

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Questions and Answers:

Home Health, Hospice and DME Open Door Forum

January 11, 2023

1. Question: Just wanted to double-check if you are hearing anything about problems with OASIS-E not transmitting in the iQIES due to a discharge code not being accepted. I'm hearing some problems and the discharge code going to the hospital is listed as anything other than unknown it's being rejected.
 - a. Answer: I have not, but if you have specific questions that are in reference to that submission you can forward those questions to either our Home Health Quality Questions help desk or specifically to the iQIES help desk. That home health quality questions is as stated home, the word home, the word health, the word quality, the word questions@cms.hhs.gov. And then the iQIES technical help desk is going to be igies@cms.hhs.gov.
2. Question: Do you have a date for when the potentially preventable hospitalization measure is scheduled to be introduced in official CMS programs including Care Compare, VBP or others, and whether that will actually replace the existing 60 day hospitalization measure?
 - a. Answer: For HHVBP changes to the applicable measure set will have to go through notice and comment rulemaking. So, I would just keep an eye out for when we make that proposal if we do.
3. Question: We complete OASIS-E for all assessments completed that were completed on an after January 1 knowing that the quality data will be collected by CMS for the value-based purchasing. I'm just wondering how OASIS-E will, the data will affect our quality outcomes that were initially provided to CMS in OASIS-D. For example, a patient was admitted with OASIS-D and is discharged with OASIS-E. Would that be all these patients will be taken into consideration? I'm just curious how that will be addressed.
 - a. Question back: And this question was specific to your HHVBP measures. This was - did I hear that correctly?
 - i. Answer: Yes, it's a quality measure.
 1. Answer: I know we're in the process right now of updating documents related to the effects of OASIS-E. And I, sorry off the top of my head, have to look and see if the quality guide has that updated in it yet. But we will be giving you guys information

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related to that. But I'll make a note to double-check when we will be getting, and we'll get that out as soon as possible.

4. Question: Do you have an update on when CMS will provide the updated risk adjustment models using OASIS data?
 - a. Answer: I don't have a specific date for that at this time. And for HHVBP I think we are working on the TNC measures to update those risk adjustments as well. So, they will be coming shortly.
 - i. Question: Thank you for that update. And if I may ask one additional question, when can we expect to see the measure tables for OASIS-E? I think that's a little ways out, but curious if you have an estimate on the time for outcomes, process measures, PAEs, et cetera?
 1. Answer: I would love to be able to give you something specific, but it is the ways out. And I would hate to try to lock in a date at this time.
5. Question: We were just wondering if there were any updates on the COVID waivers? For the hospice because I thought they were expiring. The latest waiver is expiring this month.
 - a. Answer: It states on the COVID waivers page at:
<https://www.cms.gov/coronavirus-waivers>

Waivers have a retroactive effective date of March 1, 2020 and will end no later than when the emergency declaration's ended.

Also, on the COVID waiver page are links for various providers containing: provider-specific fact sheets which include information about which waivers and flexibilities have already been terminated, have been made permanent, or will end at the end of the PHE.
6. Question: Just wondering CMS's intent on N0415 high risk medications. When it talks about the class of drugs and asks if the patient is taking that class of drug. And then it asks the indication if there is an indication for that medication or for that drug class. There's some questions, with a lot of people I have talked to, about if a patient is taking that drug class of medication for an off-label use, for example if they're taking antipsychotic, but they're taking it for sleep not for psychosis, then do you mark indication as, yes, there's an indication because there's a reason they're taking that medication or is it looking at the indication for the drug class? Would you mark indication for an off-label use I guess is the simplest way to phrase that question? And

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just kind of what is the intent or the guidance with that because it wasn't clear in the manual.

- a. Answer: For that particular question it has come up before, and we are referring providers to - although we are referring providers to the manual. If you can phrase your specific question so that we can keep a tally of the types of questions that are coming in it would be great. (Email: HomeHealthQualityQuestions@cms.hhs.gov)
7. Question: I thought I just read that Biden, President Biden did extend the Public Health Emergency. I just looked it up before this call, like three hours ago. Would that pertain to our Public Health Emergency Waiver?
- a. Answer: Yes, I think since that directive has been out there I think obviously we have a process internally that has to get any kind of direction or guidance out.

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