



Prospective Payment System (PPS)-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting (PCHQR) Program

Inpatient Value, Incentives, and Quality Reporting (VIQR) Outreach and Education Support Contractor

PCHQR Program: End-of-Year Recap and Look Ahead Presentation Transcript

Speaker

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Lisa Vinson: Welcome and thank you for joining today's webinar entitled, *PCHQR Program: End-of-Year Recap and Look Ahead*. My name is Lisa Vinson, and I serve as the Program Lead for the PCHQR Program with the Inpatient, Value, Incentives, and Quality Reporting, or VIQR, Outreach and Education Support Contractor. I will be the speaker for today's event. As the title suggests, I will be reviewing the PCHQR Program events, updates, and changes that have occurred during this year, calendar year 2023. Then, we will look ahead to what's in store for next year, calendar year 2024. The slides, transcript, and questions and answers from today's webinar will be posted to [Quality Net](#) and the [Quality Reporting Center website](#).

If you have questions while viewing today's presentation, please send an email to webinarquestions@hsag.com. Be sure to include in the subject line the full title of today's event, which is *PCHQR Program: End-of-Year Recap and Look Ahead*. In the body of the email, put your question along with the slide number, if applicable. If you have questions unrelated to the webinar topic, please submit the using the [QualityNet Question and Answer Tool](#). If you are unfamiliar with this tool, I will discuss the steps to successfully submit an inquiry later in this presentation.

Acronyms and abbreviations you will hear today include C-B-M, for claims-based measure; C-Y, for calendar year; F-S-R, for Facility-Specific Report; F-Y, for fiscal year; H-Q-R, for Hospital Quality Reporting; P-D-C, for Provider Data Catalog; and S-D-O-H, for Social Drivers of Health. Please keep this slide available, as it can be used as a great reference tool throughout this presentation, particularly if you are not familiar with some our program's frequently used terms.

The purpose of today's event is to provide a recap of this year's PCHQR Program key events and updates and provide insight into upcoming key events and changes for calendar year 2024.

At the end of today's presentation, we hope that you will be able to recall this year's significant program events and changes and summarize upcoming events.

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Now we will begin our discussion with a recap of this year, 2023, beginning with key events. We will start with the final rule publication.

One of the program's major key events is the publication of the final rule. This year's final rule was published in the *Federal Register* on August 28, 2023. Each year, when the proposed rule is published, CMS encourages the public to submit comments for those topics CMS is seeking input on, which they highly value. In the fiscal year 2024 Inpatient Prospective Payment System/Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System final rule, the finalized changes, outlined on this slide, were made impacting the PCHQR Program. We will take a closer look at each of these changes on the next series of slides.

This slide highlights the public reporting timeline of the four newly finalized measures which are Facility Commitment to Health Equity, PCH-39; Screening for Social Drivers of Health, PCH-40; Screen Positive Rate for Social Drivers of Health, PCH-41 a–e; and Documentation of Goals Care Discussions Among Cancer Patients, PCH-42, along with one previously finalized measure, Surgical Treatment Complications for Localized Prostate Cancer, PCH-37, as specified in the fiscal year 2024 final rule. The anticipated public reporting timeline is as follows: PCH-37 is anticipated to be displayed in July 2024. PCH-39 and PCH-42 are anticipated to be displayed in July 2026, and PCH-40 and PCH-41 a–e are anticipated to be displayed in July 2027. We will look at these measures and the public reporting details closer later in this presentation.

The next series of slides are a display of the complete list of the finalized fiscal year 2024 PCHQR Program measure set, organized by category. As displayed on this and the subsequent slides, the short name, PCH number, and full measure name are included. The first category is the Safety and Healthcare-Associated Infection, or HAI, category, which includes a total of seven measures: CAUTI, CLABSI, Influenza HCP, SSI-colon and abdominal hysterectomy, MRSA, CDI, and COVID-19 HCP.

