



In this issue:

Featured Items 1
CMS Finalizes Hospital Inpatient PPS for FY 2011 1
Hospitals Chosen for FY 2012 Validation..... 2
Public Reporting Deadline – Sunday, August 15, 2010 – previously reported 3
Reducing Healthcare-Associated Infections Becoming a Bigger Priority among Agencies – previously reported 3
Hospitals Nationwide Reduce Readmission Rates with Patient Coaching and High-Tech Applications – previously reported..... 3
APU Dashboard Continued Unavailability – previously reported 4
CMS Announces Final Meaningful Use Rules for Health Information Technology – previously reported 4
New Data Finds Limited Progress in Preventing Central Line Infection – previously reported..... 5
Hospital Compare Upcoming Inpatient Preview Information – previously reported..... 5
Hospital Outpatient Quality Data Reporting Program (HOP QDRP) Information – previously reported 6
Comprehensive Heart Failure Care: From Hospital to Home WebEx Series..... 6
Up Next on WIHL..... 7
Hospital Projects Calendar..... 8
Contact Information 8

Featured Items

CMS Finalizes Hospital Inpatient PPS for FY 2011

On July 30, 2010, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule that includes revisions to policies and payment rates for general acute care hospitals that are paid for inpatient services under the Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS). The provisions of this rule are generally effective for discharges in fiscal (FY) 2011 – that is, on or after Oct. 1, 2010.

Attached to this newsletter are two PDF files. The first file, labeled FSQ07.IPLTCH11.FINAL.07 30 10.pdf is a fact sheet which discusses only the quality provisions of the IPPS FY 2011 Final Rule. The second file, labeled PR07.IPLTCH11.Final.07 30 10.pdf provides more detail on the payment and policy changes.

The final rule was placed on display at the *Federal Register* today, and can be found under Special Filings at: www.ofr.gov/inspection.aspx#special.

For more information CMS refers you to: www.cms.hhs.gov/AcuteInpatientPPS/01_overview.asp.

Note: More information about the interim proposed rule(see attached file, [PR07.IPLTCH11.Final.07 30 10.pdf](#) regarding non-diagnostic services billing), including the documentation and coding adjustment and the RHQDAPU changes and HACs discussion, will be included in Fact Sheets to be posted on our Web page at: www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/media/fact_sheets.asp.

Please contact Sue Bethel at sbethel@coqio.sdps.org if you have questions after reading these fact sheets.

[Return to Top of Document](#)

Hospitals Chosen for FY 2012 Validation

For FY2012, 800 hospitals have been randomly selected for validation. CMS has notified the selected hospitals of selection. The list of hospitals that have been chosen for FY 2012 Validation can be found at: [Hospitals Chosen for FY 2012 Validation](#)

- For FY2012 - Up to, but no more than, three cases per topic will be selected for each quarter's validation, so there will be a maximum of 12 randomly-selected cases for a hospital per quarter. Selected records will be stratified by measure topic. If a hospital has fewer than three cases in one topic, then that hospital will have fewer than 12 cases validated. For example, if a heart-care hospital does not have any PN cases for a quarter, but has more than three HF, more than three AMI, and more than three SCIP cases, that hospital would be required to submit nine cases for validation for that quarter.
- FY2012 - The first validation record requests from the CDAC will occur following the 8/15/10 data submission deadline.
- FY2012 - The quarterly validation rate will be based on measure outcome matches and mismatches. For example, heart failure cases will have four measure outcomes to compare and the denominator will be four. The Final Rule changes the annual validation passing rate from 80% to 75%
- FY2012 - Feedback will be available to all hospitals based on aggregate information from the 800 hospitals' validated cases.

Please contact Sue Bethel at sbethel@coqio.sdps.org if you have any questions.

[Return to Top of Document](#)

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Public Reporting Deadline – Sunday, August 15, 2010 – previously reported

Colorado Foundation for Medical Care (CFMC) would like to take this opportunity to remind all hospitals participating in the Hospital Quality Alliance (HQA) and RHQDAPU that 1st Quarter 2010 (January, February, March) discharge data is due in the clinical warehouse by 11:59 p.m. EST on Sunday, August 15, 2010.

