



Inpatient Quality Reporting Program

Support Contractor

Updates from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Presentation P.M. Questions and Answers

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September 29, 2014

2:00 p.m. ET

Question 1: RightNow tool? Is it on the portal?

Answer 1: This is the Questions & Answers tool located on the Home Page of QualityNet.

Question 2: OK. I use it all the time, and I don't see anything with that title.

Answer 2: It isn't labeled as "RightNow" in Quality Net. "RightNow" is the name of the background program we use to run the QualityNet Questions & Answers tool.

Question 3: Who would a hospital contact with a CCN question? More specifically, if a hospital wants to merge two CCN numbers under one facility within a hospital system?

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- Answer 3:** The hospital should contact its local licensing agency and its regional CMS office for further assistance.
- Question 4:** Have not been able to run the *Hospital Compare* preview reports as indicated by recent emails. Are others having trouble also? I did not see anything in the known issues.
- Answer 4:** If you are having trouble running the preview reports, please contact the QualityNet Help Desk for assistance.
- Question 5:** Is it too late to submit PC-01 for Quarter 1?
- Answer 5:** Yes, the warehouse is closed for Quarter 1 submissions.
- Question 6:** Is there a document that lists the currently mandated measures along with the submission deadlines for Inpatient, Outpatient and Psychiatry Quality Reporting Programs?
- Answer 6:** For Inpatient, you can access the Measure Comparison document located on QualityNet under Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program, which lists all measures that are required.
- Question 7:** Are CAHs that are participating in IPPS program required to enter zeros?
- Answer 7:** As CAHs are not part of the IQR Program and APU, they are not required to enter the perinatal data.
- Question 8:** Where do CAHs stand on VBP participation - now or in the future?
- Answer 8:** Critical access hospital inclusion in the VBP Program has not been proposed through rule making. Critical access hospitals do not currently participate in the Hospital VBP Program.
- Question 9:** I enter data using the CART tool. We are a CAH hospital. Will I continue using CART?
- Answer 9:** Yes, for chart-abstracted measures, you will be able to continue to use CART.
- Question 10:** Did you say VBP penalty would be applied for hospitals that have 2 or more condition level citations in a survey?

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- Answer 10:** The applicable percentage will not be withheld for hospitals that have had two or more immediate jeopardy citations within the performance period. Additionally, incentive payments will not be provided.
- Question 11:** It would be helpful if QualityNet could speed up the report process. I've gone back more than once to obtain the report and it is not ready.
- Answer 11:** Thank you for your feedback.
- Question 12:** For downloading the report, is it possible to download again, that is, for the second or third time?
- Answer 12:** If you choose to view the report through the use of the magnifying glass option, the report will remain in the queue and will not be deleted.
- Question 13:** What version of the AHRQ software is being used for the PS-I90 measure in the FY 2016 VBP program?
- Answer 13:** The AHRQ software version used for FY 2016 was version 4.4. For more information, you may reference the QualityNet News article at:
www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetBasic&cid=1228773922710.
- Question 14:** Hospital VBP doesn't mention about the percent penalty for Readmissions.
- Answer 14:** You are correct. The Hospital VBP Program and Hospital Readmission Reduction Program (HRRP) are separate CMS quality initiative programs. A reduction through the HRRP does not exclude a hospital from Hospital VBP.
- Question 15:** What would be the best way to get information about Readmissions penalty and % reduction of the base DRG?
- Answer 15:** You may contact the QualityNet Help Desk and specify that your question is in regards to the Hospital Readmission Reduction Program.

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- Question 16:** Where can we find FFY2015 readmission rates or when will they be available?
- Answer 16:** For questions related to the Hospital Readmission Reduction Program (HRRP), you may submit your inquiry to the QualityNet Help Desk.
- Question 17:** Do you have an estimate of how much time (FTE) a QNET System Administrator needs to effectively manage the Inpatient, Outpatient and Psychiatry Quality Improvement Programs?
- Answer 17:** There are no benchmarks for the amount of time or the FTEs that should be devoted to a QualityNet System Administrator. This is determined by each individual hospital.
- Question 18:** What if we use a vendor, such as Truven, to submit our data? Will this vendor submit the PC-01 data to CMS?
- Answer 18:** The determination of whether or not the vendor enters the PC-01 data is between the hospital and the vendor. Please consult with Truven.
- Question 19:** How long should it take to get a report back? I have had reports sit in a queued status for hours if not days. Is this normal?
- Answer 19:** Please contact the QualityNet Help Desk at qnetsupport@hcqis.org if you have difficulty running and receiving a report through the Secure Portal.
- Question 20:** Can you please explain further alternative empiric antibiotic therapy under Pneumonia?
- Answer 20:** Please submit this question via the QualityNet Questions & Answers tool.
- Question 21:** Is PC-1 required for all hospitals to submit? CAHs?
- Answer 21:** If you are an IPPS hospital that is eligible for the IQR Program, then you are required to submit the PC-01 data to receive your annual payment update. As CAHs are not part of the IQR Program and APU, they are not required to enter the perinatal data.
- Question 22:** Was this for the FY 2016 baseline or the performance period? What about for FY 2017?

