

Hospice Compare



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to improving the quality of services for patients who receive care in hospice settings, and launched the Hospice Compare Site on August 16, 2017. Hospice Compare reports information on hospices across the nation and allows patients, family members, and health care providers to get a snapshot of the quality of care each hospice provides. Hospices can be compared based on important indicators of quality, like the percentage of patients that are checked and treated for pain, or who are asked about their preferences for life-sustaining treatment. The goal of Hospice Compare is to assist consumers in making decisions that are right for them by allowing them to compare the quality of care provided by hospices. The new Hospice Compare site provides additional information, such as helpful resources and a list of questions to ask prospective hospice providers. CMS encourages consumers to use Hospice Compare in addition to other information they may gather about hospices through conversations with doctors, social workers, or other healthcare providers.

The Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) was established under section 1814(i)(5) of the Social Security Act, which directed the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to create quality reporting requirements for hospices. The HQRP requires the collection and submission of quality data to CMS from more than 4,000 hospices. Furthermore, the Act also requires the Secretary to publicly report, on a CMS website, quality measures that relate to the care provided by hospice programs across the country.

Start a conversation!

CMS created the Hospice Compare Site not only for providers, but also for patients, family members, and care-givers, to compare hospice providers based on important quality metrics, such as what percentage of a hospice provider's patients were screened for pain or difficult or uncomfortable breathing, and if their patients' preferences are being discussed.

Start a conversation with your patients about how Hospice Compare can help them by:

- Explaining that Hospice Compare provides a snapshot of the quality of care your hospice offers
- Encouraging your patients, their family members, and caregivers to review the quality of care metrics and the [Hospice Checklist](#) when choosing a hospice
- Helping to strengthen patients and family members' ability to make the best decisions for their care

Hospice Compare Data

As of August 16, 2017, the [Hospice Compare website](#) contains data from more than 4,000 hospices. The seven quality measures currently displayed on [Hospice Compare](#) are updated quarterly.

The Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers & Systems (CAHPS®) Hospice survey information will be displayed beginning in winter 2018.

Importance for Providers

Through Hospice Compare, providers will gain a comprehensive understanding of how their facility is performing against national averages. Through regular data updates, providers can continually strive

to improve their quality scores and track their performance over time. These data can prove invaluable when assessing the impact of quality improvement efforts and evaluating best practices.

Resources

- Visit the [Hospice Quality Reporting](#) webpage for more information on Hospice Compare.
- For questions about Hospice Public Reporting, contact the Hospice Quality Help Desk: HospiceQualityQuestions@cms.hhs.gov.
- [Subscribe](#) to the Post-Acute Care Quality Reporting Program (PAC QRP) listserv for the latest Hospice QRP information, including, but not limited to training, stakeholder engagement opportunities, and general updates about reporting requirements, quality measures, and reporting deadlines.

Hospice Measure Titles and Descriptions

Measure	Description
Treatment Preferences	Percentage of patient stays with chart documentation that the hospice discussed (or attempted to discuss) preferences for life sustaining treatments. (NQF #1641)
Beliefs/Values Addressed	Percentage of patient stays with documentation of a discussion of spiritual/religious concerns or documentation that the patient and/or caregiver did not want to discuss spiritual/religious concerns. (NQF #1647)
Pain Screening	Percentage of patient stays during which the patient was screened for pain during the initial nursing assessment. (NQF #1634)
Pain Assessment	Percentage of patient stays during which the patient screened positive for pain and received a comprehensive assessment of pain within 1 day of the screening. (NQF #1637)
Dyspnea Screening	Percentage of patient stays during which the patient was screened for dyspnea during the initial nursing assessment. (NQF #1639)
Dyspnea Treatment	Percentage of patient stays during which the patient screened positive for dyspnea and received treatment within 1 day of the screening. (NQF #1638)
Patients treated with opioid who are given a bowel regimen	Percentage of patient stays treated with an opioid that are offered/prescribed a bowel regimen or documentation of why this was not needed. (NQF #1617)