



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

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### Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support

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

##### Speaker

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Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support

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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 and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support Team. 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 this year, calendar year 2024. Then, we will look ahead to what's in store for next year, calendar year 2025.

If you have questions while viewing today's presentation, please send an email to [webinarquestions@hsag.com](mailto:webinarquestions@hsag.com) and be sure to include in the subject line the full title of today's event: PCHQR Program: End-of-Year Recap and Look Ahead. In the body of the email, place your question along with the slide number, if applicable. If you have questions unrelated to the webinar topic, please submit them 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 CBM for Claims-Based Measure; CY for calendar year; FY for fiscal year; HCHE for Hospital Commitment to Health Equity; PDC for Provider Data Catalog; PSSM for Patient Safety Structural Measure; and SDOH for Social Drivers of Health.

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 2025.

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.

Now we will begin our discussion with a recap of this year, 2024, beginning with key events. We will start with the final rule publication.

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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, 2024. 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 FY 2025 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. The finalized changes include the new Patient Safety Structural measure, which is for the CY 2025 reporting period/FY 2027 program year; the modified HCAHPS Survey measure beginning with January 1, 2025, patient discharges; and the new start date for public display of the Hospital Commitment to Health Equity measure.

In this year's final rule, the public reporting timeline was updated for one measure and established for a new measure. Public display of the HCHE measure was moved from July 2026 to January 2026, and the Patient Safety Structural Measure is anticipated to be publicly displayed in the fall of 2026. As a reminder, all PCH data are displayed on the Provider Data Catalog website.

The next series of slides are a display of the complete list of the finalized FY 2027 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 Safety and Healthcare-Associated Infection, or HAI, which includes a total of eight measures: CAUTI, CLABSI, Influenza HCP, SSI-colon and abdominal hysterectomy, MRSA, CDI, COVID-19 HCP, and the newly finalized Patient Safety Structural Measure.

The next category is Clinical Process/Oncology Care Measures which includes two EOL measures: Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Receiving Chemotherapy in the Last 14 Days of Life and Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Not Admitted to Hospice.

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Next is the Intermediate Clinical Outcome Measures category, which includes the remaining two EOL measures: Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Admitted to the (ICU in the Last 30 Days of Life and Proportion of Patients Who Died from Cancer Admitted to Hospice for Less Than Three Days.

The Patient Engagement/Experience of Care category includes the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems, or HCAHPS, Survey along with the Documentation of Goals of Care Discussions Among Cancer Patients measure. The Claims-Based Outcome measure category includes three measures: 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 Health Equity Measures category includes the Hospital Commitment to Health Equity, Screening for Social Drivers of Health, and Screen Positive Rate for Social Drivers of Health measures.

For the OP Chemotherapy and Prostate Cancer measures, the FY 2025 Facility Specific Reports, or FSRs, were available via the HQR System in May of this year. The FY 2025 OP Chemotherapy report contained measure results based on performance period of July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023. The Prostate Cancer FSRs measure results were based on performance period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. The FY 2025 End of Life claims-based measure reports were available in May of this year for the performance period of July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023. The FY 2025 cancer readmissions FSRs were made available in July this year for the performance period of October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023. All claims-based measure resources are located on the PCHQR Program QualityNet Measures page under the PCH Claims-Based Measure Sets header.

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 2024 Program Manual.

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The PCHQR Measures page now has information for the health equity measures and the new Patient Safety Structural Measure. 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 2024 program manual, measure crosswalk, and relationship matrix. There are 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 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 Team, we always want to ensure that the resources and tools made available to you on both QualityNet and Quality Reporting Center websites are maintained and up-to-date. For your reference, the following resources have been updated. The Fall 2024 Program Manual was recently updated and posted; the updates made were in alignment with the fiscal year 2025 final rule which we discussed earlier. The Measure Submission Deadlines by Due Date table now reflects due dates through April 2026. Then, there is the PCHQR Program Relationship Matrix of the Program Measures by Years and Quarters. This tool now includes information through FY 2027 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 2024 through 2027. Again, these tools and resources are all available on both QualityNet and Quality Reporting Center websites.

