**November 13, 2014  
FY2016 Payment Update Determination: November 15, 2014 Submission Reminder**

**October 23 (MLN Connects) and 29 (e-mail blast to listservs), 2014  
FY2016 Payment Update Determination: Data Submissions Deadline Extension**

Octo**ber 23 (MLN Connects) and 29 (e-mail blast to listservs), 2014  
FY2016 Payment Update Determination: Two Influenza Measures Adopted**

**October 27, 2014  
Special Open Door Forum for Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP):  
Wednesday, October 29, 2014, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time, Conference Call Only**

**October 24, 2014  
NOTIFICATION: FY2016 Payment Update Determination: Data Submissions Deadline Extension**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) has extended the deadline for quarter 1 (Q1) 2014 quality measure data submitted via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). The new deadline for submissions of quarter 1 (Q1) 2014 NHSN data is November 15, 2014. Please note that this new deadline aligns with the previously established quarter 2 2014 quality measure data submission deadline, effectively requiring the submission of both quarter 1 2014 NHSN data and all quarter 2 2014 data no later than 11:59:59 p.m. on November 15, 2014. This deadline extension for IRFs is only for quality measure data submitted via the CDC’s NHSN. CMS strongly encourages all facilities to submit data several days prior to the deadline to allow time to address any submission issues and to provide opportunity to review submissions to ensure data is complete.

For the FY 2016 payment update determination, only data submitted for the following quality measure are affected by the quarter 1 (Q1), 2014 data submission deadline extension:

* National Health Safety Network (NHSN) Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI) Outcome Measure (NQF #0138)

**Q1: January 1– March 31, 2014**: Quality data collected during this timeframe was originally due on August 15, 2014. This deadline has now been extended to November 15, 2014. This extension is **only** for quality data submitted to CMS via the CDC’s NHSN.

**Q2: April 1 – June 30, 2014**: **All** quality data collected during this timeframe is to be submitted to CMS no later than 11:59:59 p.m. on November 15, 2014. This includes data collected using the Quality Indicator section of the IRF-PAI, as well as data submitted to CMS via the CDC’s NHSN.

**October 1, 2014**  
**ATTENTION IRF PROVIDERS – MRSA AND CDI TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT**  
Please check the [IRF QRP Training webpage](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/IRF-Quality-Reporting/Training.html) for an announcement regarding upcoming IRF Training via a Special Open Door Forum (SODF) on Wednesday, October 29, 2014, from 1:00 p.m. -2:30 p.m. E.S.T., including participation instructions. This training will cover the data collection and submission of the upcoming required quality measures NHSN Facility-wide Inpatient Hospital-onset Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) Bacteremia Outcome Measure (NQF#1716) and NHSN Facility-wide Inpatient Hospital-onset Clostridium difficile Infection (CDI) Outcome Measure (NQF #1717), which IRFs are required to begin reporting as of January 1, 2015

**September 23, 2014  
Attention Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) Providers!**  
On June 30, 2014 CMS mailed notifications to all IRFs that were determined to be out of compliance with the CMS IRF Quality Reporting Program (QRP) requirements. Any IRF that received a notice of non-compliance had the opportunity to submit a request for reconsideration of the initial CMS determination of non-compliance, with respect to quality data submissions affecting the FY 2015 annual increase factor. We have completed our review of all IRF QRP requests for reconsideration. All notifications will be mailed by Tuesday, September 23, 2014. If your IRF has applied for reconsideration and is expecting to receive a letter of notification, we kindly ask that you allow at least 7 days, beginning with September 23, 2014, before submitting inquiries to our help desk regarding the status of your notification. If your IRF has applied for reconsideration and does not receive a letter of notification by Tuesday, September 30, 2014, you may contact our reconsiderations help desk for assistance. Please send your inquiries to: [IRFQRPReconsiderations@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:IRFQRPReconsiderations@cms.hhs.gov).