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The next category is Clinical Process/Oncology Care Measures, or OCMs, which includes two of the four EOL measures: Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Receiving Chemotherapy in the Last 14 Days of Life, or PCH-32, and PCH-34, which is Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Not Admitted to Hospice. Next is the Intermediate Clinical Outcome Measures category, which includes the remaining two EOL measures: PCH-33, Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Admitted to the Intensive Care Unit in the Last 30 Days of Life and PCH-35, Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Admitted to Hospice for Less Than Three Days.

The Patient Engagement/Experience of Care category includes Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems, or HCAHPS, Survey, along with the newly finalized Documentation of Goals of Care Discussions Among Cancer Patients measure. The Claims-Based Outcome Measures category includes three measures: the Admissions and Emergency Department Visits for Patients Receiving Outpatient Chemotherapy, 30-Day Unplanned Readmissions for Cancer Patients, and the Surgical Treatment Complications for Localized Prostate Cancer.

Lastly, the new category, Health Equity Measures, includes the Facility Commitment to Health Equity, Screening for Social Drivers of Health, and Screen Positive Rate for Social Drivers of Health measures.

Another key event this year was the last distribution of confidential national reports for two of the program's claims-based measures. As outlined on this slide, the PCHs received confidential national reports for the EOL and prostate cancer measures. Listserve communications were distributed, as this is the process, notifying you, the PCHs, of the availability of these reports. Instructions were also provided on how to submit inquiries regarding these reports via the QualityNet Question and Answer Tool. Of note, this will be the last distribution of confidential reports for these measures as they are anticipated to be publicly reported next year. We will be discussing these details when we look ahead to calendar year 2024 events.

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For the OP Chemotherapy measure, the Facility-Specific Reports were available via the HQR System on May 3, 2023. The fiscal year 2024 reports contained measure results based on chemotherapy treatments performed between July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. Also, provided on this slide is information on resources pertaining to this measure, which are located on QualityNet. On the chemotherapy measure page, you will find the data dictionary, mock reports and user guides, a fact sheet and frequently asked questions. Please note that there are additional resources on this page as well.

For the Cancer Readmissions measure, the Facility-Specific Reports were available July 26, 2023. The fiscal year 2024 reports contained measure results based on unplanned readmissions between October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022. Also, provided on this slide is information on resources pertaining to this measure, which are also located on QualityNet. On the Cancer Readmissions measure page, you will find similar resources state previously, such as the data dictionary, user guide, and frequently asked questions document. Again, there are also additional resources on this page as well.

Additionally, related to PCH-36, this measure was publicly displayed for the first time on the PDC on November 8, 2023. The fiscal year 2024 measure results were displayed on this date. Moving forward, this measure, as with all claims-based measures, will be refreshed annually. This measure is unique in that it is refreshed in October, rather than July, like the other claims-based measures.

CMS announced during the latter part of last year that the claims-based measure reports were moving from the Managed File Transfer, or MFT, system to the Hospital Quality Reporting, or HQR, System. This meant that the reports were accessible via logging in and downloading them from the Claims-Based Measure page of the HQR System. This slide simply serves as a reminder about this process to access your claims-based measure reports.

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If you wish to receive a report via MFT, you will have to make a request via the CCSQ Service Center at QNetSupport@cms.hhs.gov. You may also access the instructional video for additional guidance by selecting [Here](#), which is hyperlinked on this slide.

Here is a list of the QualityNet and Quality Reporting Center pages that have been updated this year. On QualityNet, the Overview page now has the quick link to the fall 2023 Program Manual. The PCHQR Measures page now has information for all claims-based measures for the program. The Participation page houses the updated resource PCHQR Program Measure Submission Deadline by Due Date table. The Resources page houses several program tools and resources, such as the fall 2023 Program Manual, measure crosswalk, and relationship matrix. There also several other resources which include links to various web resources/pages that provide additional information about the PCHQR Program's measures and PCHQR Program forms, such as the Hospital Contact Change Form and the Extraordinary Circumstances Exceptions, or ECE, Request Form. There is also a full list of the final rule publications with links to the *Federal Register* version and summary of the finalized program changes for that particular publication. The Quality Reporting Center PCHQR Program page also underwent updates, many of which are the same as the updates made on QualityNet I highlighted just now.

