



Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR) Program

Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support

Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR) Program: FY 2026 Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities Prospective Payment System (IPF PPS) Final Rule Presentation Transcript

Speakers

Kaleigh Emerson, MPH, LMSW
Program Lead, IPFQR Program, CMS

Lisa Vinson, BS, BSN, RN
Program Lead, IPFQR Program
Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support

**August 28, 2025
2:00 p.m. Eastern Time**

DISCLAIMER: This presentation document was current at the time of publication and/or upload onto the websites. Any links to Medicare online source documents are for reference use only. In the case that Medicare policy, requirements, or guidance related to these questions and answers change following the date of posting, these questions and answers will not necessarily reflect those changes; this information will remain as an archived copy with no updates performed.

Any references or links to statutes, regulations, and/or other policy materials included are provided as summary information. No material contained therein is intended to take the place of either written laws or regulations. In the event of any conflict between the information provided by the question-and-answer session and any information included in any Medicare rules and/or regulations, the rules and regulations shall govern. The specific statutes, regulations, and other interpretive materials should be reviewed independently for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR) Program

Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support

Lisa Vinson:

Welcome to today's presentation, titled *IPFQR Program: Fiscal Year 2026 Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities Prospective Payment System, IPF PPS, Final Rule*. My name is Lisa Vinson. I am the IPFQR Program Lead for 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 speaker, 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, and 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 the right-hand side of the screen. 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 tool. Joining me as our main speaker for this presentation is Kaleigh Emerson. Kaleigh is the Program Lead for the Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting Program at CMS.

This presentation will summarize the changes to the IPFQR Program, as outlined in the fiscal year 2026 Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities Prospective Payment System final rule.

By the end of this presentation, attendees will be able to describe IPFQR Program changes per the fiscal year 2026 IPF PPS final rule.

Lastly, for your convenience, provided on this slide is a list of the acronyms that will be referenced during this presentation.

Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR) Program

Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support

Now, I would like to turn the presentation over to Kaleigh. Kaleigh, the floor is yours.

Kaleigh Emerson: Thank you, Lisa. The upcoming slides will discuss the updates made to the IPFQR Program in the fiscal year 2026 IPF PPS final rule.

The fiscal year 2026 IPF PPS final rule was published in the *Federal Register* on August 5, 2025. A link to the final rule and IPFQR Program pages are provided on this slide.

In this final rule, we finalized several measure-related proposals, including the modification of the reporting period for the 30-Day Risk-Standardized All-Cause Emergency Department Visit Following an IPF Discharge measure, the IPF ED Visit measure, from a 12-month period to a 24-month period. We finalized the removal of four measures: the Facility Commitment to Health Equity structural measure, the Screening for Social Drivers of Health measure, the Screen Positive Rate for Social Drivers of Health measure, and the COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Healthcare Personnel measure. We also finalized the update to the Extraordinary Circumstances Exception, or ECE, policy. We also summarized comments received on three Requests for Information regarding a potential IPF star rating system, measure concepts related to well-being and nutrition, and the Digital Quality Measurement strategy.

The 30-Day Risk-Standardized All-Cause Emergency Department Visit Following an IPF Discharge measure, the IPF ED Visit measure, was adopted in the fiscal year 2025 final rule to address a gap in existing IPFQR Program measures related to patient outcomes in the period following discharge from the IPF. The measure was intended to complement the 30-Day All Cause Unplanned Readmission Following Psychiatric Hospitalization measure, or IPF Unplanned Readmission measure, which assesses hospital readmissions but not ED visits that do not result in a hospital admission, to provide a more complete picture of acute care among IPF patients after discharge from the IPF. In this year's final rule, we finalized the modification of the reporting period of the IPF ED Visit measure from a 12-month period to a 24-month period.

Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR) Program

Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support

This is the same timeframe as the 24-month reporting period of the IPF Unplanned Readmission measure. This two-year reporting period begins Quarter 3 2025 through Quarter 2 2027 for the fiscal year 2029 payment determination. The measure will first be publicly reported in the January 2029 release on the Compare tool on [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov). Because the data used to calculate the IPF ED Visit measure are available on Medicare claims and enrollment data, this measure requires no additional data collection or submission by IPFs.

We also finalized the removal of four measures: the Facility Commitment to Health Equity structural measure, the COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Health Care Personnel measure, the Screening for Social Drivers of Health measure, and the Screen Positive Rate for Social Drivers of Health Measure. The Facility Commitment to Health Equity structural measure and the COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage among Health Care Personnel measure were removed beginning with the fiscal year 2026 payment determination. The two Social Drivers of Health measures were removed beginning with the calendar year 2024 voluntary reporting period.

