

IRF Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Spotlights & Announcements Archive

April 7, 2020

POSTPONED- SPADEs In-Depth Training for LTCH and IRF Providers

As the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) continues to respond to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic we want to reduce burden where possible so that clinicians and their staff, vendors, and other partners can focus on what's important, caring for patients. At this time, we will be postponing the SPADEs In-Depth Training for LTCH and IRF Providers scheduled for June 9 and 10, 2020 in Baltimore, MD. CMS will send out more information when this event is rescheduled at a more appropriate time.

March 27, 2020

POSTPONED - April 2020 Overview of the SPADEs Webinar for LTCH and IRF Providers

As the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) continues to respond to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic we want to reduce burden where possible so that clinicians and their staff, vendors and other partners can focus on what's important, caring for patients. At this time, we will be postponing the April 2020 Overview of the SPADEs Webinar for LTCH and IRF Providers on April 14, 2020 from 2:00-3:30 p.m. ET. CMS will send out more information when this event is rescheduled at a more appropriate time.

March 20, 2020

Subject: IRF Draft Technical Specifications Now Available

The complete set of IRF-PAI Data Submission Specifications have been updated and posted on the IRF PPS Data Specifications webpage at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/InpatientRehabFacPPS/DataSpecs>. The DRAFT version data submission specifications include the new standardized patient assessment data elements (SPADEs) and Transfer of Health items to align with IRF-PAI Version 4.0 scheduled for implementation on October 1, 2020.

March 19, 2020

NEW Video Tutorials Available to Assist with Coding Specific Section GG Items

Accessible from the following webpages:

- [Home Health QRP Training webpage](#)
- [Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility QRP Training webpage](#)
- [Skilled Nursing Facility QRP webpage](#)

March 16, 2020

NEW TRAINING EVENT – Introduction to the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Quality Reporting Program Web-Based Training

Accessible from the [IRF Quality Reporting Program Training](#) webpage.

March 12, 2020

IRF Provider Preview Reports- Now Available

Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Provider Preview Reports have been updated and are now available. These reports contain provider performance scores on quality measures, which will be published on IRF Compare during the **June 2020** refresh.

For more information:

- [IRF Quality Public Reporting](#) webpage or [IRF Compare](#)

March 11, 2020

IRF Compare Refresh- Now Available

The March 2020 Quarterly Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Compare refresh is now available.

Please visit the [IRF Compare website](#) to view the updated quality data.

For more information visit the [CMS IRF QRP Public Reporting website](#).

March 9, 2020

REGISTRATION OPEN – April 2020 Overview of the SPADEs Webinar for LTCH and IRF Providers

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be hosting a webinar for providers from Long-Term Care Hospitals (LTCHs) and Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRFs) on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Click on one of the following links for additional information:
- [LTCH Quality Reporting Program \(QRP\) Training webpage.](#)
- [IRF Quality Reporting Training \(QRP\) Training webpage.](#)

March 02, 2020

REGISTRATION OPEN – SPADEs In-Depth Training for LTCH and IRF Providers

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be hosting a 2-day training event for Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) and Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH) providers on June 9 and 10, 2020, in Baltimore, MD. Click on one of the following links for additional information:

- [LTCH Quality Reporting Program \(QRP\) Training webpage.](#)
- [IRF Quality Reporting Training \(QRP\) Training webpage.](#)

February 14, 2020

The submission deadline for the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) is approaching. IRF-PAI assessment data and data submitted via the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) for July 1 – September 30 (Q3) of calendar year (CY) 2019 are due with this submission deadline.

All data must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. on February 18, 2020.

It is recommended that the applicable iQIES reports and NHSN analysis reports are run prior to each quarterly reporting deadline to ensure that all required data were submitted. We encourage you to verify all facility information prior to submission, including CCN and facility name.

View the list of measures required for this deadline in the Downloads section on the [IRF Quality Reporting Data Submission Deadlines](#) webpage.

For additional information, visit:

- [iQIES Reference & Manuals](#)
- [CMS Resources for NHSN Users](#)

Flu Season Reminder: Data collection for the fiscal year (FY) 2021 Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Healthcare Personnel (NQF #0431) measure began October 1, 2019 and continues through March 31, 2020. While data for the Healthcare Personnel Influenza Vaccination measure are not due until the May 15, 2020 deadline, providers are encouraged to report data on this measure as soon as they are available. For more information, [visit the NHSN website](#).

Swingtech sends informational messages to IRFs that are not meeting Annual Increase Factor (AIF) thresholds on a quarterly basis ahead of each submission deadline. If you need to add or change the email addresses to which these messages are sent, please email QRPHelp@swingtech.com and be sure to include your facility name and CMS Certification Number (CCN) along with any requested email updates.

February 11, 2020

Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 and FY 2022 Quick Reference Guides Available

Quick Reference Guides for FY 2021 and FY 2022 are now available in the Downloads section of the [IRF Quality Reporting Data Submission Deadlines webpage](#). The Quick Reference Guides provide high-level information on the IRF Quality Reporting Program, including frequently asked questions and helpful links.

