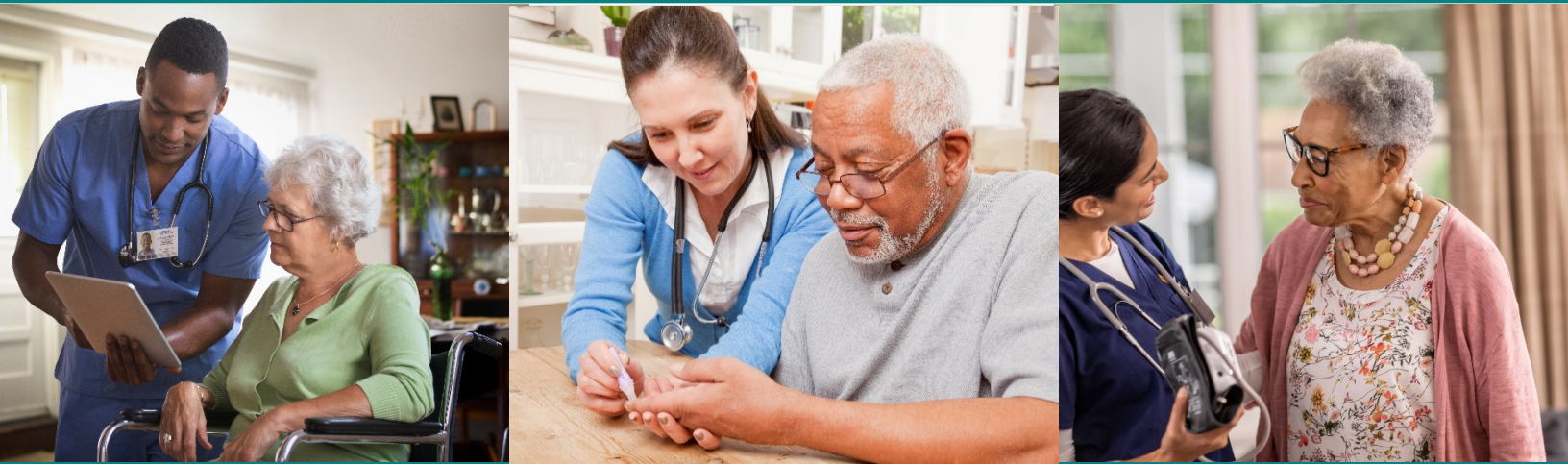


## EXPANDED HOME HEALTH VALUE-BASED PURCHASING (HHVBP) MODEL

# First Performance Year Quick Guide



January 2023

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## Introduction

The expanded Home Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP) Model began on January 1, 2022 with calendar year (CY) 2022 being a pre-implementation year. The expanded HHVBP Model includes Medicare-certified home health agencies (HHAs) in all 50 states, District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories. The first full performance year for the expanded HHVBP Model is CY 2023, beginning January 1, 2023. CY 2025 will be the first payment year, with payment adjustment amounts determined based on CY 2023 performance.

As the expanded HHVBP Model launches into the start of the first performance year, this resource provides a succinct explanation of what HHAs can expect in CY 2023 and some strategic preparations to consider.

## About the Expanded HHVBP Model's First Performance Year (CY 2023)

**Situation:** HHAs' quality performance results for CY 2023 will determine the payment adjustment percentage that can range between -5% and +5%. This payment adjustment percentage (also referred to as the Adjusted Payment Percentage [APP]) will apply to CY 2025 Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) claims.

In their strategic planning, HHAs should keep in mind that the expanded HHVBP Model continues beyond the first performance year (CY 2023) and first payment year (CY 2025). Effective quality management actions that lead to sustained high performance may impact HHA Medicare FFS payments beyond CY 2025.

**Background:** The expanded HHVBP Model:

- Creates new financial incentives for high achievement and improved performance on quality measures.
- Establishes financial penalties for low achievement and lack of improvement on quality measures.
- Is competitive. Quality performance is assessed relative to the performance of national, volume-based cohort of peers (e.g., small-volume cohort or large-volume cohort).

**Assessment:** Timely and effective HHA quality management strategies and actions can influence the level of performance on quality measures and future payment adjustments.

**Recommendation:** HHAs can act now by conducting a strategic review to:

- Identify and mitigate quality measure performance gaps that put the HHA at risk for negative payment adjustment.
- Identify and leverage opportunities to enhance quality measure performance and thereby earn positive payment adjustment.

