

# Hospice QRP Announcements & Spotlight – Archives

Now available! Our new [Provider Data Catalog](#) makes it easier for you to search and download our publicly reported data. We've also improved [Medicare's Compare sites](#).

## August 30, 2022

CMS email will be unavailable starting Friday, September 2 at 8 pm EDT, and ending on Tuesday, September 6. To ensure your email is received, please refrain from sending any emails from September 2nd through September 6th.

## June 29, 2022

### Important Updates on the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and their contractor, Swingtech sends informational messages to hospices related to the Quality Reporting Program (QRP) on a quarterly basis. Their latest outreach communication can be found on the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices](#) webpage. If you want to receive Swingtech's quarterly emails, add or update the email addresses to which these messages are sent by sending an email to [QRPHelp@swingtech.com](mailto:QRPHelp@swingtech.com). Be sure to include your facility name and CMS Certification Number (CCN) along with any requested updates.

## June 2, 2022

### NOW AVAILABLE IN QIES - Preview Reports for the August 2022 Refresh

Providers can now access the latest Provider Preview Reports via the Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) application.

Please note that the hospice preview reports contain quality measure scores for the two new Claims-based measures, which will be publicly displayed for the first time in August:

- Hospice Care Index (HCI)
- Hospice Visits in the Last Days of Life (HVLDDL)

Once released in CASPER, providers will have 30 days during which to review their quality measure results. Although the actual “preview period” is 30 days, the reports will continue to be available for another 30 days, or a total of 60 days. The preview period for the latest Provider Preview Report lasts from May 25, 2022 to June 27, 2022. CMS encourages providers to download and save their Hospice Provider Preview Reports for future reference, as they will no longer be available in CASPER after this 60-day period.

Learn more about the Provider Preview Report (HIS and Claims-based measures) via the [Public Reporting: Provider Preview Report and Requests for CMS Review of Data](#) webpage. The CAHPS® Preview Report and the Hospice QRP Key Dates for Providers can be found here: [Public Reporting: Key Dates for Providers](#).

## **May 25, 2022**

### **Care Compare Quarterly Refresh – May 2022**

The May 2022 quarterly refresh for the Hospice Quality Reporting Program is now available on [Care Compare](#).

Hospice Item Set (HIS), Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) Hospice Survey, and Claims-based measure scores exclude Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of calendar year 2020. In addition, state averages will now be displayed for each measure.

Note: The Hospice Visits in the Last Days of Life (HVLDDL) and the Hospice Care Index (HCI) claims-based measures have been suppressed by CMS for all hospices and will not be publicly displayed for the May 2022

refresh. CMS is targeting the August 2022 refresh for the inaugural public display of these two new quality measures.

For additional information, please see the FY2022 Hospice Wage Index Final Rule at <https://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Hospice-Center>. Please visit the [Hospice Background and Announcements webpage](#) to review the [Claims-Based Measures Questions and Answers downloadable \(PDF\) \(PDF\)](#) for more information on the HCI and HVLDL.

## **April 22, 2022**

Correction:

On April 14, 2022, CMS prematurely announced the [National Quality Forum's \(NQF\)](#) endorsement of the claims-based measure, **Hospice Visits in the Last Days of Life, or HVLDL** as NQF #3645. CMS has removed the announcement and will continue to provide updates on this measure's endorsement status going forward.

## **April 15, 2022**

### **HQRP Quarterly Update for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2022 is Available**

The Hospice Quarterly Update for the first quarter of 2022 is now available. This update includes Hospice Quality Reporting Program highlights from January 2022 to March 2022, events and engagement opportunities for the second quarter of 2022 (April – June 2022), and selected questions and answers from the Hospice Quality Help Desk. Please navigate to the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices](#) page to download this document.

## **April 14, 2022**

Public Reporting Key Dates for Providers Updated

To help you prepare for upcoming refreshes, CMS has updated the Key Dates for Providers webpage to reflect the status of public reporting

through November 2022. Please refer to [Public Reporting: Key Dates for Providers](#) for updated information.

### **April 14, 2022**

In February 2022, the [National Quality Forum \(NQF\)](#) endorsed the claims-based measure, **Hospice Visits in the Last Days of Life, or HVLDL** as NQF #3645. NQF is a not-for-profit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization that facilitates an evidence- and consensus-based approach to endorsing quality measures. HVLDL reflects the proportion of hospice patients who received in-person visits from a registered nurse or a medical social worker on at least 2 of the final 3 days of life. HVLDL is the re-specified measure replacing the HIS-based measure Hospice Visits When Death is Imminent (HVWDII). Public reporting for HVLDL will begin in May 2022 and will replace public reporting of HVWDII.