CFMC is available to answer questions during regular business hours Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Please note that CFMC is closed on weekends and will not be available to assist you on the weekend. If you have any questions or would like to know more about how to transmit data into MyQualityNet please contact Sue Bethel at sbethel@coqio.sdps.org, 303-695-3300, ext. 3330 or Jean King jking@coqio.sdps.org, 303-695-3300, ext. 3098

[Return to Top of Document](#)

Reducing Healthcare-Associated Infections Becoming a Bigger Priority among Agencies – previously reported

On July 15, *HealthLeaders Media* reported progress on making the reduction of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) a top priority for health care providers. Beginning October 2014, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Hospital Compare website will report hospital rates for several infections covered by Medicare. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) also moved forward with a five-year action plan to reduce HAIs. In May, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a first-ever report showing U.S. health care facilities reduced the rate of central line associated bloodstream infection by 18 percent. Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/28q32eb>.

[Return to Top of Document](#)

Hospitals Nationwide Reduce Readmission Rates with Patient Coaching and High-Tech Applications – previously reported

On July 21, *U.S. News & World Report* profiled hospitals throughout the country taking various approaches to reduce readmission rates, some of which are part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Care Transitions project. While the new Medicare penalties will not take effect until October 2012, hospitals have some experience with such a system. Medicare currently does not pay for a readmission on the same day as a discharge, unless it is for an unrelated reason. But the new law goes much further, directing Medicare to recover payments made for unnecessary readmissions within 30 days of discharge after a stay for three conditions: heart attack, pneumonia and heart failure. Last summer, the agency began publishing rates for the three conditions on its "hospital compare" website. The latest data show, for example, that Florida Hospital in Orlando has a rate of 23 percent for heart attack patients, compared to a much-better-than-average 15.9 percent at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. While Florida Hospital and Trinity Regional both say they are addressing their rates, they note the particular challenges of serving elderly populations. CMS generally counts all readmissions

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for any reason. If someone discharged after treatment for heart failure falls, breaks a hip, and is back two weeks later, the hospital takes a hit. That makes sense, argues Harlan Krumholz, director of the Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation at Yale-New Haven Hospital, which worked with CMS to develop comparative hospital quality measures. Counting only rehospitalizations for the same condition might encourage institutions to game the system by selecting condition codes for the readmissions to avoid a penalty. And hospitalizations that do not appear related actually may be. Heart failure patients are vulnerable to a whole range of risks, Krumholz says. “Was that fall preventable? Were they too weak and not ready to go home? Were they given too much blood pressure medication, so they became dizzy and fainted?” Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/2fosu87>.

[Return to Top of Document](#)

APU Dashboard Continued Unavailability – previously reported

CMS would like to inform hospitals of the continued unavailability of the APU Dashboard to Reporting Hospital Quality Data for Annual Payment Update (RHQDAPU) eligible providers for an extended period of time.

Until the APU Dashboard is made available again, CMS continues to encourage users to monitor their status with regard to the Reporting Hospital Quality Data for Annual Payment Update (RHQDAPU) program through the following QualityNet reports:

- Population and Sampling Submission - Population and Sampling Summary Report
- Measure Sets / Strata Submission - RHQDAPU Provider Participation Report
- HCAHPS Survey Data Submission - HCAHPS Warehouse Provider Survey Summary Status Report
- Validation Sample Medical Records Submission - Hospital Data Validation Case Selection Report
- Validation Results - Hospital Data Validation Case Detail Report

CMS continues to work to resolve the performance issues associated with the APU Dashboard and will notify the community once it has been addressed.

Please notify Sue Bethel at sbethel@coqio.sdps.org if you have questions.

