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**From:** Hospital Compare Support Contractor

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**To:** HIQR, OQR ListServes

**Subject:** Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating 2025 Release Update Clarification

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in our commitment to transparency, will update the Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings with the April 2025 public reporting refresh. CMS will use data from the October 2024 refresh and follow the 2021 methodology (v4.1).

To address concerns about the timeliness of the Overall Star Ratings, CMS has chosen to use more recent data from the October 2024 refresh, providing a better reflection of updated measure data.

Additionally, CMS will continue to exclude data from services provided between January 1, 2020, and June 30, 2020 (Q1 and Q2 2020), due to reporting exceptions granted during that period. Of the 46 measures included in the April 2025 Overall Star Ratings, only two (COMP/HIP/KNEE and OP-32) still reflect this timeframe.

**CMS will use the same measures from the July 2024 Overall Star Ratings with the following updates:**

- **CMS has removed OP-2 and OP-3b, previously included in the Timely & Effective Care Measure Group, as both measures were retired from Care Compare on Medicare.gov in April 2024 and are no longer publicly reported.**
- **For the first time, CMS will include the Safe Use of Opioids measure (Percentage of patients who were prescribed 2 or more opioids or an opioid and benzodiazepine concurrently at discharge) into the Overall Star Rating calculations. This measure is now part of the Timely and Effective Care Measure Group. It was first publicly reported as a mandatory measure on Care Compare on Medicare.gov in October 2024, making the measure eligible for inclusion.**

Questions about the Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings can be submitted via the [QualityNet Question and Answer Tool](#). Under Program, please select: Overall Hospital Star Ratings and choose your specific topic.