

CMS Announces Relief for Facilities Participating in Quality Reporting Programs in Response to COVID-19

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is supporting clinicians on the front lines by getting red tape out of the way so the healthcare delivery system can focus on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) response.

CMS is implementing additional extreme and uncontrollable circumstances policy exceptions and extensions for upcoming quality measure reporting and data submission deadlines for the following CMS programs shown below.

Post-Acute Care (PAC) Programs

- Long Term Care Hospital Quality Reporting Program
- Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting Program
- Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing Program

Hospital Programs

- Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program
- Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting Program

2019 Data Submission

- Deadlines for October 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019 (Q4) data submission optional.
- If Q4 is submitted, it will be used to calculate the 2019 performance and payment (where appropriate).
- If Q4 is not submitted, the 2019 performance will be calculated based on data from January 1, 2019-September 30, 2019.

2020 Data Submission

- Data from January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020 (Q1-Q2) does not need to be submitted to CMS for purposes of complying with quality reporting program requirements.

- *For the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Value-Based Purchasing Program, qualifying claims will be excluded from the claims-based SNF 30-Day All-Cause Readmission Measure (SNFRM; NQF #2510) calculation for Q1-Q2.
- CMS will not count data from January 1, 2020 (Q1 – Q2) for performance or payment programs. Data **does not** need to be submitted to CMS for this time period.

Quality Payment Program

CMS will continue monitoring the developing COVID-19 situation and assess options to bring additional relief to clinicians and their staff so they can focus on caring for patients.

For More Information

Please reference the [2019 QPP Data Submission User Guide](#). For information specific to CMS, please visit the [Current Emergencies Website](#). To see the full Press Release regarding today's COVID-19 update from CMS, [click here](#).

For Quality Payment Program questions you can contact 1-866-288-8292, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM-8:00 PM ET or by e-mail at: QPP@cms.hhs.gov.

- Customers who are hearing impaired can dial 711 to be connected to a TRS Communications Assistant.

If you have questions, please contact us via any of the following:

- Enter a CSR in Nexus: [Nexus Login](#)
- Call us: [877-532-6347](tel:877-532-6347)

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