[Return to Top of Document](#)

CMS Announces Final Meaningful Use Rules for Health Information Technology – previously reported

On July 13, a number of publications reported on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issuing final rules for meaningful use of health information technology. CMS discarded its original all-or-nothing approach to offering incentives for Electronic Health Record (EHR) adoption

and opted for flexibility. The final rule was shaped by more than 2,000 comments from the public since the initial posting in January. One of the major changes reflected in the final rule requires providers to meet core objectives, such as electronic prescribing, providing patients an electronic copy of their health information and maintaining an active medication list. Physicians must meet 15 core requirements and hospitals must meet 14. According to David Blumenthal, M.D., the national health IT coordinator who worked closely with CMS to define meaningful use, CMS aimed to make the objectives ambitious, but achievable. The final rule gives health care providers certainty about the steps they must take to qualify for Medicare and Medicaid incentives under the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said the incentives could amount to \$27 billion over 10 years. Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/32x22ur> or <http://tinyurl.com/266y7hr>. Read the press release: <http://tinyurl.com/2518ngn>. Read the fact sheets: <http://tinyurl.com/2eegepd>.

[Return to Top of Document](#)

New Data Finds Limited Progress in Preventing Central Line Infection – previously reported

On July 14, *HealthLeaders Media* reported on an [Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology \(APIC\)](#) survey that examined more than 2,000 health providers. The survey was designed to uncover barriers to the prevention of health care-associated infections (HAI). Findings show one in five providers believe their institutions have insufficient infrastructure to train staff in infection prevention strategies. The survey also indicates only three in 10 hospital administrations are willing to spend what is necessary to prevent catheter-related bloodstream infections (CRBIs). According to Cathryn Murphy, APIC president, HAIs are nearly 100 percent preventable with clear, actionable steps. CRBIs are an increasing concern in the health care community with about 80,000 incidents occurring each year in hospitals, 30,000 of which result in death. In addition, CRBIs cost about \$30,000 per infected patient and more than \$2 billion annually. Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/2urxyjj>.

[Return to Top of Document](#)

Hospital Compare Upcoming Inpatient Preview Information – previously reported

CMS would like to notify all providers of the upcoming inpatient preview period for the Hospital Quality Alliance (HQA) and Reporting Hospital Quality Data for Annual Payment Update (RHQDAPU) initiatives.

The September 2010 Hospital Compare preview period is scheduled for **July 12, 2010 through August 10, 2010**. When available, preview reports can be accessed in the Reports section of My QualityNet by selecting the HQA Preview Reports category.

Important Pledge and Suppression Information

Reporting of measures is in accordance with a hospital's pledge status. Hospitals may enroll in the

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HQA and/or RHQDAPU initiatives at any time. However, hospital pledges must be received by the QIO on or before the last day of the preview period.

To withhold (suppress) publication of data, a hospital must contact Sue Bethel at sbethel@coqio.sdps.org with the request to withhold data and transmit a completed HQA Request for Withholding Data From Public Reporting form on or before the last day of the preview period. See [attached document for suppression rules](#).

Pledge status and/or measure suppression changes entered in PRS during the preview period will be reflected in the preview report after completion of an overnight process, unless the data was entered on the last day of the preview period.

The attached overview documents ([HC Release Overview](#) and [INPT Sept2010 Help Doc](#)) are provided for your reference. If you have questions or concerns regarding this email, please contact Sue Bethel at sbethel@coqio.sdps.org.

[Return to Top of Document](#)

Hospital Outpatient Quality Data Reporting Program (HOP QDRP) Information – previously reported

It is suggested that if you want to continue to receive information regarding the Hospital Outpatient Quality Data Reporting Program (HOP QDRP), interested parties are encouraged to sign up for the HOP QDRP ListServe. By signing up for this ListServe, you will receive e-mails pertaining to the Outpatient Program.

To sign up to get these e-mails, go to www.qualitynet.org. You do not need to sign in. On the lower left side, there is a box titled “Join List Serves”. Select the link that says “Sign up for Notifications and Discussions”. This will take you to a screen to sign up for the ListServe. There is also a box on this screen called “Resources” which can direct you if you have further questions regarding signing up for ListServes.

