 APU. See the instructions in your notification letter and on the [Reconsideration Requests](#) webpage.

**June 14, 2016**

### **Subject: Hospice Data Directory**

A new Hospice Data Directory is now [available](#). This directory includes the Hospice Agency dataset, which provides a list of all hospices certified by Medicare and high-level demographic data for each agency including

- Provider name
- Complete address
- Ownership type
- CMS Certification Number (CCN)
- Profit status
- Date of original CMS certification

Please note that the Hospice Data Directory does not include any quality data.

Notice to Hospice Providers: All of the information in the Hospice Data Directory comes from the CMS Automated Survey Processing Environment (ASPEN). If your agency's data is not listed in the database, is incorrect, or has changed, contact your Regional Office (RO) Coordinator. A RO Coordinators list is also included with the Hospice Data Directory.

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This is a first step taken by CMS to publicly provide reported hospice data so that our stakeholders can identify and locate hospices in a sortable, easy-to-use format. In addition to the new Hospice Data Directory, CMS is actively developing a CMS Hospice Compare site, which we anticipate to complete sometime in mid-2017. The CMS Hospice Compare site will provide valuable information regarding the quality of care provided by Medicare-certified hospice agencies by reporting the eligible Hospice Item Set (HIS) quality measures for each agency. To help providers prepare for public reporting, we will offer opportunities for stakeholder engagement and education prior to the release of the CMS Hospice Compare site. For additional information, regarding plans for publicly reporting hospice data please refer to the [FY 2017 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update and Hospice Quality Reporting Requirements Proposed Rule](#).

### May 27, 2016

The Training Page for the Hospice QRP Website is now live. The link to this page is located to left under Hospice Quality Reporting. Training materials are located on the Downloads section of the Training Page.

As of May 27, 2016, all training materials previously posted to other pages of the Hospice QRP website will be moved to the Downloads section at the bottom of the Training Page.

### May 09, 2016

#### **Subject: Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) Provider Training Webinar for Health Care Providers on May 10, 2016—Materials Posted**

The presentation for the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) Data Submission Requirements Webinar on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. EST has been posted to the CMS website at the following URL: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/HIS-Technical-Information.html>. It is located at the bottom of the page under Downloads.

The HQRP Data Submission Requirements Webinar is intended for providers who submit data for the Hospice Item Set to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The intent of the webinar is to support providers in complying with data collection and submission requirements associated with the HQRP. Beginning January 1, 2016, providers are required to submit at least 70 percent of all Hospice Item Set (HIS) records within 30 days of the event date and meet Hospice Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) reporting requirements. Failure to meet these requirements will negatively impact the provider's annual payment update (APU). This interactive webinar will detail HQRP submission requirements including the HIS-related and Hospice CAHPS requirements, provide useful insights into how to download and use the Hospice Final Validation Reports and other Certification And Survey Provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) available to providers, and assist providers in understanding how to interpret error messages and correct errors. It will also include a live demonstration of the Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (QIES) Assessment Submission and Processing (ASAP) system and the opportunity for participants to ask questions.

If you have questions or need additional information, please email the PAC Training mailbox at [PACTraining@econometricainc.com](mailto:PACTraining@econometricainc.com).

### April 27, 2016

#### **Question and Answer (Q+A) Document for the First Quarter of 2016 Now Available**

A new Question and Answer (Q+A) document is now available in the "Downloads" portion of the "[Hospice Item Set \(HIS\)](#)" section of this website. The Q+A document reflects frequently asked HIS related questions that were received by the Quality Help Desk during the first quarter (January-March) of 2016. This document also contains quarterly updates and events from the first quarter as well as upcoming updates for the next quarter.

### April 21, 2016

#### **Subject: Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) Provider Training Webinar for Health Care Providers on May 10, 2016 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. EST—REGISTRATION OPENS**

Registration is now open for the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) Provider Training Webinar. This webinar is intended for providers who submit data for the Hospice Item Set to the Centers for Medicare &

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Medicaid Services (CMS). The intent of the webinar is to support providers in complying with data collection and submission requirements associated with the HQRP. Beginning January 1, 2016, providers are required to submit at least 70 percent of all Hospice Item Set (HIS) records within 30 days of the event date and meet Hospice Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) reporting requirements. Failure to meet these requirements will negatively impact the provider's annual payment update (APU). This interactive webinar will detail HQRP submission requirements including the HIS-related and Hospice CAHPS requirements, provide useful insights into how to download and use the Hospice Final Validation Reports and other Certification And Survey Provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) available to providers, and assist providers to understand how to interpret error messages and correct errors. It will also include a live demonstration of the Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (QIES) Assessment Submission and Processing (ASAP) system and the opportunity for participants to ask questions.

To register, visit <https://secure.confertel.net/tsRegister.asp?course=6962803>. Register early, space is limited to 500 registrants.

If you have questions or need additional information, please email the PAC Training mailbox at [PACTraining@econometricainc.com](mailto:PACTraining@econometricainc.com).

**April 21, 2016**

**An executive summary of the results from HIS measure testing analysis as delineated in the FY 2017 Hospice Wage Index Proposed Rule can be found in the Downloads section of the [Current Measures page](#). This document contains measure testing analysis results for the current HIS measures, including reportability analysis that was conducted to inform minimum denominator size and data selection period for public reporting.**

**Specifications for the Hospice Item Set-based Quality Measures as delineated in the FY 2017 Hospice Wage Index Proposed Rule can be found in the Downloads section of the [Current Measures page](#). This document contains specifications for the 7 current HIS-based quality measures, as well as draft specifications for the 2 new measures that are proposed for adoption in the FY 2017 proposed rule.**

**April 13, 2016**

**Subject: Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) Webinar for Health Care Providers on May 10, 2016—SAVE THE DATE**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be hosting a webinar for Hospice Health Care Providers. The primary focus of the webinar will be on CMS data submission requirements for HQRP and how to access Final Validation Reports (FVRs) and use information in the FVRs to determine whether data has successfully been transmitted to CMS or will need to be corrected. This important webinar will take place on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. More information along with a link to register will follow.

If you have questions or need additional information, please email the PAC Training mailbox at [PACTraining@econometrica.com](mailto:PACTraining@econometrica.com)

**January 19, 2016**

**Question and Answer (Q+A) Document for the Fourth Quarter of 2015 Now Available**

A new Question and Answer (Q+A) document is now available in the "Downloads" portion of the Hospice Item Set webpage. The Q+A document reflects frequently asked Hospice Item Set (HIS) related questions that were received by the Quality Help Desk during the fourth quarter (October- December) of 2015. This document also contains quarterly updates and events from the fourth quarter as well as upcoming updates for the next quarter.

**January 14, 2016**

**"HQRP QM User's Manual v1.0" Now Available**

The "Hospice Item Set (HIS)- Based Quality Measures (QMs) for the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) User's Manual Version 1.00" is now available in the "Downloads" portion of the Hospice Item Set

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webpage. This User's Manual, current as of January 12, 2016, contains information about the 7 current HIS-based QMs in the HQRP including descriptions of (1) the record selection and measure calculation methodologies employed for each QM, and (2) the logical specifications for each QM.