



## Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Quality Measure (QM) Background and Methodology Fact Sheet (CBE #3235)

*This fact sheet contains information about the Hospice and Palliative Care Composite Process Measure – Comprehensive Assessment at Admission (Consensus-Based Entity (CBE) endorsed #3235), also known as “the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Quality Measure (QM)”.*

### What is the Hospice and Palliative Care Composite Process Measure – Comprehensive Assessment at Admission?

This **single** measure, also known as “the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure,” captures whether **seven key** care processes were conducted upon a patients’ admission to hospice. Historically, the Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) Hospice Item Set (HIS) captured individual data on these seven care process quality measures (QMs), listed in **Table 1**, at the time of admission to hospice. While each of these care processes are individually important, CBE #3235 captures, in a single measure, the proportion of patients for whom the hospice performed **all** seven care processes.

This is an “all or none” composite measure, which means that in order to receive credit for the measure for any given patient stay, the hospice must perform **all** seven

care processes listed in **Table 1** for that patient, as applicable. This is **not an average** of the hospice’s performance on individual care processes. The “all or none” criterion requires hospices to perform **all** seven care processes in order to receive credit, which is different from an average-based composite measure and sets a higher bar for performance.

### How does the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure account for conditional measures?

In addition to being an “all or none” measure, CBE #3235 also includes conditional measures. Conditional measures are measures for which inclusion in the denominator is “dependent” or “conditional” on a response to a previous item. For example, for a patient to be included in the denominator of the dyspnea treatment component, the patient must have screened positive for dyspnea.

Table 1. Hospice Item Set Quality Measures
Treatment Preferences
Beliefs/Values Addressed (if desired by patient)
Pain Screening
Pain Assessment
Dyspnea Screening
Dyspnea Treatment
Patients Treated with an Opioid Who Are Given a Bowel Regimen

This is because the hospice would not initiate treatment for shortness of breath unless the patient was actually short of breath.

Three of the seven care processes are conditional measures. The measure components, and their conditions for inclusion, are as follows:

- **Pain Assessment:** To be included in this measure, the patient must screen positive for pain as indicated by J0900C.
- **Dyspnea Treatment:** To be included in this measure, the patient must screen positive for shortness of breath as indicated by J2030C.
- **Patients Treated with an Opioid Who Are Given a Bowel Regimen:** To be included in this measure, a scheduled opioid must be initiated or continued as indicated by N0500A.

In the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure, if a patient does not meet the denominator criteria (i.e., the care process was not clinically indicated) for one of the conditional components, the hospice will by default ‘receive credit’ for that conditional component in the calculation of the CBE #3235. Please refer to the example in **Exhibit 1** for an explanation of how conditional measures are treated differently in CBE #3235.

**Exhibit 1. Example: Conditional Measures and the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure**

If a patient screened ‘negative’ for dyspnea, the patient would be ineligible for Dyspnea Treatment. However, in the calculation of their CBE #3235, the hospice would ‘receive credit’ for the Dyspnea Treatment component of the Measure even without completing the Dyspnea Treatment care process. This is because, based on the results of the patient’s dyspnea screening, it is appropriate for the hospice not to proceed with dyspnea treatment as the patient does not have dyspnea.

Please note that this methodology applies only to the calculation of the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure, not the calculation of the individual component. **Table 2** below details how the three conditional components are accounted for when calculating CBE #3235.

**Table 2. What are the various ways that my hospice may receive credit for a conditional component in the calculation of the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure?**

*Note that this methodology does not apply to the calculation of the individual components.*

Pain Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The patient reported pain during the pain screening, and a comprehensive pain assessment was completed within 1 day of the initial nursing assessment during which the patient screened positive for pain, including at least five of the required characteristics, <b>OR</b></li> <li>➤ The patient reported that they had no pain during the pain screening.</li> </ul>
Dyspnea Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ If the patient screened positive for shortness of breath but declined treatment for shortness of breath, <b>OR</b></li> <li>➤ If the patient reported shortness of breath during the dyspnea screening, and treatment for shortness of breath was initiated within 1 day of the initial nursing assessment during which the patient screened positive for shortness of breath, <b>OR</b></li> <li>➤ The patient screened negative for shortness of breath.</li> </ul>

Patients Treated with an Opioid Who Are Given a Bowel Regimen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There is documentation that a bowel regimen was initiated or continued within 1 day of a scheduled opioid being initiated or continued, <b>OR</b></li> <li>➤ There is documentation of why a bowel regimen was not initiated, <b>OR</b></li> <li>➤ A scheduled opioid was not initiated or continued.</li> </ul>
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## Calculating the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure

This measure represents the percentage of patient stays during which the patient received **all seven of the individual care processes for which they are eligible**. Exhibit 2 below provides guidance on how to calculate the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure for your hospice.

### Exhibit 2. Calculating the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure

**Step 1: Identify patients that are eligible for the measure denominator.** The denominator for the measure includes all patient stays except for those that meet the denominator exclusion criteria outlined below:

**Exclusion Criteria:** Patients meeting any of the three conditions below will be excluded from the denominator:

1. Patients younger than 18 (as indicated by the birth date (A0900) and admission date (A0220),
2. Patients that have not been discharged from the hospice, as determined by the submission of a Hospice Item Set (HIS)-Discharge record, and
3. Discharged patients that do not have a matching HIS-Admission record.

