

Reference #: 2024-156-IP
From: Inpatient VIQR Support Contractor
Sent: December 4, 2024
To: IQR Improve

Subject: Addendum Release of Specifications Manual for National Hospital Inpatient Quality Measures, Version 5.17a

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services determined that an addendum is required for the *Specifications Manual for National Hospital Inpatient Quality Measures, Version 5.17a*, for implementation with acute inpatient discharges effective January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. The addendum has been posted to QualityNet (<https://qualitynet.cms.gov/>) for the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program.

This addendum includes updates related to the *Severe Sepsis Present* data element. The following guidance was added under Criteria a to include the use of FDA approved tools in the identification of sepsis:

- A physician/APN/PA order for an FDA-approved biomarker test for sepsis detection can be considered documentation of suspicion of an infection, regardless of whether the result of the test indicates sepsis.

Access this updated version on [QualityNet](#) by selecting the Hospitals - Inpatient link. Then, select either the Download Q1 - Q4 2025 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 5.17a 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 & Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development & Program Support Team at https://cmsqualitysupport.servicenowservices.com/qnet_qa?id=ask_a_question or (844) 472-4477.