As your Support Contractor, we always want to ensure that the resources and tools made available to you on both Quality Net and Quality Reporting Center are maintained and up-to-date. Last month, I provided an in-depth review of the resources and tools provided on this slide, so I will not spend too much time here. Please be sure to go back and review the educational event materials from the November 15, 2023, event titled *Updated Resources and Tools Review*. So, just as quick overview, the fall 2023 Program Manual was updated and released on November 1, 2023; the updates made were in alignment with the fiscal year 2024 IPPS/LTCH PPS final rule which we discussed earlier.

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The Measure Submission Deadlines by Due Date table now reflects due dates through November 2024. Then, there is the PCHQR Program Relationship Matrix of Program Measures by Years and Quarters. This tool now includes information through fiscal year 2026 as it relates to the reporting periods, quarterly data submission deadlines, and PDC release dates. Lastly, the measure crosswalk includes program measure information for fiscal years 2023 through 2026. Again, these tools and resources are all available on both QualityNet and Quality Reporting Center websites.

As with each new calendar year, program changes are to be expected. With 2024 upon us, let's take a look at what's ahead.

What's next for the PCHQR Program measures? Quarterly submissions will continue as follows: The HAI and COVID-19 HCP vaccination measure data will be submitted in February, May, August, and November. Of note, the modified version of the COVID-19 HCP measure will be reported in May 2024. Per the fiscal year 2024 final rule, the numerator statement was modified to include HCP who are up-to-date. CMS finalized reporting of the updated measure beginning with the Quarter 4 2023 reporting period which will be submitted in May 2024. The HCAHPS Survey data will be submitted in January, April, July, and October. Annual submissions include Influenza HCP measure data in May and the Data Accuracy and Completeness Acknowledgement, also known as the DACA, in August. We, the Support Contractor, will continue providing Listserve and targeted communications, along with phone outreach during these submission periods.

What's next for the PCHQR Program claims-based measures? In spring of 2024, the PCHs should expect to receive claims-based measure reports for the OP Chemotherapy, prostate cancer, and EOL measures for fiscal year 2025. The Cancer Readmissions claims-based measure report is anticipated to be distributed in fall 2024. The exact dates for the distribution of these reports will be communicated via Listserve. Please remember that you will need access these reports via the HQR System.

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Also, make sure you are signed up to receive PCHQR Program related communications so that you do not miss out on important information, such as this.

What's next for Public Reporting? The other program measures will continue on the same public reporting schedule that you are familiar with. The HCAHPS Survey data will continue to be publicly reported quarterly. HAI measures will continue to be publicly refreshed as follows: It is quarterly for CAUTI, CLABSI, SSI, MRSA, CDI, and COVID-19 HCP measure data in January, April, July and October, and it is annually in October for Influenza HCP measure data. Of note, the Plan of Care for Moderate to Severe Pain, or PCH-15, measure data was refreshed for the last time in January 2023. The PCH-15 data files will be removed from the PDC effective January 2024.

As it relates to the claims-based measures and public display timeline, the fiscal year 2025 EOL and prostate cancer measure claims data are anticipated to be publicly reported on the PDC in July 2024 for the very first time. The data collection dates for these measures are outlined on the slide, and as stated previously, the claims-based measure reports will be available in the HQR System in spring 2024. Additionally, the modified version of the COVID-19 HCP measure data are anticipated to be publicly reported in October 2024. Again, the exact date for the claims-based measure report availability and PDC release dates will be communicated via Listserve.

This slide simply displays the measures and associated quarters for the schedule of upcoming PDC releases for January, July, and April 2024. This is a good reference tool to keep readily available so that you can stay on track with what data will be displayed for your facility on the PDC with the respective releases next year. Also, keep in mind that, on the PCHQR Program page on Quality Reporting Center, under the Resources and Tools link, there is a PDC Preview Document section that is updated with each release.

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There you can find the PDC Preview Quick Reference Guide and Help Guide. This information is also available on the PCHQR Program Public Reporting page on QualityNet. You will also receive ListServe communications pertaining to Public Reporting information and updates.

