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From: Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support

Sent: January 17, 2025

To: Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR) Program ListServe

Subject: FY 2026 IPFQR Program NHSN Enrollment and COVID HCP Measure Data Submission Reminder

By **Tuesday, February 18, 2025**, facilities participating in the Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR) Program must submit the COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Healthcare Personnel (COVID HCP) measure data for the Quarter 3 2024 (July 1–September 30, 2024) reporting period. **Providers must be enrolled with the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) to submit measure data.** IPFs already enrolled with the NHSN are advised to log in well in advance of the deadline to avoid potential access issues.

Failure to submit COVID HCP measure data may result in a 2-percentage point reduction in the fiscal year (FY) 2026 annual payment update from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). If you have not already done so, we strongly recommend that your IPF begin the enrollment process with the NHSN now. Quarterly deadlines for the COVID HCP measure data will also impact future payments. Refer to the following resources to assist with the NHSN enrollment and the COVID HCP measure data-submission processes:

QualityNet Question and Answer Tool Articles

- [KB0024915: Facilities Required to Report COVID HCP Measure Data](#)
- [KB0024913: COVID HCP Measure Submission for IPF Units](#)
- [KB0027637: COVID-19 HCP Data Submission Deadlines](#)

Webinar

- [April 30, 2024: NHSN Enrollment and Reporting COVID-19 HCP Measure Data](#)

Resources Available for Download

Location mapping guidance for IPF units that are part of an acute care, critical access, long-term care, cancer, inpatient rehabilitation, or children’s hospital is available for download at [this link](#). FY 2026 NHSN COVID HCP data submission and verification Checklists and a list of IPFQR Program measures for FY 2026 are available for download from the QualityNet [IPFQR Program Resources](#) web page and the Quality Reporting Center [IPFQR Program Resources and Tools](#) web page.

If those resources do not address your questions, please use NHSN-ServiceNow to submit questions to the NHSN Help Desk. You can access the new portal [here](#) in place of nhsn@cdc.gov. If you do not have a Secure Access Management Services login, or are unable to access ServiceNow, you can still email the NHSN Help Desk at nhsn@cdc.gov. Include the IPF name, IPF-specific CMS Certification Number, and either “IPF Enrollment Guidance” or “Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination - IPF” in the email subject line. You may want to keep track of any ticket numbers received from NHSN for future reference as they work toward a resolution.

Hospital Contact Change Form and General Information

Be sure to complete and submit the [Hospital Contact Change Form](#) to ensure we have the correct contact information for your facility in our system. As the data submission deadline approaches, if your facility has not submitted all necessary data, we will contact the personnel on file.

For general information about the IPFQR Program, we encourage you to review the various resources provided on the [QualityNet IPFQR Program Resources](#) web page.

Please do not respond directly to this email. For further assistance regarding the information contained in this message, please submit questions to CMS' Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support via the Quality Question and Answer Tool at https://cmsqualitysupport.servicenowservices.com/qnet_qa or call toll-free (844) 472-4477 or (866) 800-8765 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern.