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Understanding Measures, Star Ratings, and Quality Outcomes

June 27, 2024

1 – 2 PM ET

Agenda



Agenda

Topic	Speaker
July 2024 Refresh Overview	Darrick Hunter, CMS
October 2024 Release Overview	Darrick Hunter, CMS
New Measures for October 2024	Stephanie Clark, CMS
Preview Period for October 2024	Stephanie Clark, CMS
Accessing Patient Lists in EQRS	Yvette Brown, ICF
ICH CAHPS Survey Updates	Amy Hendershott, RTI
CMS Stakeholder Updates	Darrick Hunter, CMS
Q&A	

July 2024 Refresh Overview

July 2024 Refresh Overview



With the July 2024 refresh, the following measures on Dialysis Facility Care Compare (DFCC) will be updated with data from October 2022- September 2023:

- Adult and child patients who had enough waste removed from their blood during hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis
- Adult patients who had too much calcium in their blood
- Hemoglobin management (Downloadable Data Only)
- Phosphorus concentrations in the blood (Downloadable Data Only)
- Adult patients who received treatment through an arteriovenous fistula
- Adult patients who had a catheter (tube) left in a vein for at least 3 consecutive complete months, for their regular hemodialysis treatments
- Measurement of nPCR for Pediatric Hemodialysis Patients
- Patients who were on the kidney or kidney-pancreas transplant waiting list

The HCP Vaccination Measure has also been updated. It is updated quarterly, and the data used in this release is from July-September 2023.

October 2024 Release Overview

October 2024 Release Overview



With the October 2024 release, the following measures on DFCC will be updated with data from Calendar Year (CY) 2023:

- Adult and child patients who had enough waste removed from their blood during hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis
- Adult patients who had too much calcium in their blood
- Frequency of patient death, hospital admission, or readmission
- Frequency of transfusions
- Hemoglobin management (Downloadable Data Only)
- Phosphorus concentrations in the blood (Downloadable Data Only)
- Adult patients who received treatment through an arteriovenous fistula
- Adult patients who had a catheter (tube) left in a vein for at least 3 consecutive complete months, for their regular hemodialysis treatments
- Measurement of nPCR for pediatric hemodialysis patients
- Patients who were on the kidney or kidney-pancreas transplant waiting list
- Transplant waitlist within a year of dialysis initiation
- Prevention of bloodstream infections
- Emergency department visits
- Emergency department encounters visits 30 days of hospital discharge
- Percentage of healthcare personnel who completed COVID-19 primary vaccination series
- Standardized Modality Switch Ratio for Incident Dialysis Patients (SMoSR) (details in later slides)

The star ratings will also be updated with this release.

October 2024 Data Release - ICH CAHPS Survey



With the October 2024 release, the following measures on DFCC will be updated with data from the 2023 Spring and 2023 Fall ICH CAHPS Surveys:

The scores and star ratings for the following survey measures:

- Kidney doctor's communication and caring composite
- Quality of dialysis center care and operations composite
- Providing information to patients' composite
- Rating of kidney doctors
- Rating of dialysis center staff
- Rating of dialysis center

The Overall Star Rating of the ICH CAHPS Survey of Patients' Experiences is also updated with this release.

New Measures for October 2024

New Measures for October 2024



- Beginning with the October 2024 release, CMS will report the **Standardized Modality Switch Ratio for Incident Dialysis Patients (SMoSR)** on Medicare.gov
- This measure was included in a dry run table in facility preview reports for the past three quarters.
- **Standardized Modality Switch Ratio** provides information about the number of patients that consented to changing their treatment modality to a home modality after initially starting on in-center hemodialysis, as a result of on-going education efforts and effective decision support by the dialysis facility. The results show whether patients at the facility switched modalities less often (worse than expected), more often (better than expected) or about the same (as expected) compared to similar patients treated at other dialysis centers.

New Measures for October 2024



- **Numerator:** Observed number of first switches from in-center hemodialysis to a home dialysis modality (peritoneal dialysis or home hemodialysis) among eligible patients at the facility during the time period.
- **Denominator:** Expected number of first switches from in-center hemodialysis to a home dialysis modality (peritoneal dialysis or home hemodialysis) among eligible patients at the facility during the time period, given the national average of modality switches, and patient case-mix at the facility.

- **Why is this information important?**
 - Dialysis modality impacts other clinical outcomes (e.g., anemia, cardiovascular related outcomes, infection) and patient reported outcomes (e.g., experience of care). Measures of modality type reflect robust education, effective presentation of modality educational materials (facility process), and facilitation of patient decision making by the dialysis unit (facility process). These processes can help patients make an informed choice and select a home dialysis modality if they wish that may best fit with their personal goals and values.

Preview Period for October 2024

Preview Period



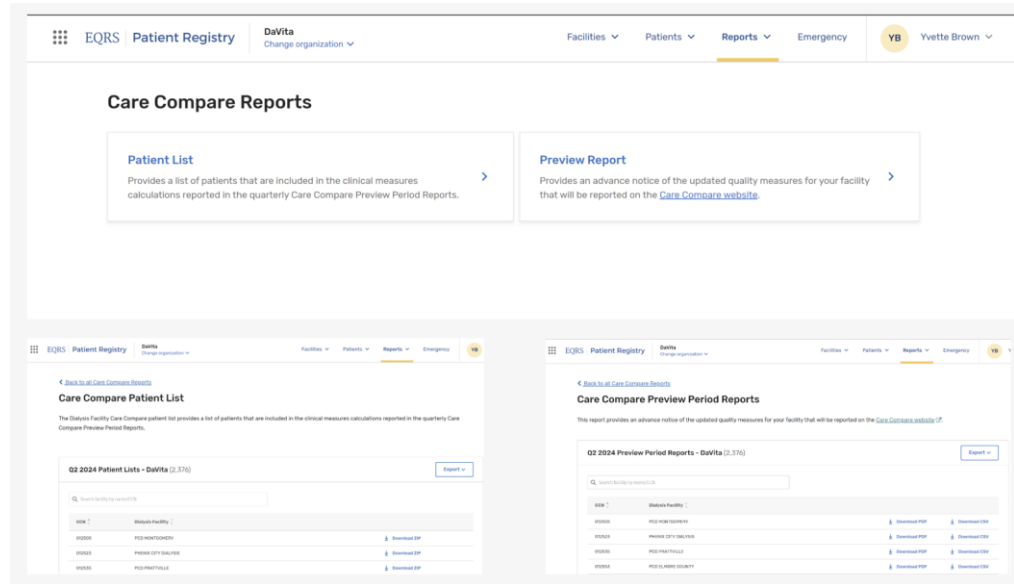
- The preview period for the October 2024 DFCC release will be held July 15 – August 15, 2024. Facility level reports will be posted on dialysisdata.org.
- During the preview period, you may submit comments to CMS on the measures included in this report. Your comments will be shared with CMS but will not appear on the DFCC website.
- At this time, we are unable to provide patient lists for the July preview period for the October 2024 release. However, a new feature will be coming for the November preview period for the January 2025 release (*See next slides*).

Accessing Patient Lists in EQRS

Accessing Patient Lists in EQRS

Accessing Patient Lists in EQRS

- The Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center at the University of Michigan (UM-KECC) generates reports for facilities and large dialysis organizations (LDOs) each quarter.
- The files known as **“patient lists”** and **“preview period reports”** will be available in EQRS which will simplify this process.



The screenshot displays the EQRS Patient Registry interface. The top navigation bar includes 'EQRS Patient Registry', 'DaVita Change organization', and user information 'YB Yvette Brown'. The main content area is titled 'Care Compare Reports' and contains two cards: 'Patient List' and 'Preview Report'. Below this, two detailed views are shown. The left view is 'Care Compare Patient List' for 'Q2 2024 Patient Lists - DaVita (2,376)', featuring a search bar and a table with columns for 'Site #' and 'Business Facility'. The right view is 'Care Compare Preview Period Reports' for 'Q2 2024 Preview Period Reports - DaVita (2,376)', featuring a search bar and a table with columns for 'Site #' and 'Business Facility'. Both tables list sites such as PEG-NEW YORK, PEG-NEW YORK, PEG-NEW YORK, PEG-NEW YORK, and PEG-NEW YORK, each with download links for PDF and CSV formats.

ICH CAHPS Survey Updates

ICH CAHPS Survey Updates



- In an effort to reduce survey burden and increase response rates, CMS tested a shortened ICH CAHPS Survey, analyzed the data, and discussed results with survey experts and ESRD stakeholders.
 - One of the measures in the shortened survey is now undergoing the Measures Under Consideration (MUC) process for approval.
- CMS is continuing to analyze whether a web-based mode of data collection will work for the ICH CAHPS Survey, given the survey population.
 - To assist with possible further testing of a web mode, dialysis centers are strongly encouraged to add patient email addresses in the EQRS database.

CMS Stakeholder Updates

- CMS recently launched a new DFCC listserv to better communicate with partners and constituents about DFCC-related news and resources—including refreshes and new resources.
- We also conducted in-depth interviews with patients on dialysis who received a kidney transplant to talk about their experiences, what they wish they knew, and what resources would be most helpful.
- We're currently developing a patient-centered video series. The first video is about what to know about kidney transplant as a treatment option for kidney disease. This video features testimonials from patients who were on dialysis who received a kidney transplant.
 - We are looking at other potential video opportunities as well (e.g., Day in the Life).

Questions?

- ➔ For questions about DFCC please email the UM-KECC helpdesk at dialysisdata@umich.edu
- ➔ For questions about EQRS data submission, contact the QualityNet helpdesk at (866) 288-8912 or <http://help.mycrownweb.org/>
- ➔ For questions about the ICH CAHPS® Survey, contact the project team at <https://ichcahps.org>

Thank you!