



**Dialysis Facility Care Compare on Medicare.gov (DFCC)
National Provider Call Questions and Answers**

Summary of Important Dates

Preview Period	Data Included	DFCC Refresh/Release Timing
February 1 – 15, 2022	- Updates to In-Center Hemodialysis Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers (ICH CAHPS) data	April 2022 Refresh
Summer 2022	- Updates to clinical measures using calendar year (CY) 2020 data, excluding the Extraordinary Circumstance Exception (ECE) periods - No update to Quality of Patient Care Star Ratings	Autumn 2022 Release
Autumn 2022	- Updates to clinical measures using CY 2021 data - No update to Quality of Patient Care Star Ratings	Early 2023 Release
Autumn 2022	- Dry Run of new emergency department measures and changes to star rating methodology using CY 2021 data	TBD

What is Dialysis Facility Care Compare on Medicare.gov (DFCC)?

[Dialysis Facility Care Compare on Medicare.gov](#), formerly known as Dialysis Facility Compare, is a website that allows patients and health centers to view and compare quality data about dialysis facilities. CMS also uses these data, organized into a series of measures, to create a star rating system that can help patients make educated decisions about where to get their dialysis treatments.

What is Changing in the April 2022 Refresh?

The April 2022 Refresh is one of a series of updates made each year to the data featured on DFCC. With the April 2022 Refresh, patients and facilities can now see the latest data from dialysis facilities on [Dialysis Facility Care Compare](#).

- The following ICH CAHPS survey of patients’ experiences measures will be updated on DFCC:
 - Individual measures and Star Ratings of ICH CAHPS survey of patients’ experiences
 - Kidney doctor’s communication and caring
 - Dialysis center staff care and operations
 - Providing information to patients
 - Rating of kidney doctors
 - Rating of dialysis center staff
 - Rating of dialysis facility
 - Overall Star Rating of ICH CAHPS survey of patients’ experiences

What is Changing in the Autumn 2022 Release?

CY 2020 results will be released in autumn 2022.

- Each of the clinical measures will be calculated using CY 2020 data, excluding the Extraordinary Circumstance Exception (ECE) period
- Updated versions of Standardized Mortality Ratio (SMR), Standardized Hospitalization Ratio (SHR), Standardized Readmission Ratio (SRR), and Standardized Transfusion Ratio (STrR) will be used for this release
- The preview period for this release will be held in summer 2022

What is Changing in the Early 2023 Release?

CY 2021 results will be released in early 2023.



- Each of the clinical measures will be calculated using CY 2021 data. For measures that also include CY 2020 data, the ECE period of 2020 will be excluded.
- The same measure methodology from the autumn 2022 release will be used
- The preview period for this release will be held in autumn 2022

What will Be Included in the Dry Run Table in the Early 2023 Release Preview Report?

- A Dry Run table will be calculated and available to facilities during the preview period for the Early 2023 Release. These results will not be released publicly with the other information in the preview period in early 2023.
- During the preview period for the Early 2023 release, we will start to dry run two new measures
 - Standardized Emergency Department Ratio (SEDR)
 - Standardized Ratio of Emergency Department Encounters Occurring Within 30 Days of Hospital Discharge (ED30) for Dialysis Facilities
- Calculation of Clinical Quality of Care Star Ratings utilizing updated methodology will also be part of this dry run
 - A Technical Expert Panel was recently held to discuss changes to the Star Rating Methodology.
 - Methodology will be publicly released prior to the Dry Run.
- The measures and methodology previewed in this Dry Run may be incorporated into future DFCC releases

Will the Quality of Patient Care Star Ratings Be Updated?

The Quality of Patient Care Star Ratings will not be updated with these releases.

Who is Affected by the Refresh/Release of Data on DFCC?

DFCC displays ratings of the quality of care provided by dialysis facilities based on a series of quality measures. Facilities have had their individual measure scores updated based on the latest data for a number of these quality measures. Facilities have an opportunity to review the data and raise any concerns with CMS before a refresh/release goes live.

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