

December 17, 2020

CMS Extends Data Submission Deadlines for Quality Reporting and Value Programs

Reporting Waivers Remain Available

Reporting Deadline Extension

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today [announced](#) that it is extending the quarter 3 (Q3) 2020 data submission deadlines for several of its quality reporting and value programs for hospitals, post-acute care and other providers. CMS indicates the extension is intended “to help providers focus on patient care during the COVID-19 public health emergency.” A list of affected programs and new deadlines is included in CMS’ announcement and attached to this Special Bulletin. In general, CMS has extended the data submission deadlines by one month. CMS indicates it will continue monitoring the state of the pandemic and may implement further adjustments in the future.

The extension affects measures and data that hospitals and other providers collect and submit themselves. **Measures that CMS calculates on providers’ behalf using Medicare claims data (e.g., readmissions, mortality, Medicare spending per beneficiary) are unaffected by this deadline extension.**

Extraordinary Circumstances Exceptions (ECE) Application Process

In addition, CMS reiterates that hospitals and other providers may use the programs’ established ECE policies to apply for a reporting exception (i.e., waiver) if they are unable to submit data and/or believe their measure performance has been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic or other extenuating circumstances. **The ECE process permits hospitals to ask CMS to (1) exempt them from submitting data, and/or (2) exclude specific timeframes when calculating performance on claims-based measures.** Links to additional details on the ECE processes for CMS programs are included in CMS’ announcement and attached to this Special Bulletin.

What You Can Do

- Share this Special Bulletin with your clinical and quality leaders, including your chief quality officer, chief medical officer and others involved in reporting data.
- Assess whether your organization’s ability to report data and/or performance was affected enough to apply for an ECE for Q3 2020. Bear in mind that excluding data may affect whether your hospital meets minimum case volumes for specific measures, as well as your overall measure performance.

- Monitor CMS listservs and AHA communications for any further adjustments to quality reporting and value program requirements.

Further Questions

If you have questions, please contact AHA at 800-424-4301.

CMS Quality Reporting and Value Program – New Deadlines for Q3 2020 Data

Program	Affected Measure(s) / Requirement(s)	Original Q3 Deadline Date	Extended Q3 Deadline Date
Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting (OQR) Program	Population and Sampling	February 1, 2021	March 1, 2021
	Patient-level chart-abstracted clinical data: OP-2, OP-3, OP-18, OP-23	February 1, 2021	March 1, 2021
Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program	Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS)	January 6, 2021	February 8, 2021
	Population and Sampling	February 1, 2021	March 18, 2021
	Patient-level, chart-abstracted clinical data: SEP-1 and PC-01	February 16, 2021	March 18, 2021
Hospital-Acquired Condition (HAC) Reduction Program	Healthcare-Associated Infection (HAI) data: CLABSI, CAUTI, Colon and Abdominal Hysterectomy SSI, MRSA, CDI	February 16, 2021	March 18, 2021
PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting (PCHQR) Program	HAI data: CLABSI, CAUTI, Colon and Abdominal Hysterectomy SSI, MRSA, CDI	February 16, 2021	March 18, 2021
	HCAHPS	January 6, 2021	February 8, 2021
Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRF) Quality Reporting Program	HAI data: CAUTI and CDI	February 16, 2021	March 18, 2021
Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH) Quality Reporting Program	HAI data: CLABSI, CAUTI, and CDI	February 16, 2021	March 18, 2021
End Stage Renal Disease Quality Incentive Program (ESRD QIP)*	September 2020 Clinical Month: Kt/V; Hypercalcemia; Long-term Catheter; SFR; UFR; MedRec	January 4, 2021**	February 1, 2021
	October 2020 Clinical Month: (Same as September 2020 Clinical Month)	January 4, 2021	February 1, 2021
	NHSN Blood Stream Infection (BSI) and NHSN Dialysis Event	December 31, 2020	February 1, 2021

*Clinical closure dates apply to all Collection Types (Hemodialysis; Peritoneal Dialysis). Additionally, clinical data submissions apply to all submission methods.

**This deadline was previously extended from November 30, 2020 to January 4, 2021.

Although the submission deadlines for Q3 2020 data have been extended, the processes for collecting and submitting these data have not changed. This extension does not affect any future deadlines. CMS will continue to monitor the situation for potential adjustments and will update exception lists, excepted reporting periods, and submission deadlines accordingly as events occur.

Additional Information on Extraordinary Circumstance Exception Process

Hospital Quality Programs

- ECE process: Forms are located on the program pages at <https://qualitynet.cms.gov/>.
- FAQs: <https://qualitynet.cms.gov/inpatient/igr/participation#tab3>
- Questions: Please contact the Outreach and Education Support Team at https://cmsqualitysupport.servicenowservices.com/qnet_qa?id=ask_a_question or (844) 472-4477.

End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Quality Incentive Program

- ECE process: <https://qualitynet.cms.gov/esrd/esrdqip/participation#tab4>
- Questions: Please contact the QIP Team at https://cmsqualitysupport.servicenowservices.com/qnet_qa?id=ask_a_question.

Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP)

- ECE process: [IRF Quality Reporting Reconsideration and Exception & Extension](#) or email questions to IRFQRPreconsiderations@cms.hhs.gov
- Questions: Please contact IRF.questions@cms.hhs.gov.

Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH) Quality Reporting Program (QRP)

- ECE process: [LTCH Quality Reporting Reconsideration and Exception & Extension](#) or email questions to LTCHQRPreconsiderations@cms.hhs.gov
- Questions: Please contact CMS at LTCHQualityQuestions@cms.hhs.gov.