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- Answer 22:** The answer regarding AHRQ PSI-90 software version use of version 4.4 for FY 2016 was for both the baseline and performance periods. CMS has not announced which software version will be used for FY 2017.
- Question 23:** I meant the questions on the Q&A on QualityNet. I have a few questions that were submitted in August and early September and have not received any response. Just wondering if all those questions will be answered individually like they were prior?
- Answer 23:** Questions submitted to Questions & Answers tool on QualityNet are being answered individually. Due to the large volume in the queue, there may still be a delay in receiving a response.
- Question 24:** What determines when a report goes to auto_route inbox?
- Answer 24:** Some reports are created and stored within the Secure Portal, and other reports are created and stored externally. An external report that cannot be run through the report run interface is generally sent through Auto-Route to providers.
- Question 25:** Could you please repeat the part about prior uterine surgery no longer being exclusion for the PC-01 measure? I am not seeing this in the JC specifications for 2014. Thank you.
- Answer 25:** The data element Prior Uterine Surgery is still an element used in the PC-01 measure. However, the element has been moved to the end of the algorithm and no longer results in a measure outcome of "B" or excluded from the denominator.
- Question 26:** Where can I go to find out what the changes are for the 2015 Core Measure mandatory reporting metrics, specifically, SCIP?
- Answer 26:** The addendum for the 01/01/2015 specifications manual, which will include the changes from the IPPS Final Rule, will be posted to QualityNet the end of October.
- Question 27:** The "Transparency in Pricing" in the final 2015 revision of the Inpatient Rules ... how is this requirement to be reported?
- Answer 27:** Thank you for your question. We aim to give you the most accurate answer possible, and to do so, we would like more information.

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Please submit this question to the Inpatient Questions & Answers tool at <https://cms-ip.custhelp.com/>.

Question 28: Will the feedback reports be available for QIOs to access?

Answer 28: Thank you for your inquiry. Discussions are still ongoing regarding this topic at CMS.

Question 29: When do you anticipate physician VBP to come into play? It was delayed.

Answer 29: For questions about the Value Modifier, the IACS signup process, or participating in the 2014 PQRS as a group or individual, please contact the QualityNet Help Desk.

Question 30: Will CMS include Medicare Managed Care populations in its analysis for the VBP Program?

Answer 30: For IQR, the chart-abstracted measures include all payer sources and would include the Medicare Managed Care populations. The claims-based measures only include Medicare Fee-For-Service patients at this time.

Question 31: My question relates to the outcome VBP measures: Mortality, AHRQ PSI, and CLABSI and CAUTI.

Answer 31: The healthcare-associated infection (HAI) measures utilize data from all payer types. The AHRQ PSI-90 measure index values are calculated only for Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) patients because these data are available to CMS, while data from patients in Medicare Advantage plans are not universally available. The three 30-Day Mortality measures also utilize Medicare FFS enrollees.

Question 32: Do you know if the QIOs will be given access to the feedback reports for their state?

Answer 32: Thank you for your inquiry. Discussions are still ongoing regarding this topic at CMS.

Question 33: Our PPR indicates that our CAUTI data were not submitted, but the Facility, State, and National Report indicates that they were submitted. When will the PPR be corrected?

Answer 33: Please contact the QualityNet Help Desk for further assistance.

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Question 34: Please advise when you anticipate physician VBP to be finalized as it was delayed for this year.

Answer 34: For questions about the Value Modifier, the IACS signup process, or participating in the 2014 PQRS as a group or individual, please contact the QualityNet Help Desk.

Question 35: Is there any contact number available for Mathematica?

Answer 35: Please refer all questions to the “RightNow” Tool.

END

This material was prepared by the Hospital Inpatient Value Incentives, and Quality Reporting (VIQR) Outreach and Education Support Contractor, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
HHSM-500-2013-13007I, FL-IQR-Ch8-11072014-03