More information, including a link to the NQF website, can be found on the HQRP [Quality Measure Development](#) webpage

### **March 30, 2022**

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule (CMS-1754-P) that would provide routine updates on the development of a patient assessment instrument Hospice Outcomes and Patient Evaluation (HOPE) assessment tool, which would contribute to the patients plan of care when adopted within the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP). CMS also proposes an update on potential future quality measures within the HQRP based on HOPE and administrative data including HOPE-based process measures as well as hybrid quality measures which could be based upon multiple sources including HOPE, claims and other data sources. This rule also proposes an update on the CAHPS® Hospice Survey and seeks information on our Health Equity Initiative within the HQRP.

The proposed rule went on display on March 30, 2022 at the Federal Register's Public Inspection Desk and will be available under "Special Filings," at <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection>.

For further information, visit the [Hospice Center | CMS](#) webpage.

**March 21, 2022**

## **NOW AVAILABLE IN Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (QIES) - Preview Reports for the May 2022 Refresh**

Providers can now access the latest Provider Preview Reports via the Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) application. These reports preview data that will be displayed on the [Care Compare](#) website in May 2022. For this refresh, two new Claims-based measures will be added for public reporting:

- Hospice Care Index (HCI)
- Hospice Visits in the Last Days of Life (HVLDDL)

Hospice Item Set (HIS), Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) Hospice Survey, and Claims-based measure scores exclude Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of calendar year 2020. In addition, state averages will now be displayed for each measure.

Once released in CASPER, providers will have 30 days during which to review their quality measure results. Although the actual “preview period” is 30 days, the reports will continue to be available for another 30 days, or a total of 60 days. CMS encourages providers to download and save their Hospice Provider Preview Reports for future reference, as they will no longer be available in CASPER after this 60-day period.

Learn more about the Provider Preview Report (HIS and Claims-based measures) [here](#) and about the CAHPS® Preview Report [here](#). Hospice QRP Key Dates for Providers can be found [here](#).

**February 25, 2022**

## **Updated Technical Expert Panel Summary Report for Hospice Quality Reporting Program**

CMS has released the Hospice Quality Reported Program 2021 Technical Expert Panel (TEP) Summary Report. This report details discussions with the HQRP Technical Expert Panel over the last year, Topics include HOPE process measures, use of patient preference and tolerance data in quality measures, the potential development of quality measures from complaints surveys and deficiencies data, and other potential quality measure concepts.

The updated TEP Summary Report is available in the **Downloads** section of the [Provider and Stakeholder Engagement](#) webpage.

## **February 16, 2022**

### **Care Compare Quarterly Refresh – February 2022**

The February 2022 quarterly refresh for the Hospice Quality Reporting Program is now available on [Care Compare](#). Public reporting of quality measure data has resumed following the temporary exemption to HQRP data submission requirements, and the subsequent data freeze after the November 2020 refresh. Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) Hospice Survey measure scores continue to exclude Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of calendar year 2020. For additional information, please see the FY2022 Hospice Wage Index Final Rule at <https://www.cms.gov/Center/Provider-Type/Hospice-Center>.

## **February 7, 2022**

### **Hospice Quality Reporting (QRP) Claims-Based Measures: Questions and Answers (Q&A)**

The Hospice QRP now includes two new claims-based measures: Hospice Visits in the Last Days of Life (HVLDDL) and Hospice Care Index (HCI). Please find the latest frequently asked questions on calculating and reporting claims-based measures in the **Downloads** section of the [Public Reporting Background and Announcements webpage](#). This version was expanded to accommodate additional questions from the hospice community.

## **February 1, 2022**

**Updated document** *Getting Started with HQRP CASPER QM Reports* **now available on the HQRP Requirements and Best Practices webpage.**

To assist hospice providers in understanding and using the CASPER QM Reports that now include claims-based measures, CMS has updated this fact sheet to reflect the changes to the HQRP based on the (FY) 2022 Hospice Final Rule. This renamed and revised document, *Getting Started with HQRP CASPER QM Reports* can be found in the **Provider Toolkit** section of the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices](#) webpage.

**January 25, 2022**

**Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) December Forum Materials Available Now**

On Thursday, December 16, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) hosted the December 2021 HQRP Forum to provide information on the new Star Ratings for the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers & Systems (CAHPS®) Hospice Survey. Materials from this HQRP Forum, including a recording of the presentation, are now available in the **Downloads** section of the Provider and Stakeholder Engagement page at: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Hospice-QRP-Provider-Engagement-Opportunities>. \_

**January 14, 2022**

**HQRP Quarterly Update for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2021 is Available**

The Hospice Quarterly Update for the fourth quarter of 2021 is now available. This update includes Hospice Quality Reporting Program highlights from October 2021 to December 2021, events and engagement opportunities for the first quarter of 2022 (January – March 2022), and selected questions and answers from the Hospice Quality Help Desk. Please navigate to the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices](#) page to download this document.