The next section describes actionable steps to conduct a strategic review in preparation for the expanded HHVBP Model's first performance year.

## Strategic Review to Prepare for the Expanded HHVBP Model's First Performance Year

To prepare for the expanded HHVBP Model, HHA leadership and management teams can consider following the strategic review, analysis, and planning process outlined below. In addition, HHAs should review the technical

assistance resources available on the [Expanded HHVBP Model webpage](#). These resources support HHA’s efficient use of the team’s time, allowing for timely and effective action.

**1. Ensure that agency leaders and managers understand the expanded HHVBP Model and its implications for the agency’s future.**

Suggested Steps:	Resources to Support You:
<p>1a. Ensure that your team has a working understanding of the core components of the expanded HHVBP Model including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The implementation timeline,</li> <li>• Quality measures,</li> <li>• Achievement and improvement points,</li> <li>• Total Performance Score (TPS) calculation, and</li> <li>• Competitive payment adjustment methods.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Expanded HHVBP Model Guide</b> – this resource provides an overview of the key features of the expanded HHVBP Model</li> <li>• <b>Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)</b> – updated monthly, this resource includes the most up-to-date information about the expanded HHVBP Model</li> <li>• February 10, 2022 Learning Event: <b>“HHVBP Model Expansion 101”</b> – this event provides a comprehensive overview of the expanded HHVBP Model</li> <li>• For an overview on all the quality measures used in the expanded HHVBP Model, see the recording <b>“Quality Measures Used in the Expanded Model”</b></li> <li>• For a deeper dive on the Total Normalized Composite (TNC) Change Measures, see the written resources <b>“HHVBP Model Composite Measure Calculation Steps”</b> and <b>“HHVBP Model Technical Specifications Composite Outcome Measures”</b></li> <li>• For a deeper dive on TPS and payment adjustment calculations, see the three (3)-part series: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>“How Measure Performance Becomes Care Points”</b> (recording)</li> <li>○ <b>How Care Points Become the Total Performance Score (TPS)</b> (recording and written resource)</li> <li>○ <b>How the Total Performance Score (TPS) Becomes the Final Payment Adjustment</b> (recording and written resource)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>1b. Review current performance and improvement capabilities to inform quality improvement priorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your HHA’s <b>Pre-Implementation Performance Reports (PIPRs)</b> – available in iQIES in November 2022, January 2023, and April 2023</li> <li>• Your HHA’s <b>Quarterly Interim Performance Reports (IPRs)</b> – available in iQIES beginning July 2023</li> </ul>

**2. Ensure access to expanded Model performance reports, as well as an understanding of how to use/interpret the expanded Model reports.**

Suggested Steps:	Resources to Support You:
<p>2a. Confirm your agency has access to the <a href="#">Internet Quality Improvement Evaluation System (iQIES)</a>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“Expanded HHVBP Model Reports – Access Instructions”</b> – this resource provides instructions on how and where to access the HHVBP Model reports</li> <li>• Review the QIES Technical Support Office webpage for <a href="#">Home Health Agency (HHA) Providers</a></li> </ul>
<p>2b. Review materials designed to help HHAs understand the performance reports under the expanded Model.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August 25, 2022 Learning Event: <b>“Navigating Performance Feedback Reports: Interim Performance Report (IPR) and Annual Performance Report (APR)”</b> (recording, slides, and Q&amp;A) – this event provides a review of the purpose, availability, timing, and location of the reports, followed by a walkthrough of the layout, navigation, and content on each tab of the sample reports</li> <li>• <b>Sample IPR</b> – report with mock data so that HHAs can become familiar with the format and the information they will receive in IPRs</li> <li>• <b>Sample APR</b> – report with mock data so that HHAs can become familiar with the format and the information they will receive in APRs</li> <li>• November 17, 2022 and October 11, 2022 Learning Events: <b>“Introduction to the Pre-Implementation Performance Report (PIPR)”</b> (recording, slides, written resource, and Q&amp;A) – this event describes the PIPR data, report content, and use for quality improvement</li> </ul>

**3. Review your current quality management priorities and strategies. Determine whether there is a need to adjust these priorities and strategies in consideration of the expanded HHVBP Model payment incentives and potential impact on future payments.**

