

From: On Behalf Of QualityNet_Notification@sdps.org

Sent: Thursday, September 08, 2011 5:04 PM

Subject: CMS to Revise AHRQ Calculations and to Redefine Denominator for Foreign Object Hospital-Acquired Condition Measure

The purpose of this email Blast is to notify hospitals that CMS has recalculated several AHRQ measures and redefined the denominator for the Foreign Object HAC measure that will be publicly reported on Hospital Compare on October 13, 2011.

AHRQ Measure Update

CMS requests that hospitals disregard the Hospital-Specific Report (HSR) they received on July 26, 2011 and disregard the results for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) inpatient quality indicators (IQIs) and patient safety indicators (PSIs) included in October 2011 Hospital Quality Alliance (HQA) preview reports generated prior to August 23, 2011.

With help from hospitals, CMS has identified an error in the calculations of the AHRQ measures that were included in these reports. Specifically, claims with a discharge disposition code of "70" were treated as deaths within the hospital when they should have been treated as transfers to a non-acute care facility. Although only 0.1 percent of discharges had a discharge disposition code of "70", this error affects rates for over 700 hospitals and leads to slightly inflated national rates.

CMS has recalculated the AHRQ measures and refreshed the data so that any HQA preview reports generated by hospitals on or after August 23, 2011 contain the corrected AHRQ measure results. Additionally, CMS plans to send corrected AHRQ HSRs and patient data to all hospitals on September 12, 2011. Hospitals will have 30-days to review their results prior to public reporting of these measures in October. At this time, CMS does not anticipate that recalculation will delay public reporting of these measures.

The preview period and patient-level data are intended to allow hospitals to validate their data prior to its publication and to ensure that any results published on Hospital Compare are correct. While we regret the error, we are pleased that this process exists and that it works. We thank the hospitals that reviewed their data, identified the issue, and thereby enabled us to address it.

HAC Measure Update

CMS has re-specified the foreign object retained after surgery HAC measure so that the denominator for this measure includes both medical and surgical discharges. When this measure was reported in March of 2011, this HAC measure denominator was restricted to surgical discharges only.

CMS will be providing revised HSRs that incorporate this change in measure specification to hospitals on September 12, 2011. Hospitals will have 30 days to review their results prior to public reporting of these measures in October. At this time, CMS does not anticipate that recalculation will delay public reporting of these measures.

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