

# Summary of Home Health Updates in Recent CMS Open Door Forum

Source: NAHC, January 17, 2024

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) held its most recent Home Health, Hospice and DME Open Door Forum on Wednesday, January 10, 2024. Following are the home health items that were discussed.

## HOME HEALTH VALUE BASED PURCHASING (HHVBP)

CMS announced a new email address for providers to submit questions regarding the HHVBP model. The new address is [HHVBPquestions@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:HHVBPquestions@cms.hhs.gov). Also announced was a new Expanded HHVBP Model Resource [Index](#). The Technical Expert Panel summary report on the expanded HHVBP model has been released. The TEP was convened to provide feedback on the development of refinements to the measures and scoring methodology, for the original Model and for the expanded HHVBP Model.

The January interim performance reports (IPRs) will be issued soon, CMS encourages all home health agencies to download and review their IPRs. CMS also noted that the January HHVBP newsletter is expected to be issued soon.

## HOME HEALTH CONSUMER ASSESSMENT OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS AND SYSTEMS (HHCAHPS)

Participants were reminded that the next HHCAHPS data submission deadline for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2023 is due January 18, 2024.

CMS reminded participants that home health agencies are eligible for an exemption from participating in the HHCAHPS Survey for the CY 2025 APU if they served 59 or fewer survey eligible patients between April 1, 2022, and March 31, 2023. The Exemption Request Form for the CY 2025 APU is available on <https://homehealthcahps.org>

The HHCAHPS Coordination Team Quarterly Review (CTQR) newsletter has been posted and includes:

- The important dates for HHAs and survey vendors, including January HHCAHPS 2024 vendor training requirements with a registration link.

- Guidance for HHAs on understanding their publicly reported HHCAHPS survey data, focusing on an explanation of why footnotes are assigned to some HHAs, along with tips for HHAs and survey vendors to try to avoid footnotes.

## HOME HEALTH QUALITY REPORTING PROGRAM (HHQRP)

The next refresh for Care Compare is scheduled for January 2024. The preview reports for the January refresh were released in October 2023.

A video tutorial for the assessment of C1310. Signs and Symptoms of Delirium taken from the Confusion Assessment Method (CAM<sup>®</sup>) which is now collected on the Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS)-E. This training video demonstrates a cognitive assessment used to code the items within C1310.

On November 16, 2023, the CMS hosted a live Q&A session about the CMS Health Equity Confidential Feedback Reports for post-acute care (PAC) providers in the Home Health (HH), Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF), Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH), and Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) settings, which were released in October 2023. The PAC Health Equity Confidential Feedback Reports stratified the Discharge to Community and Medicare Spending Per Beneficiary measures by dual-enrollment status and race/ethnicity.

The live Q&A session gave participants an opportunity to ask CMS subject matter experts about the report's methodologies and interpretations. Recordings of the live Q&A sessions can be found on the HHQRP training [page](#).

CMS announce the release of the draft Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS) E1. CMS anticipates the revised OASIS will be implemented on January 1, 2025.