Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR) Program

Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support

IPFQR Program:
Inpatient Psychiatric Facility-Patient Assessment Instrument (IPF-PAI) Overview, Development, and Participation
Presentation Transcript

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Lisa Vinson: Hello and welcome to today's presentation titled, IPFQR Program Inpatient Psychiatric Facility-Patient Assessment Instrument, or IPF-PAI, Overview, Development, and Participation. My name is Lisa Vinson. I am the IPFQR Program lead for the Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support, and I will be the moderator for today's event. Before I introduce today's speakers, I will review a couple of housekeeping items. First, the slides for this presentation were posted to the Quality Reporting Center website prior to the event. If you did not receive the slides beforehand, please go to QualityReportingCenter.com in your web browser. On the bottom left of the screen, you will see a list of upcoming events. Click on the link for this event. There, you will find the presentation slides available for download. This webinar is being recorded, and the transcript, slides, and a recording of today's presentation will be posted to QualityNet at a later date. Secondly, we ask that you submit any questions pertinent to the webinar topic in the question-and-answer section. To do so, click on the question mark in a thought bubble on your screen. We will hold a moderated question-and-answer session before we close today's event. Any questions we are unable to address will be responded to and considered for publication in the QualityNet Question and Answer Tool at a later date. Questions received that are not related to the topic of the webinar will not be answered in the question-and-answer feature. Instead, we recommend that you go to the QualityNet Question and Answer Tool to search for posted question-and-answer pairs as well as submit any new questions to us that are not already addressed in the question-and-answer tool or in a previously published summary of questions and answers.

Joining me as our guest speakers for today's webinar are Kaleigh Emerson and Jennifer Riggs. Kaleigh Emerson is the IPFQR Program lead for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, or CMS, and Jennifer Riggs is the Task Lead for the Inpatient [Psychiatric] Facility-Patient Assessment Instrument Development and Testing with Abt Global.

Please use the Chat tool to submit questions that are pertinent to the webinar topic. As a reminder, we do not use the raised-hand feature in the Chat tool during webinars.

You may submit questions about the IPF-PAI or the Alpha Test after this event to IPF-PAI_testing@abtglobal.com. Include the webinar name, slide number, and speaker name. If you have a question unrelated to the current webinar topic, we recommend that you first search for the question in the QualityNet Question and Answer Tool. If you do not find an answer, then submit your question to us via the same tool. We will respond to questions as soon as possible. Again, we will have a live question-and-answer session at the end of the presentation.

Acronyms that are used in this presentation are provided on this slide. They include C-A-A or Consolidated Appropriations Act; C-M-S or Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; IPF-PAI, or P-A-I, for Inpatient Psychiatric Facility-Patient Assessment Instrument; IPFQR for Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting; PAI, or P-A-I, for Patient Assessment Instrument; and Q&A for question and answer.

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview of CMS's development of a standardized PAI, plan to develop and test the IPF-PAI, and the current IPF-PAI testing phase, also known as IPF-PAI Alpha Test.

The objectives for today are that participants will be able to understand the provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, or CAA, of 2023 and the mandate to develop a standardized PAI; describe CMS's plan for development and testing of the IPF-PAI; and contact IPF-PAI_testing@abtglobal.com with questions or to express interest in participating in the IPF-PAI Alpha Test. I will now turn the presentation over to Kaleigh. Kaleigh, the floor is yours.

Kaleigh Emerson: Thank you, Lisa. Hello, everyone. My name is Kaleigh Emerson, and I am the Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting Program lead at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. I want to welcome you to today's webinar.

We thank you for joining this presentation about the Inpatient Psychiatric Facility-Patient Assessment Instrument, also called the IPF-PAI. Insight from those working in IPFs is essential to the development of a patient assessment instrument that is meaningful and appropriate for the IPF setting and the population of individuals that are treated in IPF. We greatly value IPF participation in the development and testing of the IPF-PAI, and we appreciate your time and commitment to helping advance the quality of inpatient psychiatric care. So, thank you again, and I will turn it over to Jennifer Riggs.

Jennifer Riggs: Hello, and welcome everyone. My name is Jennifer Riggs, and I will be presenting information about the background of the IPF-PAI and our anticipated plan for development and testing. Then, I will provide some details about our current phase of testing, the IPF-PAI Alpha Test.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 amended Section 1886 (s) of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to implement a standardized patient assessment for inpatient psychiatric facilities participating in the IPF Quality Reporting Program. The CAA of 2023 has its roots in the IMPACT Act of 2014. That is the Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation Act, which requires submission of standardized patient assessment data by post-acute care settings. These are long-term acute hospitals, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, skilled nursing facilities, and home health agencies, using their existing standardized patient assessment instruments. The IPF standardized patient assessment data identified in the CAA of 2023 are data with respect to the following categories: functional status, such as mobility and self-care and admission to a psychiatric hospital or unit, and before discharge from that psychiatric hospital or unit; cognitive function, such as the ability to express ideas and to understand, and mental status, such as depression and dementia; special services, treatments, and interventions for psychiatric conditions; medical conditions and comorbidities, such as diabetes, congestive failure, and pressure ulcers; impairments, such as incontinence or an impaired ability to hear, see, or swallow; and other categories as determined by the Secretary.

As described in CMS's quality strategy, CMS's quality mission is to achieve optimal health and well-being for all individuals. The quality vision is that CMS is a trusted partner in shaping a resilient, high-value American healthcare system that delivers high-quality, safe, and equitable care for all.

CMS has contracted with RTI International, Abt Global, and their partners to develop and test a draft standardized patient assessment instrument for IPFs, the IPF-PAI. The IPF-PAI is intended to meet the requirements of the CAA of 2023, and it is intended to be integrated into IPF existing assessments and workflows. To develop a meaningful and appropriate patient assessment instrument for IPF, collaboration with IPF staff and providers is essential.

