

Reference #: 2018-26-OP

From: Quality Reporting Notification
Sent: Wed 6/12/18 11:35 AM
To: OQR Initiative Discussions
Subject: CMS will not update Hospital Compare Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings Data in July 2018

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will not update the Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings for July 2018, as previously scheduled. CMS has decided to postpone the July star ratings update to give time for additional analysis of the impact of changes to some of the measures on the star ratings and to address stakeholder concerns. CMS is dedicated to transparency of quality and cost information for consumers, and committed to holding providers accountable for patient outcomes. When changes are made to the underlying measures it is vital to take the time needed to understand the impact of those changes and ensure we are giving consumers the most useful information. As part of this process, CMS will seek feedback from a multi-disciplinary Technical Expert Panel, a Provider Leadership Workgroup, and a public comment period.

CMS updates the *Hospital Compare* website quarterly, though not all data are updated each quarter. While CMS will not update star ratings this July, CMS will update the data for the following measures on July 25:

- Outcome measures: 30-day mortality, 30-day readmissions, and CMS Patient Safety Indicators (PSIs)
- Outpatient imaging efficiency
- Payment and value of care
- Timely and effective care
- Healthcare-associated infections (HAI)
- Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) Survey.

CMS will also add three new measures to *Hospital Compare*:

- Hospital return days for pneumonia patients (EDAC-30-PN)
- Percentage of patients who received appropriate care for severe sepsis and septic shock (SEP-1)
- Average time patients spent in the emergency department before being sent home (OP-18c) (will only be reported on data.medicare.gov)

CMS is no longer reporting the Pain Management composite 4 on *Hospital Compare* or in the downloadable databases. This composite measure is also being excluded from the calculation of the HCAHPS Summary Star Rating for the July *Hospital Compare* release.

Hospitals should know:

- CMS will **not** publish the Overall Hospital Star Rating from the July Preview Reports on *Hospital Compare*.

- CMS will post the SAS Pack with the next Star Ratings refresh on *Hospital Compare*.
- Star Ratings released in December 2017 will remain on *Hospital Compare* until the next update.

Please submit questions related to Star Ratings to cmsstarratings@lantanagroup.com.

Hospital Compare reports information on approximately 100 quality measures for over 4,000 hospitals nationwide, including over 130 Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Centers.

Hospital Compare provides an Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating so consumers can easily compare hospitals and interpret complex quality information. Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings summarize data from existing measures on *Hospital Compare* for each hospital. With data.medicare.gov, users can explore and download hospital data, as well as data on ambulatory surgical centers, inpatient psychiatric facilities, and some cancer hospitals.

For more CMS news, visit cms.gov/newsroom. Sign up for CMS news [via email](#). Follow CMS on Twitter [@CMSgov](#).