



Understanding Measures, Star Rating, and Quality Outcomes

October 18, 2023

1-2pm

Agenda

Topic	Speaker
October 2023 Release Overview	Golden Horton, MS
January 2024 Release Overview	Golden Horton, MS
New Measures for January 2024	Stephanie Clark, MD, MPH, MSHP
SMoSR Measure Dry Run in January 2024 Report	Stephanie Clark, MD, MPH, MSHP
Preview Period for January 2024	Stephanie Clark, MD, MPH, MSHP
Questions	

October 2023 Release Overview

October 2023 Release Overview



With the October 2023 release, the following measures on Dialysis Facility Care Compare (DFCC) were updated with data from Calendar Year (CY) 2022:

- Adult and child patients who had enough waste removed from their blood during hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis
- Adult patients who had too much calcium in their blood
- Frequency of patient death, hospital admission, or readmission (adjusted for COVID-19 with this release)
- Frequency of transfusions (adjusted for COVID-19 with this release)
- Hemoglobin management (Downloadable Data Only)
- Phosphorus concentrations in the blood (Downloadable Data Only)
- Adult patients who received treatment through an arteriovenous fistula
- Adult patients who had a catheter (tube) left in a vein for at least 3 consecutive complete months, for their regular hemodialysis treatments
- Measurement of nPCR for pediatric hemodialysis patients
- Patients who were on the kidney or kidney-pancreas transplant waiting list
- Transplant waitlist within a year of dialysis initiation
- Prevention of bloodstream infections
- Emergency department encounters
- Emergency department encounters within 30 days of hospitalization

The star ratings will also be updated with this release.

Updates to Star Rating Methodology



The October 2023 Patient Quality of Care Star Rating Release included the following updates:

- Resetting of the Star Rating distribution
- Domain 1 measures were risk-adjusted to reflect COVID-19 impact
- Down-weight of Domain 3 (Total Kt/V and Hypercalcemia)
- Addition of two transplant waitlist measures currently reported on Care Compare (PPPW and SWR)

The October 2023 Release reports CY 2022 data with CY 2021 as the baseline.

Reset of Star Rating Distribution

- The Star Rating distribution was reset to 10% 1-Star, 20% 2-Star, 40% 3-Star, 20% 4-Star, and 10% 5-Star facilities

Domain 1 Measures Are Risk-adjusted to Reflect COVID-19 Impact

- Risk adjustment is done at the patient level for all Domain 1 measures (SMR, SHR, SRR, and STrR)
- More details can be found in the updated ESRD Measures Manual
- These additional risk adjustments do not substantively change the measure definitions

Updates to Star Rating Methodology (Cont.)



Down-weight of Domain 3

- Domain 3 of the Star Rating, which includes the Total Kt/V and Hypercalcemia measures, was down-weighted to 50% of its original weight in the overall calculation of the Star Ratings
 - For example, for most facilities, Domain 3 will have a weight of 1/7 and all other domains will have a weight of 2/7

Inclusion of Transplant Waitlist Measures

- Two transplant waitlist measures, Standardized Waitlisting Ratio (SWR) and Percentage of Prevalent Patients Waitlisted (PPPW), were added
 - Based on factor analysis results, SWR and PPPW are grouped into a new, separate 4th domain, which has equal weight to other domains (with exception of Domain 3)

October 2023 Data Refresh - ICH CAHPS Survey



With the October 2023 refresh, the following measures on DFCC will be updated with data from the 2022 Spring and 2022 Fall ICH CAHPS Surveys:

The scores and star ratings for the following survey measures:

- Kidney doctor's communication and caring composite
- Quality of dialysis center care and operations composite
- Providing information to patients composite
- Rating of kidney doctors
- Rating of dialysis center staff
- Rating of dialysis center

The Overall Star Rating of the ICH CAHPS Survey of Patients' Experiences are also updated with this release.