**December 20, 2021**

## **Updated Information Gathering Report for Hospice Quality Reporting Program**

CMS has released the Hospice Quality Reported Program 2021 Information Gathering Reporting. This report provides information from literature reviews and expert interviews that supports expansion of the hospice quality reporting program. Specific topics include treatment of moderate to severe pain, patient preferences, spiritual care, social needs, medication management, and other topics related to hospice quality.

The updated Information Gathering Report is available in the **Downloads** section of the [Provider and Stakeholder Engagement](#) webpage.

**December 16, 2021**

## **NOW AVAILABLE IN CASPER – Revised Data for the Hospice Care Index (HCI) in the Hospice-Level QM Report**

Providers can now view revised data for the HCI in the Hospice-Level Quality Measure (QM) Report via the Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) application. The revisions correct an issue identified with the national averages and percentile calculations.

CMS is targeting the May 2022 refresh for the inaugural public display of the HCI and Hospice Visits in the Last Days of Life (HVLDDL) claims-based measures. The eight quarters of claims data used to calculate these measures for a May 2022 refresh would include Q2 2019–Q4 2019 and Q3 2020–Q3 2021. CMS is also planning to provide annual updates to the claims-based measures in November 2022 and each following November refresh. Learn more about HCI and HVLDDL in the [Q&A on Claims-Based Measures downloadable \(PDF\)](#) located on the [Background and Announcements webpage](#).

**December 15, 2021**

**NEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE:**



- Second Edition HQRP Public Reporting Tip Sheet
- HQRP Compliance Tip Sheet\_ FY 2022 and Future Years

These resources can be accessed through the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices](#) page.

**November 10, 2021**

## **NOW AVAILABLE IN QIES - Preview Reports for the February 2022 Refresh**

Providers can now access the latest Provider Preview Reports via the Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) application. These reports preview data that will be displayed in the [Care Compare](#) website in February 2022. Hospice Item Set measure scores are based on fewer than standard number of quarters due to data exemptions in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) Hospice Survey measure scores exclude Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of calendar year 2020. CAHPS® Hospice Survey Provider Preview Reports include both quality measure scores and Star Ratings. This will allow hospices to view their CAHPS® Hospice Survey Star Ratings during a “dry run” period prior to their public release on Care Compare in August 2022. CAHPS® ***Hospice Survey Star Ratings will not be publicly reported in February 2022.***

The Provider Preview Reports remain in CASPER for 60 days only. Hospices are encouraged to save a copy of their preview reports for later reference.

Learn more about HIS Provider Preview Reports [here](#) and about the CAHPS Preview Reports [here](#). Hospice QRP Key Dates for Providers can be found [here](#).

**November 10, 2021**

## **Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) October Forum Materials Available Now**

On Tuesday, October 19, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) hosted the October 2021 HQRP Forum to provide information on the new Quality Measure (QM) Specifications User's Manual v1.00 and the two new claims-based measures included in the Manual. Materials from this HQRP Forum, including a recording of the presentation, are now available in the **Downloads** section of the Provider and Stakeholder Engagement page at: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Hospice-QRP-Provider-Engagement-Opportunities>.

### **November 4, 2021**

## **Medicare and Medicaid Programs: Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination**

**CMS displayed the Interim final rule with comment period. The emergency regulation is effective as of November 5, 2021.**

SUMMARY: This interim final rule with comment period revises the requirements that most Medicare- and Medicaid-certified providers and suppliers must meet to participate in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. These changes are necessary to help protect the health and safety of residents, clients, patients, PACE participants, and staff, and reflect lessons learned to date as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. The revisions to the requirements establish COVID-19 vaccination requirements for staff at the included Medicare- and Medicaid certified providers and suppliers.

Stakeholders have 60 days to submit formal comment on the emergency regulation. It is important to note that since this is an emergency regulation, the requirements will go into effect immediately and before any additional response is provided on the comments by CMS. The comment period officially closes on January 4, 2022.