**Step 2:** After identifying the patient stays that meet the denominator inclusion criteria (see above), **for each of these patient stays, check the seven individual components for which you have met the requirements and received credit for** (Remember that you may receive credit for conditional components even if the patient was not eligible for the conditional component itself (see **Table 2** above); conditional measures are indicated by “\*”):

- Treatment Preferences**
- Beliefs/Values Addressed (if desired by patient)**
- Pain Screening**
- Pain Assessment\***
- Dyspnea Screening**
- Dyspnea Treatment \***
- Patients Treated with an Opioid Who Are Given a Bowel Regimen \***

**Step 3: For each patient stay, add up the number of components for which you met the requirements:**

If your total = 7, this patient stay met the numerator criteria for CBE #3235 and you **will receive credit** for this patient for the QM.

If your total is less than 7, this patient stay did not meet the numerator criteria for CBE #3235 and you will **not** receive credit for this patient for this QM.

**Step 4: To calculate your hospice's overall Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure score:**

$$\frac{\text{the number of patient stays that met the numerator and received credit for the QM (Step 3)}}{\text{final denominator, after accounting for exclusion criteria (Step 1)}} \times 100$$

## Reporting of the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure

Providers are able to view their Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure scores on their Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reporting (CASPER) Hospice-Level Quality Measure Report and Hospice Patient Stay- Level Quality Measure Report (QM Reports), as well as on their Preview Reports in advance of public reporting on Care Compare. For information on accessing and interpreting CASPER QM Reports, please refer to the document *Getting Started with Hospice CASPER Quality Measure Reports* located in the Downloads section on the [HQRP Requirements and Best Practices](#) page.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How does the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure work for pain assessment if pain is not an active problem?**

There is a skip pattern built into the HIS so that a comprehensive pain assessment is not required if pain is not an active problem. If documentation in the patient's clinical record indicates that pain is not an active problem for the patient, the clinician would skip the item for the comprehensive pain assessment (J0910). Therefore, in instances where the patient is not in pain at the time of the screening, but pain is an active problem for the patient, the HIS directs you to complete Item J0910.

If the HIS directs the provider to skip the comprehensive pain assessment item, this does not "count against you" in the quality measure.

*Note: The HIS is a standardized set of items intended to capture patient-level data on each hospice patient admission. This information is used for quality measurement. The HIS does not replace a thorough and ongoing assessment of each patient as required by the Medicare Hospice Conditions of Participation, nor does it replace standard clinical practice and judgment.*

For more information, refer to chapter 2 in the HIS Manual located in the Downloads section of the [Hospice Item Set webpage](#).

### **My hospice's Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure score is lower than the seven components, and/or the numerator and denominator data does not match up with the sum of the numerator and denominator data of the seven components. Why is this?**

To qualify for the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure numerator, the hospice must complete all seven component processes. For example, if a hospice delivered six of the seven individual care processes, then the hospice would not receive credit for the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure. There is no 'partial credit' for this measure. Additionally, CBE #3235 includes conditional components, which may impact the calculation of the measure numerator. Not all patients qualify for the conditional components, and in

these instances, the measure takes into account when patients are not eligible for the conditional care processes and should receive credit toward the CBE #3235 calculation. Further, patients admitted prior to April 1, 2017 are not eligible for inclusion in the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure (because these admissions occurred prior to the implementation of this measure), but these patients are still eligible for inclusion in the seven component HIS measures. The patient stay-level CASPER QM Report provides information on which patient stays trigger the seven individual components, as well as the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure.

Since this measure is not average-based and is an “all or none” composite measure, it is possible for the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure score to be lower than the lowest component measure score. To understand why this is the case, see the example on the next page in **Exhibit 3** which illustrates this concept using the context of school performance.

### Exhibit 3. Understanding why your Hospice Comprehensive Assessment score may be lower than your individual component scores

The following simplified example, using school performance, may help explain why the “all or none” composition of the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure could result in a lower measure score than your lowest component score.

A school has three students: Alex, John, and Erin. The school was supposed to teach the students three subjects: Math, Science, and English. Let’s look at how the school did:

	Math	Science	English
Alex	Yes	Yes	No
John	No	Yes	Yes
Erin	Yes	Yes	Yes

The school taught Alex: Math and Science. The school taught John: Science and English.

The school taught Erin: Math, Science, and English.

#### How well did the school do at teaching each of the subjects?

Teaching Math: 66% – 2 out of 3 students learned Math

Teaching Science: 100% – 3 out of 3 students learned Science

Teaching English: 66% – 2 out of 3 students learned English

#### How well did the school do at teaching each student all of the subjects (i.e., “all or none” composite measure)?

The school only taught Math, Science, and English to 1 out of 3 students (Erin) – **33%** of students

#### How does this example relate to the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure?

Calculating how well the school did at teaching *each* of the three subjects is similar to calculating how you did on each of the seven components. The rate at which the school taught Math had no relation to its rate of teaching science, just as a hospice’s score on treatment preferences has no relation to its pain screening score. The measure scores, or subjects in this example, are independent of each other.

Calculating how well the school did in teaching each student *all the subjects* is similar to calculating how you did on the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure. Since this composite measure is an “all or none” measure, you have to complete all seven component processes to receive credit for the composite, just as you had to teach all three subjects to the students to receive credit in the above example. The composite measure sets a higher performance threshold, as can be seen in the school example, and this makes it possible for the “all or none” composite measure score to be lower than any individual component score.

#### Where can I find more information about the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure?

For more information about the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure, including measure specifications, please refer to the HQRP QM User’s Manual available in the Downloads section of the HQRP [Current Measures](#) Page.

### Further Questions?

For further questions about the Hospice Comprehensive Assessment Measure, please contact the Hospice Quality Help Desk at the email address: **Hospice Quality Help Desk:** [HospiceQualityQuestions@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:HospiceQualityQuestions@cms.hhs.gov)