**May 6, 2014**  
The training materials for the May 12, 2014 IRF QRP Provider Training have now been posted on the [CMS IRF Training](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/IRF-Quality-Reporting/Training.html) webpage. To access these materials, please select the link titled Training in the upper left-hand corner of this webpage. The training materials are located under the [Downloads](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/IRF-Quality-Reporting/Spotlights-Announcements.html#downloads) section of the webpage.

**April 29, 2014  
! ATTENTION ALL IRF PROVIDERS !  
INPATIENT REHABILITATION FACILITY QUALITY REPORTING PROGRAM TRAINING  
Monday, May 12, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. EDT  
CMS Central Office Auditorium, Baltimore, MD**

Please check the [IRF Training](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/IRF-Quality-Reporting/Training.html) webpage for more details. The IRF QRP Training webpage is available by selecting the link of the same name in the upper left-hand corner of this webpage.

**April 25, 2014**

**Draft Specifications for the Functional Status Quality Measures for Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities**

**(Version 2)**

This document describes draft specifications for four functional status quality measures for inpatient rehabilitation facilities (IRFs). This work builds on previous work, including the Development and Testing of the Continuity Assessment Record and Evaluation (CARE), the Post-Acute Care Payment Reform Demonstration (PAC PRD), and the Analysis of Crosscutting Medicare Functional Status Quality Metrics Using the Continuity Assessment Record and Evaluation. A Technical Expert Panel (TEP) convened by RTI International was consulted during the development of these measure specifications via one in-person meeting and several conference calls.

A summary of the draft specifications is posted in the “[Downloads](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/IRF-Quality-Reporting/Spotlights-Announcements.html#downloads)” section below.

**March 28, 2014  
Technical Expert Panel on the Development of Cross-Setting Functional Status Quality Measures**  
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services contracted with RTI International to develop functional status quality measures for inpatient rehabilitation facilities (IRFs), long-term care hospitals (LTCHs), and skilled nursing facilities (SNFs). As part of the quality measure development work, RTI convened a technical expert panel (TEP) in September 2013.

The purpose of the TEP meeting was to gain input on the development of functional status quality measures using functional status items included on the Continuity Assessment Record and Evaluation (CARE) Item Set. The TEP consisted of rehabilitation clinicians, researchers, and administrators with expertise in functional assessment, quality improvement, and quality measure development across IRF, SNF, and LTCH settings. TEP members provided input to guide the development of the quality measures, including feedback on the individual CARE functional status items, the target population inclusion and exclusion criteria, and patient demographic and clinical factors that could affect function outcomes (risk adjustors).

A summary of the TEP is posted in the “[Downloads](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/IRF-Quality-Reporting/Spotlights-Announcements.html#downloads)” section below .This report summarizes the feedback and recommendations provided by the TEP regarding the proposed functional status measures.

**March 19, 2014  
Quality Reporting Preliminary Review Reports Available on March 21, 2014**  
The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) is announcing the availability of Quality Reporting Preliminary Review Reports for Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) providers beginning March 21, 2014. In response to requests made to CMS by providers regarding the opportunity for provider feedback reports, a preliminary step has been made prior to the implementation of public reporting, in which providers are able to view their quality data.  
  
A CMS Quality Reporting Preliminary Review Report informational and instructional document has now been posted. The instructional and informational document provides guidance on how to access the Review Report. Other useful provider information includes an explanation on how to read the Review Report, with a detailed explanation of the data that is contained within the Review Report; numerous resource links; and helpful web sites for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).  
CMS has named Health Care Innovation Services (HCIS) as the outreach, education and communication support contractor for the IRF Quality Reporting program, as well as the respondent for any questions providers may have regarding Preliminary Review Reports. Questions may be directed to the HCIS Help Desk at [help@hcareis.com](mailto:help@hcareis.com).  
  
Guidance on accessing and understanding your IRF’s Quality Reporting Preliminary Review Report can be accessed by selecting the link titled **IRF QRP Preliminary Review Report Help Document**, under the [Downloads](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/IRF-Quality-Reporting/Spotlights-Announcements.html#downloads) section of this webpage below.