The interim final rule went on display at the Federal Register's Public Inspection Desk and will be available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2021-23831/medicare-and-medicaid-programs-omnibus-covid-19-health-care-staff-vaccination> To view a list of frequently asked questions, visit: [www.cms.gov/files/document/cms-omnibus-staff-vax-requirements-2021.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/files/document/cms-omnibus-staff-vax-requirements-2021.pdf) (PDF)

### **October 25, 2021**

#### **Updated provider resource documents are now available on the HQRP Requirements and Best Practices webpage.**

To assist hospice providers, CMS has updated the following documents to reflect changes to the HQRP based on the (FY) 2022 Hospice Final Rule. These include the: *HQRP Requirements FY 2023 and Future FY Reporting Years and the HQRP Quick Reference Guide FY 2023*, which can be found in the **Downloads** section and *Getting Started with the HQRP* in the **Toolkit** section here [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices](#)

### **October 15, 2021**

#### **HQRP Quarterly Update for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2021 is Available**

The Hospice Quarterly Update for the third quarter of 2021 is now available. This update includes Hospice Quality Reporting Program highlights from July 2021 to September 2021, events and engagement opportunities for the fourth quarter of 2021 (October – December 2021), and selected questions and answers from the Hospice Quality Help Desk. Please navigate to the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices](#) page to download this document.

### **October 8, 2021**

#### **TRAINING MATERIALS AVAILABLE – The FY 2022 Hospice Final Rule: What Hospices Need to Know! Webinar**

The post-event training materials are now available for The FY 2022 Hospice Final Rule: What Hospices Need to Know! webinar that took place Tuesday, August 31, 2021. The training materials are available under the **Downloads** section of the [HQRP Training and Education Library](#).

### **October 1, 2021**

#### **Hospice Quality Reporting (QRP) Claims-Based Measures: Questions and Answers (Q&A)**

CMS has finalized two new claims-based measures as part of the Hospice QRP: Hospice Visits in the Last Days of Life (HVLDDL) and Hospice Care Index (HCI). Please find frequently asked questions on calculating and reporting claims-based measures in the **Downloads** section of the [Public Reporting Background and Announcements](#) webpage.

### **September 30, 2021**

#### **Updated Current Measures and the new Quality Measure (QM) Specifications User's Manual are now available**

Version 1.00 of the HQRP QM Specifications User's Manual and updated Current Measures document are now available. These documents detail the four HQRP measures that meet the HQRP requirements. They are the HIS Comprehensive Assessment at Admission (NQF# 3235); the claims-based Hospice Visits in the Last Days of Life; the claims-based Hospice Care Index; and the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®) Hospice Survey. The documents are available in the **Downloads** section of the [Current Measures](#) webpage.

These changes were finalized in the FY 2022 Hospice Final Rule, which published on August 4, 2021.

### **September 15, 2021**

#### **Agency-Level Hospice Quality Measure (QM) Reports Now Include Claims-Based Measures**

QM Reports now include two measures based on Fiscal Year 2018 and 2019 Medicare claims data: the Hospice Care Index (HCI) and Hospice Visits in the Last Days of Life (HVLDL). Hospices can use the QM Report to learn about HCI and HVLDL and begin efforts to improve quality of care. Find the QM Reports in your CASPER folders in Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (QIES), and find information about HCI and HVLDL measure specifications in the [FY 2022 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update Final Rule](#) on the [Hospice Regulations and Notices](#) page.

**August 30, 2021**

**PRE-TRAINING MATERIALS AVAILABLE – The FY 2022 Hospice Final Rule: What Hospices Need to Know! Webinar**

The pre-training materials are now available for The FY 2022 Hospice Final Rule: What Hospices Need to Know! webinar on Tuesday, August 31, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET. The training materials are available under the **Downloads** section of the [CMS Hospice Quality Reporting Training and Education Library](#).

**If you would like your name placed on a list to receive an email notification when the recorded version of the webinar is available, please [CLICK HERE](#).**

If you have questions or need additional information regarding the logistics of this training session, please email the PAC Training mailbox at [PACTraining@Econometricalnc.com](mailto:PACTraining@Econometricalnc.com).

**August 27, 2021**

**Public Reporting Key Dates for Providers Updated**

Hospice QRP will resume public reporting in February 2022. To help you prepare for upcoming refreshes, we updated the [Key Dates for Providers](#) page to reflect the status of public reporting through August 2022. For additional information, please see the Hospice FY2022 Final Rule at the [CMS Hospice Center](#) website.

**August 20, 2021**

**HQRP August Forum Materials Available Now**

On Wednesday, August 4, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) hosted the August 2021 HQRP Forum to provide information on the FY 2022 Hospice Final Rule and updates to the QRP program. Materials from this HQRP Forum, including a recording of the presentation, are now available in the **Downloads** section of the Provider and Stakeholder Engagement page at: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Hospice-QRP-Provider-Engagement-Opportunities>.