

Summary of CMS Open Door Forum: Home Health

Source: NAHC, April 9, 2024

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) held its most recent Home Health, Hospice and DME Open Door Forum on Wednesday, April 3. Below is the NAHC summary of the home health parts of the forum.

HOME HEALTH CONSUMER ASSESSMENT OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS AND SYSTEMS (CAHPS®)

A new fact sheet has been posted in both English and Spanish. Participating home health agencies are strongly encouraged to include the HHCAHPS fact sheet in the initial patient information packet so that patients are aware of the survey and its importance.

Participants were reminded that a new HHCAHPS reporting year began on April 1, 2024. Additionally, a new HHA Responsibilities and FAQ document has been posted. Agencies that qualify for an exemption can find a new exemption form for calendar year 2026 on the website.

HHAs participating in the HHCAHPS Survey should follow up with their approved survey vendor to make sure that the vendor submits data files well in advance of each quarterly data submission deadline.

HOME HEALTH QUALITY REPORTING PROGRAM

Care Compare is due to refresh this month (April). Home health agencies received their preview reports for this refresh in January 2024. The agency preview reports for the July refresh are now available in the Internet Quality Improvement Evaluation System (iQIES).

CMS will host an OASIS E1 technical informational call for software vendors and developers on Tuesday, April 30, 2024. The call will cover topics such as:

- OASIS-E1 Guidance Manual changes
- OASIS-E1 Data Specifications (V3.01.0) effective January 1, 2025
- System and Validation Utility Tool (VUT) updates
- Submitted Questions & Answers

The vendor call announcement and call-in instructions can be found on the CMS Home Health QRP Spotlight and Announcement [page](#).

CMS also announced that the **OASIS Data Specifications V3.01.0** effective January 1, 2025 are posted on the CMS web site at: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/HomeHealthQualityInits/DataSpecifications>

HOME HEALTH VALUE BASED PURCHASING PROGRAM

Participants were reminded that the first quarterly Preliminary Interim Performance Report (IPR) in Calendar Year (CY) 2024 became available on February 8, 2024. (IPR)in iQIES. The next IPR is due to be released later this month. HHAs are encouraged to review the reports, The quarterly IPRs provide HHAs with their cohort assignment, performance year measure data for the 12 most recent months, and an interim Total Performance Score (TPS). In August, CMS will be releasing the Preliminary Annual Performance Report (APR) which will include the total point score and payment adjustment for CY 2025. A new HHVBP newsletter has been released. The newsletter will be issued on a quarterly basis.