

# CMS Home Health Spotlights and Announcements

## January- June 2016

**June 27, 2016**

### Home Health Quality Reporting Program (HH QRP) Proposed Rule

CMS is proposing to adopt, for the CY 2018 payment determination, four measures to meet the requirements of the [IMPACT Act](#). Three of these measures are resource-based and calculated using Medicare claims. The fourth measure is assessment-based and is calculated using Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS) data. The proposed measures are as follows:

- All-condition risk-adjusted potentially preventable hospital readmission rates
- Total estimated Medicare spending per beneficiary
- Discharge to the community
- Medication reconciliation

For More Information:

- [Proposed Rule](#) (CMS-1648-P): Comments are due no later than 5 pm on August 26, 2016
- [Home Health Quality Reporting](#) webpage

**June 06, 2016**

### Quality of Patient Care Star Ratings TEP Update

Abt Associates recently convened a Technical Expert Panel (TEP) to review the first year of data on the performance of the Home Health Quality of Patient Care (QoPC) Star Ratings. The goals of the TEP were to discuss and make recommendations for revising the Home Health QoPC; and to make recommendations for additional analyses to support ongoing maintenance and improvement of the Home Health QoPC Star Ratings. A summary of the TEP, including discussions, findings, and recommendations is available on the [Home Health Star Ratings](#) webpage under the Downloads section.

**April 22, 2016**

The second quarterly Quality Assessment Only (QAO) Interim Reports, for OASIS data submitted between January 1 and December 31, 2015, have been posted to the CASPER folders. These reports are informational only and are intended to assist home health agencies monitor their compliance with the annual pay-for-reporting requirements. Agencies are encouraged to closely monitor these Quarterly QAO Interim Reports and investigate any discrepancies or concerns in a timely fashion to assure that all corrections or adjustments occur prior to their receipt of the Annual QAO Metric Report.

The QAO Interim Performance Reports will remain in the CASPER folders for 120 days. The table below shows the reporting schedule for 2016. More information on the QAO performance requirement is available on the [Home Health Quality Reporting](#) page.

| Quality Assessment Only (QAO) Interim Performance Report (Available in CASPER folders) | Includes OASIS Assessments COMPLETED During | Includes OASIS Assessments SUBMITTED by |
|--|---|---|
| By January 31, 2016  | October 1, 2014-September 30, 2015          | October 30, 2015                        |
| By April 30, 2016  | January 1, 2015-December 31, 2015           | January 31, 2016                        |

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|   |                                 |                |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------|
| By July 31, 2016  | April 1, 2015-March 31, 2016    | April 30, 2016 |
| Quality Assessment Only (QAO)<br>ANNUAL Performance Report<br>- By October 31, 2016 | July 1, 2015 –<br>June 30, 2016 | July 31, 2016  |

### March 30, 2016

The OASIS C2 item set is now available in the “Downloads” portion of the OASIS Data Sets [web page](#). This item set version is effective as of January 1, 2017 and includes three new standardized items, along with the modification and renumbering of select medication and integumentary items in order to standardize with other post-acute care settings. In addition, the look back period has been modified for five items, and there are several formatting changes throughout the item set. For more details on the OASIS C2 data specifications please visit the “Data Specifications” portion on the Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS) [web page](#)

## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROVIDERS – Extended Systems Maintenance

We would like to notify Providers that all QIES systems will be down from Wednesday, March 16 after 8:00 p.m. (EST) through Monday, March 21, 2016 at 11:59 p.m. (EST). This downtime will affect all QIES connectivity and systems. This means the national database, CASPER reports, and QW will NOT be available during this time.

In addition, the following submission systems will not be available for:

- Hospice Providers and the Hospice Item Set
- Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities and the IRF-PAI
- Long-term Care Hospitals and the LTCH CARE Data Set
- Skilled Nursing Facilities and the MDS and Payroll-Based Journal, and
- Home Health Agencies and the OASIS

As we approach March 2016, we will provide additional reminders. This downtime will affect ALL QIES users. It is critical that affected Providers make the necessary contingency plans to accommodate for this downtime and ensure their data is submitted in a timely manner.

### February 24, 2016

#### Quality of Patient Care Star Ratings TEP Announcement

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with Abt Associates to evaluate the methodology for calculating the Quality of Patient Care Star Ratings that appear on the Home Health Compare website, including identifying options for improvement. As part of the process of continually evolving the rating system, CMS asks contractors to convene groups of stakeholders and experts to contribute direction and thoughtful input to the contractor for consideration in the rating system.

A technical expert panel (TEP) is being convened with the objectives of reviewing the first year of data on the performance of the Quality of Patient Care Star Ratings, and gathering feedback on potential refinements to the rating system including usability of the system for patients and advocates. The TEP nomination period opens on February 24, 2016 and closes on March 18, 2016. For more information, please visit <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/MMS/TechnicalExpertPanels.html#29>

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If you wish to nominate yourself or other individuals for consideration, please email materials to: QPCStarRatingsTEP@abtassoc.com by the closing date **March 18, 2016**.

### February 1, 2016

#### Update on Home Health Compare and Quality of Patient Care Star Ratings

The Quality of Patient Care Star Ratings Preview Reports were available in the CASPER folders starting on January 7, 2016. These reports contain data that will be publicly reported on the Home Health Compare website in April 2016. The deadline to submit a request to have the star rating data suppressed was January 25, 2016.

Below is calendar of key dates for the next three quarters of Home Health Compare updates;

|  | January 2016       | April 2016         | July 2016        | October 2016      |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Preview reports available in CASPER                              | September 30, 2015 | By January 7, 2016 | By April 7, 2016 | By June 30, 2016  |
| Quality of Patient Care Star Rating suppression request deadline | October 17, 2015   | January 25, 2016   | April 25, 2016   | July 18, 2016     |
| Deadline for submitting missing or corrected data                | November 20, 2015  | February 19, 2016  | May 20, 2016     | August 19, 2016   |
| Home Health Compare updated                                      | January 28, 2016   | TBD, April 2016    | TBD, July 2016   | TBD, October 2016 |

### January 12, 2016

#### Interim QAO Reports to be Available

CMS is planning to make interim QAO reports available via CASPER that show agency performance against the QAO metric. The first report is scheduled for the end of January 2016 and will be based on assessments completed during the period from October 01, 2014 – September 30, 2015 and submitted by October 30, 2015. These reports will be described during the Home Health Open Door Forum on January 27; they are for informational purposes only, and will not be used for determining pay-for-reporting compliance. Going forward, CMS intends to release these informational reports quarterly. More information on the QAO metric is available on the [Home Health Quality Reporting Requirements](#) page.