

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization  
**QUALITY ALERT**

August 31, 2022

## CMS Care Compare August 2022 Data Refresh

### Summary at a Glance:

On August 31, 2022, publicly reported hospice quality data was refreshed on the CMS website [Care Compare](#). The following measures are posted:

- **Hospice CAHPS® Star Ratings** for all hospices with 75 or more completed CAHPS surveys over the eight-quarter reporting period.
- **Hospice Care Index (HCI)** which captures data from ten individual indicators and is presented as a single claims-based measure.
- **Hospice Visits in the Last Days of Life (HVLDL)** which measures the proportion of hospice patients who received in-person visits from a registered nurse or a medical social worker on at least two of the final three days of life.
- **Hospice Item Set (HIS) Comprehensive Assessment Measure at Admission** which captures, in one measure, the proportion of patients for whom the hospice performed seven care processes upon admission to hospice.

Additional details and resources are included below.

Care Compare is a website published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that allows members of the public to search for and compare healthcare providers, including hospice agencies. Quality data is collected from hospice claims, patient assessments, and caregiver satisfaction surveys. This data is publicly reported on a quarterly or annual basis. Details about data reporting periods for each current measure can be found below.

The following measures are now published and available for public review and comparison:

### 1. **Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) Hospice Star Ratings**

Beginning with the August 2022 refresh, all hospices with 75 or more completed CAHPS surveys over the eight-quarter reporting period will receive a Star Rating on Care Compare. Prior to public reporting, CAHPS Hospice Survey results are adjusted for effects of mode of survey administration and case mix. Details with overview of the purpose, timeline, and methods as well as national and state Star Rating distribution reports can be found on the Hospice CAHPS survey website, linked below.

The August 2022 refresh includes CAHPS data from Quarter 2-Quarter 4 2019 and Quarter 3 2020-Quarter 3 2021. Publicly reported CAHPS survey data, including star ratings, will update every other quarter.

### **Additional Resources related to CAHPS Hospice Survey and star ratings:**

CAHPS Hospice Survey <https://www.hospicecahpsurvey.org/>

CMS Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP) CAHPS Hospice Survey

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/CAHPS%20AE-Hospice-Survey>

## 2. Hospice Care Index (HCI)

The HCI is a single, Medicare claims-based measure that captures care processes occurring throughout the hospice stay, between admission and discharge. Although the HCI is a single measure, it captures data from ten individual indicators. Each indicator has equal weight and hospices earn a point for each indicator in which they score above a national performance threshold, for a total possible HCI score between 0 and 10.

The HCI includes the following individual indicators:

1. Continuous Home Care (CHC) or General Inpatient (GIP) Provided
2. Gaps in Skilled Nursing Visits
3. Early Live Discharges
4. Late Live Discharges
5. Burdensome Transitions (Type 1) – Live Discharges from Hospice Followed by Hospitalization and Subsequent Hospice Readmission
6. Burdensome Transitions (Type 2) – Live Discharges from Hospice Followed by Hospitalization with the Patient Dying in the Hospital
7. Per-beneficiary Medicare Spending
8. Skilled Nursing Care Minutes per Routine Home Care (RHC) Day
9. Skilled Nursing Minutes on Weekends
10. Visits Near Death

The August 2022 refresh is the inaugural month for public reporting of the Hospice Care Index and includes data from Quarter 2-Quarter 4 2019 and Quarter 3 2020-Quarter 3 2021. Publicly reported HCI data will refresh annually.

### **Additional Resources related to HCI:**

Hospice Care Index Technical Report: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/hospice-care-index-hci-technical-reportjuly-2022.pdf>

## 3. Hospice Visits in the Last Days of Life (HVLDL)

HVLDL measures the proportion of hospice patients who received in-person visits from a registered nurse or a medical social worker on at least two of the final three days of life. The August 2022 refresh is the inaugural month for public reporting of HVLDL, which replaces public reporting of Hospice Visits When Death is Imminent (HVWDII). HVLDL was endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF) as NQF #3645 on July 26, 2022.

The August 2022 refresh includes HVLDL data from Quarter 2-Quarter 4 2019 and Quarter 3 2020-Quarter 3 2021. Publicly reported HVLDL data will refresh annually.

### **Additional Resources related to HVLDL:**

HQRP Hospice Visits in Last Days of Life (HVLDL) Measure Specifications

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/hospice-visits-last-days-life-hvldl-measure-specifications.pdf>

#### 4. Hospice Item Set (HIS) Comprehensive Assessment Measure at Admission

The HIS Comprehensive Assessment Measure at Admission is an NQF endorsed measure (NQF #3235) that captures, in one measure, the proportion of patients for whom the hospice performed seven care processes upon admission to hospice.

The seven HIS care processes include:

1. Beliefs/Values Addressed (if desired by the patient)
2. Treatment Preferences
3. Pain Screening
4. Pain Assessment
5. Dyspnea Treatment
6. Dyspnea Screening
7. Patients Treated with an Opioid who are Given a Bowel Regimen

The HIS Comprehensive Assessment Measure at Admission has been publicly reported since 2018. The August 2022 refresh includes HIS data from Quarter 4 2020-Quarter 3 2021.

#### **Additional resources related to HIS Comprehensive Assessment Measure:**

CMS HQRP Hospice Item Set: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Hospice-Item-Set-HIS>

#### 5. Additional HQRP Resources

- CMS Hospice Quality Reporting Program (HQRP): <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting>
- CMS HQRP Current Measures: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Current-Measures>
- CMS HQRP Public Reporting: Key Dates for Providers: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Hospice-Quality-Reporting/Public-Reporting-Key-Dates-for-Providers>
- CMS Calculating and Reporting Claims-Based Measures within the HQRP: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/questionsandanswersclaims-basedmeasuresfeb2022.pdf>

Please reach out to [quality@nhpco.org](mailto:quality@nhpco.org) with any questions.

###