

Reference #: 2024-04-IP  
From: Inpatient VIQR Support Contractor  
Sent: January 5, 2024  
To: IQR Improve

Subject: Release of Specifications Manual for National Hospital Inpatient Quality Measures, Version 5.16

Version 5.16 of the *Specifications Manual for National Hospital Inpatient Quality Measures* for the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program is now posted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services QualityNet website (<https://qualitynet.cms.gov/>). Use Version 5.16 of the manual with acute inpatient discharges from July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

In this manual, three data elements (*Sex Assigned at Birth, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation*) are being added or updated in order to bring CMS closer to alignment with best practices and the United States Core Data for Interoperability without requiring additional data collection. The *Sex Assigned at Birth* element will be required, while the *Gender Identity* and *Sexual Orientation* elements are voluntary.

Access this updated version on [QualityNet](#) by selecting the Hospitals - Inpatient link. Then, select either the Download Q3/Q4 2024 Specs or *View all Specification Manuals* link. You may download the entire manual, download the release notes, or view specific sections of the manual. A complete list of changes to the specification manual are in Version 5.16 of the release notes. The direct link is: <https://qualitynet.cms.gov/inpatient/specifications-manuals>.

**Please do not respond directly to this email.** For further assistance regarding the information contained in this message, please contact the Inpatient Value, Incentives, and Quality Reporting Outreach and Education Support Team at [https://cmsqualitysupport.servicenowservices.com/qnet\\_qa?id=ask\\_a\\_question](https://cmsqualitysupport.servicenowservices.com/qnet_qa?id=ask_a_question) or (844) 472-4477.