As described in the fiscal year 2026 proposed rule, under the ECE policy, we have granted exceptions for extraordinary circumstances, such as natural disasters, that directly affected the ability of facilities to submit quality data. We proposed to update and codify the ECE policy to specify that an ECE could be granted in the form of an extension of time for an IPF to comply with data reporting requirements if CMS deems it an appropriate type of relief. The update is intended to provide IPFs with further reporting flexibility and provider relief and to align ECE policies across quality reporting programs. We also proposed shortening the timeframe that an IPF may request an ECE from 90 days to 30 days. We have finalized the proposal to update and codify updates to the ECE policy, with one change. After consideration of public comments regarding the proposed 30-day calendar day timeframe during which an IPF may request an ECE, we finalized 60 calendar days for ECE requests after the precipitating event.

Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR) Program

Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support

The final rule also summarizes comments on three Requests for Information. One RFI was regarding potential IPF star ratings for display on Care Compare. The summarized comments include both support and caution regarding IPF star ratings. Comments also offer considerations and recommendations for IPF star rating development and implementation. Another RFI sought input on future quality measure concepts on the topics of well-being and nutrition. The summarized comments note that appropriate assessment and treatment of nutrition and well-being are a routine part of care provided by IPFs, and we also received comments regarding the appropriateness of these measure concepts for IPFs, given the goals of the inpatient psychiatric stay focus on stabilization. The third RFI sought information on current health information technology use in IPFs and the potential use of FHIR-based reporting for the IPF Patient Assessment Instrument, or IPF-PAI, that is currently under development. The summarized comments include support for the use of FHIR, and commenters also noted that freestanding IPFs have not received federal funding for EHR implementation.

The next few slides provide the measure tables for the fiscal year 2028 and 2029 payment determinations. The measure removals and modification to the IPF ED Visit measure had impacts on these tables. So, for clarity, we've included two years in this year's webinar.

This table is split between this slide and the next. It provides the fiscal year 2028 IPFQR Program measures. There are 12 mandatory measures. You'll notice the removal of four measures, and the IPF ED Visit measure now begins with fiscal year 2029 payment determination.

The table on this slide is the continuation of the measures for fiscal year 2028 payment determination.

Now, we'll look at the fiscal year 2029 IPFQR Program measures.

This table, split between this slide and the next, provides the fiscal year 2029 IPFQR Program measures. There are 13 mandatory measures, and you'll notice this table includes the IPF ED Visit measure.

Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR) Program

Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support

The table on this slide is the continuation of the measures for fiscal year 2029 payment determination. That concludes our review of the IPFQR Program updates in the fiscal year 2026 final rule, and I will now pass it back to Lisa. Thank you.

Lisa Vinson:

Thank you, Kaleigh. Now, we will review some helpful resources.

CMS recommends that IPFs refer to the latest versions of IPFQR Program resources to stay up to date on program requirements. Various documents, including the IPF Specifications Manual and IPFQR Program Guide are available for download from the QualityNet and Quality Reporting Center websites, which can be accessed by clicking on the icons on this slide. The IPFQR Program Guide is a great place to start, as it highlights the keys to successfully participate in the IPFQR Program. Of note, we are in the process of updating various resources on both of these websites.

Lastly, the resources on this slide will keep you up to date and help you find answers to your questions. To stay up to date, please let us know about any changes to points of contact at your facilities by clicking the Contact Change Form icon. Send the information to us by following the directions on the form. You can also sign up to receive IPFQR Program Listserve communications by clicking on the Listserve Registration icon. When you have a general question about the IPFQR Program or need clarification about the program measures, you can use the Find an Answer function on question-and-answer tool. If you are unable to find relatable information, then you can submit an inquiry via the question-and-answer tool by selecting the Q&A icon on this slide. If you have questions about IPFQR Program eligibility, such as next steps for a newly eligible provider, or [want] to notify us that an IPF is closed or will be closing, [the way] is via email. You can click on the Email Support icon to send an email to us regarding eligibility updates. Finally, you can also contact the IPFQR Program Support team via phone or fax via the numbers provided on this slide labeled Phone Support and Fax.

This concludes today's event. I would like to thank our CMS Program Lead, Kaleigh, for joining us today.

Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR) Program

Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support

After this presentation, you will have the opportunity to complete a survey. We ask that you complete the survey as we value your feedback regarding what works well, as well as any areas for improvement in future presentations. Thank you for your time and attention, and we hope you enjoy the remainder of your day.