Finally, what's next for outreach and education activities? As a reminder, PCHQR Program participants receive various communications regarding program requirements and data submission reminders. We are also in the process of planning and finalizing webinar topics for calendar year 2024, and we will certainly be providing educational events focused on the newly finalized measures. We welcome topic suggestions for educational events that you, as a program participant, would find beneficial. You can submit your suggestion or suggestions by clicking the On Demand Event page link on this slide, and you will find a survey link on this page. The survey will only be open for one week after this event. So, it will close Thursday, December 21. You may also submit suggestions via the QualityNet Question and Answer Tool.

We will conclude today's event by reviewing a few key dates and reminders for the PCHQR Program.

Provided on this slide are the next three data submission deadlines: On January 4, 2024, Quarter 3 2023 HCAHPS Survey data will be due. On February 15, 2024, Quarter 3 2023 HAI data and COVID-19 HCP measure data will be due. On April 3, 2024, Quarter 4 2023 HCAHPS Survey data will be due. You should have already received a 30-day data submission reminder for the January 4 HCAHPS deadline, and there will be a second communication coming soon. You can also expect to receive a communication for the February 15 deadline early to mid-January. Please be sure you are signed up to receive these important reminders and other communications via the Subscribe to Email Updates link on the QualityNet home page. We will review the sign-up process shortly.

The next two Public Reporting PDC releases are outlined on this slide.

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The January 2024 PDC release will include Q2 2022–Q1 2023 HCAHPS Survey data; Q2 2022–Q1 2023 HAI measure data; Q1 2023 COVID-19 HCP measure data. The April 2024 PDC release will include Q3 2022–Q2 2023 HCAHPS Survey data; Q3 2022–Q2 2023 HAI measure data; and Q2 2023 COVID-19 HCP measure data. The exact dates for the January 2024 and April 2024 PDC releases will be announced via Listserve communication. So, again, please be sure you are signed up to receive PCHQR Program notifications as Public Reporting dates are subject to change. We provide specific dates and other pertinent information via these communications.

On the next series of slides, we will review how to sign up for email notifications and access the QualityNet Question and Answer Tool.

Here is where you subscribe to PCHQR Program notifications. This link is located on the QualityNet home page. Once you select the Subscribe to Email Updates button, as noted by the red box on this slide, you will be taken to the screen on the next slide.

Here, you will be asked to enter your name and email address, as shown by the red box on the left side. Then, you will have the opportunity to select the program notification lists you wish to join. At least one must be selected. There are various quality reporting programs available to select, but the red box on the right side denotes the selection you will need to make in order to receive PCHQR Program notifications. Of note, all fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required. Once you've made your selection or selections, you will then select Submit, as shown by the red arrow. From this point, you will receive an email requesting your confirmation for each subscription submission. Please be sure to follow the instructions in this email to ensure your subscription is confirmed.

Displayed on this slide is how you can access the PCHQR Program Question and Answer Tool via the QualityNet home page.

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You will access this tool by selecting the Help drop-down link, as indicated by the red box and selecting the PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospitals link to start the process.

Now, you are at the QualityNet Question and Answer Tool landing page. After you select the Ask a Question link, as shown by the red box on this slide, you will be taken to a page where you will need to complete your personal information. Then, you will be asked to enter details regarding the inquiry you are submitting. On this page you are also able to browse program articles and search to see if your question may have been previously addressed and posted for viewing.

Here is where you will submit your inquiry. Be sure to complete the required fields. Once this is complete, you will need to select Submit Question, as denoted by the red box on this slide, to submit your inquiry. We encourage you to utilize this tool to ask any program-related questions you may have, and you may query the system to see if the topic you are inquiring about has already been addressed.

As always, thank you for your time and attention during today's event. As a reminder, we are open to hear from you. So, please feel free to provide any feedback you have for educational topics or anything else program related you would find beneficial for the next calendar year, 2024. We hope that each of you have a safe and enjoyable holiday season. Thank you, and enjoy the remainder of your day!