

IRF Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Spotlights & Announcements Archive

September 16, 2020

IRF-PAI Quarterly Q&As, September 2020

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is publishing the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Patient Assessment Instrument (IRF-PAI) Quarterly Q&As September 2020 document so that all IRF providers have the benefit of the updates/clarifications to guidance. Through inquiries to the IRF Post-Acute Care (PAC) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Help Desk, CMS occasionally identifies the opportunity to clarify or refine guidance.

The Quarterly Q&A document can be accessed via the [IRF-PAI and IRF QRP Manual](#) webpage.

September 8, 2020

IRF QRP COVID-19 PR Tip Sheet is Available

The Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) COVID-19 Public Reporting (PR) Tip Sheet is now available. The purpose of this Tip Sheet is to help providers understand the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS') public reporting strategy for the Post-Acute Care Quality Reporting Program (PAC QRP) in the midst of the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). This Tip Sheet explains the CMS strategy to account for CMS quality data which were exempted from public reporting due to COVID-19 and the impact on CMS' Care Compare website refreshes. Please navigate to the [IRF QRP Training](#) webpage to download this document.

July 24, 2020

IRF QRP COVID-19 PHE Tip Sheet is Available

The Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) Tip Sheet is now available. This tip sheet is designed to assist Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) providers in understanding the status of the IRF Quality Reporting Program (QRP) during the COVID-19 PHE. Also provided is practical guidance to address IRF quality data submission requirements starting July 1, 2020, now that the temporary IRF QRP exemptions from the COVID-19 PHE have ended. Please navigate to the [IRF QRP Training](#) webpage to download this document.

July 13, 2020

IRF QRP: Non-Compliance Notifications. Reconsiderations are due by August 18, 2020.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is providing notifications to Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRFs) that were determined to be out of compliance with IRF Quality Reporting Program (QRP) requirements for calendar year (CY) 2019, which will affect their fiscal year (FY) 2021 Annual Increase Factor (AIF). Non-compliance notifications will be distributed by the Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) and will also be placed into facilities' My Reports folders in iQIES on July 13, 2020. Either notification is official notice of non-compliance. Facilities that receive a letter of non-compliance may submit a request for reconsideration to CMS **via email no later than 11:59:59 EST, August 18, 2020**. If you receive a notice of non-compliance and would like to request a reconsideration, see the instructions in your notification letter and on the [IRF Quality Reporting Reconsideration and Exception & Extension](#) webpage.

Please note: Any reconsideration containing protected health information (PHI) will not be processed. All PHI must be removed in order for a reconsideration to be reviewed.

July 2, 2020

Corrected IRF Provider Preview Reports Have Been Reposted

Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Provider Preview Reports that were posted previously on June 16, 2020 contained an error. The reports have been corrected and are now available. These reports contain provider performance scores on quality measures, which will be published on IRF Compare during the **September 2020** refresh.

For more information:

- [IRF Quality Public Reporting](#) webpage, [Care Compare](#)

June 23, 2020

Reminder:

QRPs are expected to report their quality data to meet requirements starting Quarter 3, which begins July 1, 2020.

The March 27, 2020 Medicare Learning Network Newsletter (MLN) Exceptions and Extensions for Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Requirements that includes Skilled Nursing Facilities, Home Health Agencies, Hospices, Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities, and Long-Term Care Hospitals (hereafter referred to as post-acute care (PAC) programs) applies only to Quarter 4 of 2019 (October 1-December 31, 2019) and Quarters 1 and 2 of 2020 (January 1-June 30, 2020). PAC providers are expected to report data and meet the QRP requirements beginning with Quarter 3, 2020 that starts July 1, 2020.

As stated in that March 27, 2020 MLN Newsletter, "In some instances, these exceptions and extensions are granted because the data collected may be greatly impacted by the response to COVID-19 and therefore should not be considered in the quality reporting program. CMS is closely monitoring the situation for potential adjustments and will update exception lists, exempted reporting periods, and submission deadlines accordingly as events occur."

Starting with Quarter 3 that begins July 1, 2020, CMS expects providers to report their quality data. CMS will analyze the data for each program recognizing that the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) remains in effect and could impact the quality data submitted. CMS will closely monitor the situation for public reporting of the data and provide any updates.

June 18, 2020

IRF Provider Preview Reports- Now Available

Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Provider Preview Reports have been updated and are now available. These reports contain provider performance scores on quality measures, which will be published on IRF Compare during the **September 2020** refresh.

For more information:

- [IRF Quality Public Reporting](#) webpage, [Care Compare](#)

June 17, 2020

Delayed: Release of Updated IRF-PAI Version 4.0 and Supporting Materials

See the [IRF-PAI and IRF QRP Manual](#) webpage for additional information about the assessment instrument and accompanying guidance manual.

See the [IRF QRP Training](#) webpage for additional information.

See the [IRF Quality Reporting Measures Information](#) webpage for additional information about the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Annual Payment Update (APU) Table for Reporting Assessment-Based measures and Standardized Patient Assessment Data Elements (SPADES).

June 17, 2020

June 2020 CMS Quarterly IRF-PAI Q&A

Through inquiries to the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Post-Acute Care (PAC) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Help Desk, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) occasionally identifies the opportunity to clarify or refine guidance. CMS is publishing the June 2020 CMS Quarterly Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Patient Assessment Instrument (IRF-PAI) Q&A document so that all IRF providers have the benefit of the updates/clarifications to guidance. Moving forward, CMS plans to publish IRF-PAI Q&As on a quarterly basis.

The Quarterly Q&A document can be accessed via the [IRF-PAI and IRF QRP Manual](#) webpage.

October 18, 2019

Publication of FY 2022 IRF Annual Payment Update (APU) Overview Table

The IRF QRP Table for Reporting Assessment-Based Measures and SPADES for the FY 2022 IRF QRP APU is now available for download on the [IRF Quality Reporting Measures Information](#) webpage. This table indicates the IRF-PAI data elements CMS will use for FY 2022 IRF QRP APU determinations.