February 3, 2020

NEW TRAINING EVENT — Upcoming Post-Acute Care Quality Reporting Program (PAC QRP) Requirements and Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Training Resources

SPADEs: A Preview of Upcoming Changes to PAC QRP Requirements, a web-based training, guides providers through upcoming changes to the QRPs for the following post-acute settings:

- [SNF Quality Reporting Training](#)
- [IRF Quality Reporting Training](#)
- [LTCH Quality Reporting Training](#)
- [Home Health Quality Reporting Training](#)

December 18, 2019

Q&A for the May 9 and 10 and August 15 and 16 IRF QRP Provider Trainings is Available

A Q&A for the IRF Provider Trainings that took place on May 9 and 10, 2019, and August 15 and 16, 2019, is now available.

December 17, 2019

Updated Disclaimers for New SPADEs

The following disclaimers should be used to appropriately cite four new SPADEs finalized in the FY2020 IRF Final Rule:

- A1250. Transportation

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- C1310. Signs and Symptoms of Delirium

Adapted from: Inouye SK, et al. *Ann Intern Med.* 1990; 113: 941-948. Confusion Assessment Method. Copyright 2003, Hospital Elder Life Program, LLC. Not to be reproduced without permission.

- D0150. Patient Mood Interview (PHQ-2 to 9)

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- B1300. Health Literacy

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Data elements are permitted for use in an electronic medical record (EMR) with the proper disclaimers included as they appear in the patient assessment instrument (and above). All data elements should be coded in the format as it appears in the patient assessment instrument, and should be collected only for data submission to CMS.

December 16, 2019

Publication of the Crosswalk of ICD-10 codes to HCC Categories

The updated Crosswalk of ICD-10 codes to HCC categories used in the risk models for the Change in Self-Care, Change in Mobility, Discharge Self-Care, and Discharge Mobility measures (NQF #2633, NQF #2634, NQF #2635, and NQF #2636, respectively) are now available in the *Downloads* section on the IRF Quality Reporting Measures Information [webpage](#).

November 21, 2019

Publication of IRF-PAI V4.0 and Change Table

The IRF-PAI V4.0, along with an accompanying change table describing updates from IRF-PAI V3.0, is now available in the *Downloads* section on the [IRF-PAI and IRF-PAI Manual webpage](#). The IRF-PAI V4.0 includes the measures and standardized patient assessment data elements finalized in the FY 2020 IRF PPS Final Rule and is effective October 1, 2020 for use in the IRF QRP.

November 19, 2019

Detailed iQIES IRF QRP Report Information and UTC Time Display on Reports

The Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) reports that were previously available in the Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (QIES) CASPER Reporting application are now available in the internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (iQIES). Below is a list of the reports that are now available in iQIES, including specific information about the data that are available:

IRF QRP Reports

- **IRF Review and Correct Report**
 - **Quarter End Date Selection**
 - Initial Quarter End Date available for selection in iQIES is Q3, 2018, which produces measure results for the Q4, 2018– Q3, 2019 Reporting Period (10/01/2018 – 09/30/2019)
 - Quarter End Dates prior to Q3, 2019 will not be available in iQIES; however, one additional quarter end date will become available for selection at the start of each new calendar quarter
- **IRF Facility-Level Quality Measure (QM) Report**
 - **Report End Date Selection**
 - Initial report End Date available for selection in iQIES is Q3, 2019, which produces measure results for the Q4, 2018 – Q3, 2019 Reporting Period (10/01/2018 – 09/30/2019)
 - End Dates prior to Q3, 2019 will not be available in iQIES; however, one additional quarter end date will become available for selection on a calendar quarter basis
 - **New features available on this version of the report:**
 - New display of the facility-aggregated quality measure data; this new display consolidates the measure results to support the ease of the report review and reduces the number of pages of the printed report.
 - Removal of the following measures:
 - Percent of Residents or Patients with Pressure Ulcers That Are New or Worsened (Short Stay) (NQF #0678) measure
 - Percent of Residents or Patients Who Were Assessed and Appropriately Given the Seasonal Influenza Vaccine
 - National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Facility-wide Inpatient Hospital-onset Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) Bacteremia Outcome Measure (NQF #1716)
 - Addition of the following measures:
 - Changes in Skin Integrity Post-Acute Care: Pressure Ulcer/Injury quality measures
 - Drug Regimen Review (DRR)
 - “Average Observed Discharge Score” and “Average Expected Discharge Score” are now displayed for IRF Functional Outcome Measure: Discharge Self-Care Score for Medical Rehabilitation Patients (NQF #2635) and IRF Functional Outcome Measure: Discharge Mobility Score for Medical Rehabilitation Patients (NQF #2636)
 - “95% Confidence Interval” is now displayed for Potentially Preventable 30-Day Post-Discharge Readmission Measure for Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Quality Reporting Program, Potentially Preventable Within Stay Readmission Measure for Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities, and Discharge to Community-Post Acute Care (PAC) Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Quality Reporting Program
 - Updated exclusion criteria to remove the “Patients discharged directly to another IRF: Another Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (Item 44D = [62])” as defined in the [IRF Measure Calculations and Reporting User's Manual V3.1 \(PDF\)](#)
- **IRF Patient-Level Quality Measure (QM) Report**
 - **Quarter End Date Selection**