January 2024 Release Overview

January 2024 Release Overview



Updates to Quality of Patient Care Data

With the January 2024 release, the following clinical care quality measures on Dialysis Facility Care Compare have been updated with data from April 2022-March 2023:

- Adult and child patients who had enough waste removed from their blood during hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis
- Adult patients who had too much calcium in their blood
- Adult patients who received treatment through an arteriovenous fistula
- Adult patients who had a catheter (tube) left in a vein for at least 3 consecutive complete months, for their regular hemodialysis treatments
- Measurement of nPCR for Pediatric Hemodialysis Patients
- Patients who were on the kidney or kidney-pancreas transplant waiting list

The following measures have been updated on Provider Data Catalogue:

- Hemoglobin management
- Phosphorus concentrations in the blood

New Measures for January 2024

New Measures for January 2024 Release



The following measure is being added to DFCC for the January 2024 release:

- COVID-19 Healthcare Personnel Vaccination

COVID-19 Healthcare Personnel Vaccination

- Dialysis facility and healthcare personnel can transmit viruses to coworkers and patients, including those at higher risk for getting very sick from these viruses. To reduce the spread within a facility, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all healthcare personnel who work in a healthcare setting get vaccinated per CDC guidelines.
- CMS believes it is important to incentivize and track healthcare personnel (HCP) vaccination in dialysis facilities through quality measurement to protect health care workers, patients, and caregivers, and to help sustain the ability of facilities to continue serving their communities throughout the Public Health Emergency (PHE) and beyond. The measure will assess the proportion of a dialysis facility's health care workforce that is vaccinated against COVID-19.

Each quarter, CDC calculates quarterly HCP COVID-19 vaccination coverage rates for each facility, by taking the average of the three weekly rates submitted by the facility for that quarter.

This calculation includes data from the core HCP categories of employees, licensed independent practitioners, and adult students/trainees and volunteers who completed a COVID-19 vaccination course.

HCP with contraindications to COVID-19 vaccination are excluded from the denominator.

Dry Run of Standardized Modality Switch Ratio for Incident Dialysis Patients (SMoSR)

In the January 2024 preview report, there will be a dry run table that will preview the Standardized Modality Switch Ratio for Incident Dialysis Patients (SMoSR)

Description: The standardized modality switch ratio (SMoSR) is defined to be the ratio of the number of observed first modality switches (from in-center to home dialysis—peritoneal or home hemodialysis) that occur for adult incident ESRD dialysis patients treated at a particular facility, to the number of modality switches (from in-center to home dialysis—peritoneal or home hemodialysis) that would be expected given the characteristics of the dialysis facility's patients and the national norm for dialysis facilities. The measure includes only the first durable switch that is defined as lasting 30 continuous days or longer.

January 2024 Dry Run (Cont.)



Numerator: Observed number of first switches from in-center hemodialysis to a home dialysis modality (peritoneal dialysis or home hemodialysis) among eligible patients at the facility during the time period.

Denominator: Expected number of first switches from in-center hemodialysis to a home dialysis modality (peritoneal dialysis or home hemodialysis) among eligible patients at the facility during the time period, given the national average of modality switches, and patient case-mix at the facility.

Preview Period for January 2024

Preview Period



The preview period for the January 2024 DFCC release will be held November 1-15, 2023. Facility level reports will be posted on dialysisdata.org.

During the preview period, you may submit comments to CMS on the measures included in this report. Your comments will be shared with CMS but will not appear on the DFCC website.

Preview Period (Cont.)



At this time, CMS will no longer provide patient lists upon request to dialysis facilities during the preview period.

We understand that this has been a helpful tool in reviewing your data. We are continuing to explore options for facilities to have access to this data in the future.

Summary

The January 2024 Release will include:

- Updating of clinical quality care measures listed earlier in the presentation.
- The addition of the COVID-19 Healthcare Personnel Vaccination measure

Preview Period Information

- The preview period for the January 2024 release will be held November 1-15, 2023 on dialysisdata.org.
- The Preview Report for January 2024 will also include the dry run of Standardized Modality Switch Ratio for Incident Dialysis Patients (SMoSR)
- At this time, CMS will no longer provide patient lists upon request to dialysis facilities during the preview period.

Questions?

- ➔ For questions about DFCC, please email the UM-KECC helpdesk at dialysisdata@umich.edu
- ➔ For questions about EQRS data submission, contact the QualityNet helpdesk at (866) 288-8912 or <http://help.mycrownweb.org/>
- ➔ For questions about the ICH CAHPS® Survey, contact the project team at <https://ichcahps.org>

Thank you!