Reference #: 2024-93-IP
From: Inpatient & Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development & Program Support Contractor
Sent: July 11, 2024
To: IQR and EHR Lists
Subject: HQR System Now Accepting Hybrid HWR and Hybrid HWM Measure Data for the FY 2026 Payment Determination

The Hospital Quality Reporting (HQR) System is now open for the mandatory submission of fiscal year (FY) 2026 Hybrid Hospital-Wide All-Cause Readmission (HWR) measure and Hybrid Hospital-Wide All-Cause Risk Standardized Mortality (HWM) measure data for the July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, reporting period. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has updated the HQR System to accept Quality Reporting Document Architecture (QRDA) Category I test and production files associated with this reporting period. The requirements are located on the Electronic Clinical Quality Improvement Resource Center.

Data submission for these measures are mandatory for all subsection (d) hospitals participating in the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program beginning with the July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, reporting period. These data will impact the FY 2026 payment determination and measure results will be publicly reported.

Mandatory Reporting of Hybrid HWR and Hybrid HWM Measures
CMS requires subsection (d) hospitals that participate in the Hospital IQR Program to submit data on Medicare Fee-for-Service patients aged 65 and older (between 65 and 94 years for the Hybrid HWM measure) at the start of an inpatient admission who are discharged from an inpatient admission during the measurement period (length of stay < 365 days) between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. The data submission deadline is **Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time**.

As currently finalized, hospitals must meet the following requirements:
- Submit all linking variables on 95% or more of discharges.
- Report all vital signs for 90% or more of the hospital discharges.
- Submit all laboratory test results for 90% or more of discharges for non-surgical patients, meaning those not included in the surgical specialty cohort of the Hybrid HWR measure or the surgical divisions of the Hybrid HWM measure.

We note that due to reporting challenges expressed by some providers, the CY 2025 Outpatient Prospective Payment System proposed rule includes a proposal to continue voluntary reporting of the core clinical data elements (CCDEs) and linking variables for both the Hybrid HWR and Hybrid HWM measures, for the performance period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, impacting the FY 2026 payment determination for the Hospital IQR Program. We encourage providers to submit comments on this proposal.

Hospitals participating in the reporting process will:
- Use the most current guidance applicable to the 2023 reporting period.

- Use Certified Electronic Health Record Technology updated to meet 2015 Edition Cures Update criteria.
- Submit QRDA Category I files for each eligible hospital discharge, per patient and per quarter (one QRDA Category I file, per quarter, per patient, inclusive of the data that are relevant for both the Hybrid HWR and Hybrid HWM measures) to the HQR System.
- Receive a confidential Hospital-Specific Report in the spring of 2025.

Extraordinary Circumstances Exceptions (ECE)
For circumstances relating to the reporting of hybrid measures, a hospital participating in the Hospital IQR Program that wishes to request an exception must submit its request to CMS within 90 calendar days from when you determined that the extraordinary even occurred. The event may occur during the measurement period through the submission or reporting deadline. Refer to the ECE Policy page on QualityNet.

Preparing to Submit Hybrid HWR and Hybrid HWM Measure Data to the HQR System
All hospitals and vendors participating will need the new hybrid measure user role permission and vendor access to view, upload and edit their data.

Existing users with the hybrid permission for electronic clinical quality measures will automatically receive the same level of access for the hybrid measures. New users will need to log in to HQR and request access for the hybrid measure permission to either view or upload/edit hybrid measure data. All existing and new vendors will require a new vendor authorization to submit data on behalf of the hospital. Hospitals will select Vendor Management and Hybrid Measures to add/edit permissions to submit hybrid measure data. To learn how to set up vendor permissions, watch the How to Add a Vendor video on the HQR Playlist.

Resources
More information on the Hybrid HWR and Hybrid HWM measures is available on the Hybrid Measure page of the QualityNet website. On that page, you can also access the 2025 Key Resources and Dates document.

Contact Information
- For questions about the implementation of the hybrid measures and related claim-based specifications, please submit a ticket to the CMS Quality Question and Answer Tool by selecting IQR – Inpatient Quality Reporting under Program and Hybrid Measures under Topic.
- For questions regarding the measure logic, value sets and electronic specifications for the hybrid measures, please submit a ticket to the JIRA tool: https://oncprojecttracking.healthit.gov/support/projects/CHM/summary.
- For questions regarding the HQR System, including questions regarding user roles, reports, data upload, and troubleshooting file errors, please contact the Center for Clinical Standards and Quality Service Center at (866) 288-8912 or QNetSupport@cms.hhs.gov.
- For further assistance regarding the Hospital IQR Program and policy information contained in this message, please contact the Inpatient Value, Incentives, and Quality Reporting Outreach and Education Support Contractor at https://cmsqualitysupport.servicenowservices.com/qnet_qa or (844) 472-4477.

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