

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Questions and Answers:
Home Health, Hospice and DME Open Door Forum
Wednesday, November 29, 2023

1. Question: We proposed that the number of hospices selected to participate in the SFP (Special Focus Program) would be determined in the first quarter of each calendar year. The claims-based quality measures data used in the algorithm is not available until November of each calendar year.” Based on this information, the expectation was CMS would use Care Compare November data and the surveys and complaints from the last three calendar years. However, in the hospice November forum call on November 14, CMS indicated, quote, “while the effective date is January 1, 2024, the SFP selection is expected to begin, probably in late Calendar Year 2024.” And it was mentioned in Q4 specifically. So, my question is, what are the date ranges of the data that will be used to determine the first hospice Special Focus Program selection planned for publication in Q4 2024, including hospice survey data, HCI (Hospice Care Index), and CAHPS Hospice Survey measures?
 - a. Answer: For the November 2024 SFP selection, the data timeframes are as follows.

Surveys from May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2024

HCI (from November 2024 HQRP refresh)—data timeframe CYs 2022 and 2023

CAHPS data timeframe—April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2024
2. Question: The question is about the disposable negative pressure wound therapy units. Is there a limit to the number of units per month or per patient?
 - a. Answer: In terms of the claim system, there is no edit limit, no. The limit would be medical necessity.
3. Question: Curious if there’s any update on the Review Choice Demonstration (RCD) program’s extension past May 2024, and if not, if there was a timeline to making that decision?
 - a. Answer: Please visit: <https://www.cms.gov/data-research/monitoring-programs/medicare-fee-service-compliance-programs/prior-authorization-and-pre-claim-review-initiatives/review-choice-demonstration-home-health-services>

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4. Question: For the HHVPB reports that came out, the Discharge to Community data was mentioned that it was incorrect. Has that been fixed now? Or what is the plan to fix it and we do the HHVBP reports?
 - a. Answer: Any problems that are issues that were identified during the recalculation period will be corrected in the final report. So please look at your final report, and you should see revised data if it affected you.
5. Question: Are you able to provide us any updates on the HOPE tool for hospice?
 - a. Answer: The updates that will be provided on HOPE will be provided in future rulemaking. There is nothing outside of that planned at this time, so just look out for the upcoming rule to have your questions and updates in reference to HOPE be provided there.
 - i. Question: it sounded like there was a form or something that we were supposed to expect in the fall. So, there is going to be no type of presentation or anything? We are just going to wait for the final rule?
 1. Answer: Yes. There hasn't been plans for an update for HOPE specifically, other than the current update that's planned for the Fiscal Year 2025 rule.
6. Question: Is there any update on the move to iQIES for hospice?
 - a. Answer: Not at this time. We do not have any follow-up as to when the transition is going to happen, but we will keep you updated.
7. Question: When will the HOPE beta test report be posted?
 - a. Answer: The HOPE testing report will come out as one comprehensive report, and it will probably be posted closer to when the Fiscal Year 2025 rule is going to be—the proposed rule will be released.

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