As with each new calendar year, program updates are to be expected. With 2025 upon us, let's take a look at what's ahead.

For PCHQR Program Measures, quarterly submissions will continue as follows.

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The HAI and COVID-19 HCP Vaccination measure data will be submitted in February, May, August, and November. The HCAHPS Survey data will be submitted in January, April, July, and October. Of note, the modified version of the survey, which will include 32 questions, is effective for January 1, 2025, patient discharges. Annual submissions include Influenza HCP measure data in May; the Data Accuracy and Completeness Acknowledgement, or DACA, in August; and the three health equity measures will be submitted for the first time in August as well, via the HQR System. Of note, the SDOH measures are voluntary for the summer submission period ending in August 2025; calendar year 2024 data will be reported. Lastly, the Patient Safety Structural Measure data collection period begins January 1, 2025, and calendar year 2025 data will be reported in May 2026. We, the Support Team, will continue providing Listserve and targeted communications during these submission periods.

For the PCHQR Program Claims-Based Measures, in Spring of 2025, the PCHs should expect to receive claims-based measure reports for the OP Chemotherapy, Prostate Cancer, and EOL measures for FY 2026. The Cancer Readmissions claims-based measure report is anticipated to be distributed in Fall 2025. The exact dates for the distribution of these reports will be communicated via Listserve. Please remember that these reports are accessible via the HQR System. 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.

For Public Reporting, the HCAHPS Survey data continue to publicly refresh quarterly. The updated version of the HCAHPS is anticipated to be publicly displayed in October 2026. The HAI measures continue to publicly refresh as follows: CAUTI, CLABSI, SSI, MRSA, CDI, and COVID-19 HCP Vaccination are quarterly; Influenza HCP is annual. The claims-based measure results will continue to publicly refresh annually as follows: July, the OP Chemotherapy, EOLs, and Prostate Cancer measures; and October, the Cancer Readmissions measures.

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The exact date for the claims-based measure report availability and PDC release dates will be communicated via Listserve. The Health Equity measures and PSSM data will be publicly reported beginning in CY 2026.

This slide and the next slide display the measures and associated quarters for the schedule of upcoming PDC releases for CY 2025. These two slides are a good reference to keep readily available to allow you to stay on track with what data will be publicly displayed for your facility on the PDC with the respective releases next year. The exact PDC refresh dates will be announced via Listserve communication. This slide displays information for January 2025 and April 2025.

This slide displays information for July 2025 and October 2025. 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. 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, here's 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 2025, and we will certainly be providing educational events focused on the program's new measures, health equity and PSSM. 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 Monday, January 6. You may also submit suggestions via the QualityNet Question and Answer Tool.

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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: January 2, 2025, Q3 2024 HCAHPS Survey data; February 18, 2025, Q3 2024 HAI data and COVID-19 HCP measure data; and April 2, 2025, Q4 2024 HCAHPS Survey data. You should have already received a data submission reminder for the January 2nd HCAHPS deadline. You can also expect to receive a communication for the February 18 deadline in 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.

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 is where you need to follow Steps 1 through 3 as outlined on this page as displayed on this slide. You will begin by entering your name and email address as denoted by the red box.

You will then need to select which program lists you would like to receive notifications for. In this instance, you will need to scroll through the list and look for PCHQR Notify: PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospitals Quality Reporting (PCHQR) Program Notifications. Of note, if there are other program notifications you would like to receive, please be sure mark the appropriate boxes at this time as well. Then, you will need to select the Sign Up button to complete the process. Please be sure to pay attention to the directions provided on the subsequent screen.

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. Then, you can select 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 next calendar year, 2024. We hope that each of you have a safe and enjoyable holiday season. Thank you!