- Initial Report End Date available for selection in iQIES is Q3, 2019, which produces measure results for the Q4, 2018 – Q3, 2019 Reporting Period (10/01/2018 – 09/30/2019)
 - Quarter End Dates prior to Q3, 2019 will not be available in iQIES; however, one additional quarter end date will become available for selection at the start of each new calendar quarter
 - **New features available on this version of the report:**
 - Each patient stay now contains information for all quality measures
 - Quality measures are grouped by measure interpretation for easier interpretation (Undesirable Outcomes; Desirable Outcomes or Processes Performed; Change in Functional Scores) in the same table. These groups were previously displayed in separate pages.
- Measure names were changed to be numerical (e.g. QM 1) to reduce the number of pages and burden for providers to review. A Quality Measures Legend is provided to reference the number with the quality measure.
 - - - Patient-level results are now available in a CSV file.
 - Removal of the following measures:
 - Percent of Residents or Patients with Pressure Ulcers That Are New or Worsened (Short Stay) (NQF #0678) measure
 - Percent of Residents or Patients Who Were Assessed and Appropriately Given the Seasonal Influenza Vaccine
 - Addition of the following measures:
 - Changes in Skin Integrity Post-Acute Care: Pressure Ulcer/Injury quality measures
 - Drug Regimen Review (DRR)
 - Addition of report data sorting options at the time of the report request:
 - Discharge Date
 - Admission Date
 - Last name, First name

October 11, 2019

Disclaimers for New SPADEs

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- D0150. Patient Mood Interview (PHQ-2 to 9)

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- B1300. Health Literacy

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October 01, 2019

Video Tutorial Available to Assist with Proper Coding of GG0130A. Eating

Accessible from the following webpages:

- [Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility QRP Training webpage](#)

September 19, 2019

August 15 and 16, 2019, IRF QRP Post-Training Materials Are Now Available

Available on the [IRF Quality Reporting Training](#) webpage.

September 06, 2019

IRF Quality Measure Calculations and Reporting User's Manual V3.1

The IRF Quality Reporting Program Measures Calculations and Reporting User's Manual V3.1 has been added to the Downloads section of the [IRF Quality Reporting Measures Information](#) page. This version of the IRF-PAI-based User's Manual is effective on October 1, 2019 and provides detailed information for each quality measure, including quality measure definitions, inclusion and exclusion criteria, and measure calculation specifications. A Change Table has been added to highlight the changes from IRF Quality Reporting Program Measures Calculations and Reporting User's Manual V3.0 to V3.1. Additionally, we have included a Risk Adjustment Appendix File for the IRF Quality Reporting Program Measures Calculations and Reporting User's Manual V3.1, which contains the risk-adjustment values used to calculate the risk-adjusted quality measures. For additional information, or to download the Change Table and Risk Adjustment Appendix File, please see the [IRF Quality Reporting Measures Information](#) webpage.

September 03, 2019

Register for an iQIES Account – Action Required

Dear Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Provider:

The Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (QIES) is being upgraded to make the system more reliable, scalable, secure, and accessible. The enhanced system, referred to as the internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (iQIES), aims to reduce provider burden and enhance CMS's ability to serve our customers.

The initial rollout of iQIES will not change how providers or vendors submit data. However, iQIES will require a new user management system because virtual private network (VPN) and CMSNet are no longer needed to access this system. All users will have to create an account and establish credentials in the HCQIS Access Roles and Profile system (HARP), which is a secure identity management portal provided by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

For more information, please see the [IRF Quality Reporting Technical Information](#) page.

July 31, 2019

Specifications for the quality measures and standardized patient assessment data elements for the IRF QRP finalized through the FY 2020 IRF PPS Final Rule are now posted. The specifications document provides detailed information on the new and updated measures: Transfer of Health Information to Provider–Post-Acute Care (PAC), Transfer of Health Information to Patient–Post-Acute Care (PAC), and Discharge to Community–Post-Acute Care (PAC) IRF QRP. The standardized patient assessment data elements and evidence of support for these data elements are also detailed in the specifications document. The specifications can be found in the Downloads section of the [IMPACT Act Downloads and Videos webpage](#).

The new and modified sections of the IRF-PAI, along with a change table, effective October 1, 2020 for the measures and standardized patient assessment data elements finalized for the IRF QRP in the FY 2020 IRF PPS Final Rule can be found in the Downloads section of the [IMPACT Act Downloads and Videos webpage](#).

The FY 2020 IRF PPS Final Rule is available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/>.

April 30, 2019

Policy Change for Assessment Submission Timeframe

The current CMS policy for submission of patient assessment records allows providers to submit records for up to 36 months from the assessment target date. Effective October 1, 2019, the CMS policy for patient assessment submission will be changed to 24 months from the assessment target date. The policy change applies to new, modified, and inactivated records.