CMS's anticipated plan for the development of the IPF-PAI includes multiple activities such as information gathering from the literature, clinical practice guidelines, and many other sources; engagement with experts and interested parties, including IPF staff and providers, and also including individuals who have received inpatient psychiatric care and their families and or their caregivers; and testing with IPF sites and staff to evaluate candidate data elements to include in the Standardized Assessment Instrument; and testing to evaluate the draft IPF-PAI.

The phases of testing that are planned in the development of the IPF-PAI include an Alpha Test, which will consist of cognitive interviews, a survey, and focus groups. We will discuss the Alpha Test in more detail in the next few slides. The Alpha Test will be followed by a field test, also called a Beta Test, to evaluate the performance of the draft IPF-PAI in the field.

The anticipated timeline for IPF-PAI development and testing includes ongoing and iterative information gathering and engagement with experts and interested parties. The Alpha Test is currently underway and is expected to complete before the end of January 2025. We anticipate that the field test of the draft IPF-PAI will occur in the late spring and summer of 2025.We expect testing and analysis to be completed in the fall of 2025.

Following completion of testing and analysis, CMS may propose the IPF-PAI in future rulemaking.

CMS and Abt are recruiting IPF staff for cognitive interviews, a survey, and focus groups. IPF staff can volunteer for one, two, or all three activities. Participation is completely voluntary. There is no penalty or adverse consequence for anyone who chooses not to participate. Cognitive interviews allow us to evaluate the clarity and completeness of candidate data elements or assessment questions and their associated instructions or guidance. Focus groups will provide input about current IPF admission and discharge workflows and processes, current assessments, and IPF team roles and responsibilities. We will be asking for input about perceived anticipated facilitators or barriers to implementation of the IPF-PAI. We will also be asking for additional input about the candidate data elements. In the survey, we will ask IPF staff who complete admission and discharge assessments to provide input about the candidate data elements' relevance to the IPF setting and patient populations, and clinical usefulness.

For IPF staff who volunteer to participate, the process starts with virtual training modules that explain the Alpha Test and describe the candidate data elements and their associated instructions. The training will require no more than three hours to complete. After completing the training, the Abt project team members will coordinate with IPF staff participants to find the best day and time to schedule the interview and/or focus group or to send the survey link. We plan to use Microsoft Teams to conduct interviews and focus groups, and we will email the invitation and link to each participant individually. We expect interviews to be completed in December. Focus groups will start in December and be completed in January, and we expect to send the survey link in late December or early January to any IPF staff who volunteered to complete the survey. We are pleased that we can offer participants a token of our appreciation for your participation, $50 gift card to each participant for each activity completed. Anyone that is interested in participating, or if you have other questions, or would like to discuss this opportunity with us, please contact us at IPF-PAI_testing@abtglobal.com.

We will continue adding participants to the Alpha Test through the end of December. Stay tuned to the IPFQR Program Listserv for future announcements from CMS about the IPF-PAI development and future opportunities for engagement. Now, I will turn it back over to Lisa.

Lisa Vinson: Thank you, Jennifer. We will now address questions received. At this time, you do have an opportunity to place your question in the Chat box if you would like to do so. Please keep in mind that we will do our best to address as many questions as time allows. If we are not able to address your question during this time, all inquiries, including answers, will be available via the QualityNet Question and Answer Tool at a later date. So, we will get started with our first question, which states: How are you ensuring that a representative mix of facilities are included in the Alpha Test, including those with no EMR access?

Jennifer Riggs: Thank you, Lisa. This is Jennifer Riggs. I can answer that question. We are asking for input from all types of IPFs, and we are working with CMS to announce opportunities to participate in development and testing of the IPF-PAI across a wide range of venues so that many IPF facilities have an opportunity to volunteer to participate.

Lisa Vinson: Thank you for that, Jennifer. I am not seeing any additional questions right now, but we will give a few minutes for those who wish to ask a question. Please place your question in the Chat box at this time. We will give you a few moments to do so.

OK. At this time, we will go ahead and close out our question-and-answer session. We appreciate the questions we did receive. Again, please be reminded that the questions, including the answers, will be available via the QualityNet Question and Answer Tool at a later date.

Before we conclude this presentation, and we will review some helpful resources.

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If there has been turnover at your facility, you can let us know about any changes to points of contact at your facility by clicking the Contact Change Form link provided on this slide and sending the information to us by following the instructions on the form. If you would like to receive email communications about future IPFQR Program webinars, program updates, resources, and other announcements, then we invite you to sign up for the IPFQR Program Listserve by clicking on the Listserve Registration icon on this slide. Another way to find information about upcoming webinars is to click on the Upcoming Webinars icon on this slide as well. When you have a general question about the IPFQR Program or need clarification about any of the program measures, be sure to leverage the Find an Answer function in the QualityNet Question and Answer Tool. If you do not see a published article in the Q&A tool related to your question, then you can submit your inquiry to us via the Q&A tool. The best way to reach us when you have questions about IPFQR Program eligibility, such as next steps for a newly eligible provider or to notify us that an IPF is closed or will be closing, is via email. You can send an email to us regarding eligibility updates to IPFQualityReporting@hsag.com. Finally, you can also contact our support team via phone at (866) 800-8765 or via secure fax at (877) 789-4443.

This concludes today's presentation. We thank you for your time and attention, and a special thank you goes to Kaleigh Emerson and Jennifer Riggs for joining us today. Again, thank you for your time and attention, and we hope you enjoy the remainder of your day.