



## Dialysis Facility Compare and CMS Care Compare October 2020 Release Questions and Answers

### What is Dialysis Facility Compare?

[Dialysis Facility Compare](#) is a website that allows patients and health centers to view and compare quality data about dialysis facilities. CMS also uses these data, organized into a series of measures, to create a star rating system that can help patients make educated decisions about where to get their dialysis treatments.

### What is the October 2020 release?

The October 2020 **release** is one of a series updates made each year to the data featured on Dialysis Facility Compare and now on CMS Care Compare. New data was refreshed on October 21, 2020. The prior refresh was in July 2020.

### What is changing in the October 2020 release?

With the October 2020 **release**, patients and facilities can now see the latest data from dialysis facilities on the [Dialysis Facility Compare website](#) and on [CMS Care Compare](#).

- The following measures on Dialysis Facility Compare and CMS Care Compare were updated with new data:
  - 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
  - Frequency of transfusions
  - Hemoglobin management (Downloadable Data Only)
  - Phosphorus concentrations in the blood (Downloadable Data Only)
  - Prevention of bloodstream infections
  - 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
  
- The Quality of Patient Care Star Ratings have been updated on Dialysis Facility Compare
  
- The following In-Center Hemodialysis Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers (ICH CAHPS) survey of patients' experiences measures have been updated on Dialysis Facility Compare:
  - Individual measures and Star Ratings of ICH CAHPS survey of patients' experiences
    - Kidney doctor's communication and caring
    - Dialysis center staff care and operations
    - Providing information to patients
    - Rating of kidney doctors
    - Rating of dialysis center staff



- Rating of dialysis facility
- Overall Star Rating of ICH CAHPS survey of patients' experiences

**Who is affected by the release?**

Dialysis Facility Compare and CMS Care Compare displays ratings of the quality of care provided by dialysis facilities based on a series of quality measures. Facilities have had their individual measure scores updated based on the latest data for a number of these quality measures. Facilities had an opportunity to review the data and raise any concerns with CMS before the **release** goes live.

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