Suggested Steps:	Resources to Support You:
3a. Identify any modifications or enhancements to your agency’s quality improvement strategy required to address risks of negative payment adjustment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your HHA’s <b><i>Pre-Implementation Performance Reports (PIPRs)</i></b> – available in iQIES in November 2022, January 2023, and April 2023</li> </ul>
3b. Identify opportunities to influence your agency’s potential for positive payment adjustment and level of achievement and improvement in the expanded Model quality measures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your HHA’s <b><i>Quarterly Interim Performance Reports (IPRs)</i></b> – available in iQIES beginning July 2023</li> <li>• <b><i>“Quality Measure Category-Focused Performance Improvement”</i></b> – a self-assessment tool that can inform planning and targeting improvement initiatives</li> </ul>
3c. With key HHA staff, develop a detailed and time-oriented plan of action focused on identified opportunities for improvement, with regular data monitoring, communication (including those who implement the expected practices), and adjustments to the plan as indicated through the evaluation processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>“How to use Existing Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Processes to Support Improvement in Expanded Home Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP) Model”</i></b> – provides a practical and visual guide to the quality improvement cycle as it relates to the expanded HHVBP Model and overall quality improvement efforts</li> </ul>

**4. Review the effectiveness of your recent quality management efforts.**

Suggested steps:	Resources to support you:
4a. Identify any adjustments in quality management practices required to promote the success of future quality management efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Program Self-Assessment</i></b> – a tool that HHA teams can use to self-assess, evaluate, and improve their QAPI program</li> </ul>
4b. Identify actions necessary to stay current on new developments and best practices for home health care quality performance.	<p><b><i>Staying Connected Checklist:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit and bookmark the <a href="#">Expanded HHVBP Model webpage</a>.</li> <li>• Review the <a href="#">Expanded HHVBP Model YouTube</a> playlist for all recorded content.</li> <li>• Subscribe to the <a href="#">HHVBP Expanded Model listserv</a> by entering your email address on the contact form, then select “Home Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP) Expanded Model” from the <i>Innovations</i> list. To ensure you receive expanded Model communications via email, please add “cmslists@subscriptions.cms.hhs.gov” to your email safe sender list.</li> <li>• Contact the HHVBP Help Desk with questions: <a href="mailto:HHVBPquestions@lewin.com">HHVBPquestions@lewin.com</a>.</li> </ul>

## Reports for the Expanded HHVBP Model’s First Performance Year (CY 2023)

Below are the types of reports home health agencies (HHAs) can access through [iQIES](#) during the first performance year. **Exhibit 1** lists the data period for each measure category for each report.

- Pre-Implementation Performance Reports (PIPR):** PIPRs are the first reports available in the expanded HHVBP Model that contain HHA-specific performance information based on the most current data available. The PIPRs provide HHAs with a current snapshot of their performance data on the expanded HHVBP Model quality measures, with comparison to their respective volume-based cohort and preliminary achievement thresholds and benchmarks. PIPRs do not contain data from CY 2023 and will only be available November 2022, January 2023, and April 2023.
- Interim Performance Report (IPR):** These quarterly reports contain information on HHA quality measure performance based on the 12 most recent months of data available. The IPR provides feedback to HHAs about performance relative to quality measure achievement thresholds, benchmarks, and improvement thresholds. The IPR provides HHAs the opportunity to assess and track their performance relative to peers in their respective cohort. The first IPR will be available in July 2023 for the calendar year (CY) 2023 performance year/CY 2025 payment year. A sample of this report is available on the [Expanded HHVBP Model webpage](#).

**Exhibit 1. Timeline for CY 2023 Performance Year and CY 2025 Payment Year**  
*(First performance year (CY 2023) starts on January 1, 2023)*

Performance Report	Data Period for OASIS-based Measures	Data Period for Claims-based and HCAHPS Survey-based Measures
<b>January 2023 PIPR</b> – available in iQIES to all active HHAs	10/1/2021 – 9/30/2022	7/1/2021 – 6/30/2022
<b>April 2023 PIPR</b> – available in iQIES to all active HHAs	1/1/2022 – 12/31/2022	10/1/2021 – 9/30/2022
<b>July 2023 IPR</b> – available in iQIES to all competing HHAs	4/1/2022 – 3/31/2023	1/1/2022 – 12/31/2022
<b>October 2023 IPR</b> – available in iQIES to all competing HHAs	7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023	4/1/2022 – 3/31/2023