Other questions regarding Outpatient Data Reporting should be directed to the Hospital Outpatient Quality Data Reporting Program (HOP QDRP) at hopqdrp@fmqai.com.

[Return to Top of Document](#)

Comprehensive Heart Failure Care: From Hospital to Home WebEx Series

We are pleased to announce that the recordings from the Comprehensive Heart Failure Care: From Hospital to Home WebEx series that were presented March – June are now posted on our website. The series covered topics on pathophysiology and assessment, management of chronic heart failure, management of the patient with acutely decompensated heart failure, and helping the heart failure patient develop self care skills.

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To access the recordings, please go to: http://www.cfmc.org/hospital/hospital_hf.htm and scroll down to “WebExes.”

For the remainder of the summer, the Heart Failure WebExes will be suspended. Please monitor this newsletter to receive updates on when they resume.

If you have questions about series, please contact Marcy Cameron, mcameron@coqio.sdps.org, or by phone: 303.695.3300, x3040.

[Return to Top of Document](#)

Up Next on WIHI

The Power to Detect and Reduce Harm: IHI’s Global Trigger Tool and Adverse Events in the US

Thursday, September 9, 2010

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Eastern Time

Featuring:

Lee Adler, DO, Vice President for Quality, Safety, Innovation, and Research, Florida Hospital

Ruth Ann Dorrill, MPA, Team Leader, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Donald Goldmann, MD, Senior Vice President, Institute for Healthcare Improvement

Fran Griffin, Director, Institute for Healthcare Improvement

How often are patients harmed in US hospitals and what is the best way or ways to determine this? Ever since the Institute of Medicine estimated that up to 98,000 patients die in hospitals each year due to medical errors, and some subsequent studies that claim the number is much higher, getting a more precise “national” handle on where and when and how frequently harm occurs has bedeviled most researchers. And, without a baseline, it’s been impossible to state with any certainty whether patients are any safer today in US hospitals than they were ten years ago, when the IOM issued its seminal report.

This is the backdrop for a groundbreaking series of studies that the Office of Inspector General (OIG) at the Department of Health and Human Services has been undertaking since 2008. WIHI is pleased to offer a window into the work and its significance for patient safety on our first program in September after a brief summer break.

Focused on harm occurring to hospitalized Medicare recipients, the OIG, with three reports (two already issued and one due out in September), is hoping to provide a first of its kind national incidence rate for adverse events, along with an analysis of the effectiveness of several methods for detecting harm.

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Hospital Projects Newsletter 08/04/2010 Page 7 of 8

IHI's Global Trigger Tool is designed to facilitate a retrospective review of medical records to identify adverse events. Using the Trigger Tool in a modified form and combining it with physician review, the OIG found it to be a powerful means of determining when an adverse event has occurred. WIHI invites you to learn how the OIG reached this conclusion and to discuss with the guests what significance all the findings have for better identifying and accelerating efforts to reduce harm.

There is no fee for participating in a WIHI program, but enrollment is required.

<http://www.ihl.org/IHI/Programs/AudioAndWebPrograms/WIHI.htm?player=wmp>

[Return to Top of Document](#)

Hospital Projects Calendar

In an effort to keep everyone informed of conference calls, webexes, and meetings, we have created a [color-coded calendar](#) and attached it to the newsletter email. This calendar will be included in each week's newsletter with a revised date so you will know when it has been updated.

Contact Information

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Shari Ward, Patient Safety Interventionist
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Sue Bethel, RN Review Coordinator
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Karen McGee, Patient Safety Interventionist
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Lori McNeilley, Health Data Analyst
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Jean King, Manager of Review Services
303.784.5727 or jking@coqio.sdps.org

[Return to Top of Document](#)

Medicare Appeals Helpline Phone Numbers:

Please list both of CFMC's appeal phone numbers:

800-727-7086 and **303-695-3333** on the "Important Message" given to Medicare Beneficiaries