

Fiscal Year (FY) 2028 Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR) Program Guide

**FY 2028 Payment Determination/
Calendar Year (CY) 2026 Reporting Period**

January 2026





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About This Program Guide

This *Fiscal Year (FY) 2028 Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR) Program Guide* is a resource to help you understand the requirements of the IPFQR Program. Inside these pages you will find an outline of the IPFQR Program participation requirements and information about measures, data submission, and public reporting.

This program guide is specifically for inpatient psychiatric facility (IPF) quality reporting for calendar year (CY) 2026. The CY 2026 quality measure data that IPFs submit to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will affect an IPF's Medicare payment between October 1, 2027, and September 30, 2028 (fiscal year 2028).

Please reach out to us if you have any questions about the IPFQR Program:

- Phone numbers: (844) 472-4477 or (866) 800-8765
- Quality Question and Answer Tool:
https://cmsqualitysupport.servicenow.com/qnet_qa

We hope you find this information helpful.

Your IPFQR Program Outreach and Education Support Team

IPFQR Program Quick Start

New to IPF quality reporting? Take a few minutes to review this quick start section before proceeding to the **IPFQR Program Overview**.

Introduction

The IPFQR Program is a pay-for-reporting program. IPFs that participate in the program and successfully meet all requirements receive the full annual payment update (APU) under the Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities Prospective Payment System (IPF PPS). IPFs that do not meet all requirements receive a two-percentage point reduction to their APU.

IPFs that would like to participate in the IPFQR Program must let CMS know by submitting an IPFQR Notice of Participation (NOP). By submitting the NOP, the IPF agrees to have CMS publicly report its quality data. Approximately 1,500 hospital psychiatric units and freestanding psychiatric hospitals participate in the program.

The IPFQR Program collects important quality metrics which inform quality improvement activities. Additionally, the program aims to equip consumers with quality-of-care information to make more informed decisions about healthcare options.

Calendar Year, Fiscal Year, and Payment Year

IPFQR Program reporting for any calendar year affects the IPF's Medicare reimbursement during a future year. This future year is known as the fiscal year (FY) or the payment determination.

For example, IPFQR Program data submissions related to 2026 discharges will affect the IPF's Medicare reimbursement between October 1, 2027, and September 30, 2028. The time frame between October 1, 2027, and September 30, 2028, is known as FY 2028 payment determination.

For more information, refer to the **Understanding Reporting Periods vs. Fiscal Years** infographic, available for download from the CMS QualityNet website's [IPFQR Program Resources](#) page.

IPFQR Program Measures

Measures in the IPFQR Program rely on various data sources to determine the quality of care that patients receive.

Claims-Based Measures

CMS uses Medicare enrollment data and Part A and Part B claims data to calculate these measures. All information is provided by the IPF on the claim it sends to Medicare to obtain reimbursement for the care provided to the patient. IPFs do not have to submit any additional data to CMS.

Chart-Abstracted Measures

Chart-abstracted measures require IPFs or an IPF's vendor to review and abstract medical record documentation from the current episode of care for the purposes of data collection and submission to CMS.

Patient Experience of Care Measure

Patient experience of care data reflect feedback about the care experience directly from individuals who receive services in inpatient psychiatric facilities.

IPFQR Program Overview

The IPFQR Program is a quality reporting program with the goal of driving quality improvement through measurement and transparency. IPFs participate by submitting data to CMS on measures of inpatient psychiatric quality of care. CMS makes quality data from the IPFQR Program available to the public. The Compare tool available on [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) makes data about the care delivered in IPFs available to patients, their families, and their caregivers. Prior to the public display of data, IPFs are given the opportunity to review their IPF-specific data during a 30-day preview period via the *Hospital Quality Reporting (HQR) Secure Portal*.

All IPFs paid under the IPF PPS must meet IPFQR Program requirements to receive their full APU. The IPF PPS applies to inpatient psychiatric services from psychiatric hospitals or psychiatric units (mental health or behavioral health units) in Acute Care, Critical Access, Long-Term Care, Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities, and Children's Hospitals in the United States that participate in Medicare. Eligible IPFs that do not participate in the IPFQR Program, or do not meet the reporting requirements, will have a **two-percentage point reduction** to their APU for that year.

CMS Communications

One of the ways that CMS communicates important program information is through email notifications. Please be sure you are signed up for these communications and that we have current contact information for your IPF so we may send you relevant communications.

Email Updates (Listserve)

CMS regularly communicates IPFQR Program information to participants and stakeholders via email using contacts in the QualityNet Email Updates database. The following CMS program notification lists are relevant to the IPFQR Program and available for signup on [QualityNet](#):

Notification

- CART Notify: CMS Chart Abstraction and Reporting Tool (CART)
- IPFQR Notify: Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR) Program
- QNet Notify: QualityNet Notifications

Targeted Communications

The IPFQR Program Support Team is responsible for maintaining the CMS provider contact database. This database contains contact information for key staff members in each participating IPF. Information in this database is used to provide critical targeted communications to IPFs about meeting the requirements of the IPFQR Program and other CMS quality reporting programs.

Reminder emails and phone calls help quality improvement staff members, infection preventionists, and facility leadership in submitting data and program requirements prior to the CMS deadlines. It is important to keep your IPF's contact information current, so you do not miss our reminders.

The fillable [Hospital Contact Change Form](#) is available electronically on the QualityNet website:

QualityNet.cms.gov > Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities > Resources > View Program Resources > [Program Resources](#)

You may submit the form via secure fax or email at any time an update is needed:

- Secure Fax Number: (877) 789-4443
- Email: QRFormsSubmission@hsag.com

Data Submission Deadlines – CY 2026 Reporting (FY 2028 Payment Determination)

Data submitted to CMS are collected in different ways: abstracted from charts, pulled from claims, and entered in to forms. Data submissions must be timely, complete, and accurate.

Information on the IPFQR Program data submission deadlines and reporting periods used for FY 2028 payment determination is available on QualityNet.

QualityNet.cms.gov > Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities > Resources > View Program Resources > [Program Resources](#)

All mandatory reporting requirements are due **annually**, and the submission period is July 1–August 15 each year:

- Measure data
- Non-measure data
- Data Accuracy and Completeness Acknowledgement (DACA)

Important Information About Submission Deadlines

CMS allows IPFs to add new data and submit, resubmit, change, and delete existing data up until the submission deadline. Data should be submitted well before the deadline to allow time to review them for accuracy and make necessary corrections.

Note: Submission deadlines that fall on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or holiday move to the next business day.

DACA: Information cannot be added or changed after the annual deadline.

IPFQR Program Requirements – CY 2026 Reporting (FY 2028 Payment Determination)

This section summarizes the IPFQR Program requirements for IPFs paid by Medicare under the IPF PPS. IPFs participating in the IPFQR Program must follow requirements outlined in the applicable final rule. New and modified requirements are published in the *Federal Register* at www.gpo.gov. Refer to Appendix B: IPF PPS Final Rule Publications at the end of this document for links to specific rules.

Health Care Quality Information Systems Access Roles and Profile (HARP) Registration

In order to submit data to CMS for the IPFQR Program, a representative from the IPF must register and maintain an active HARP Security Official (SO) account in the *HQR Secure Portal*.

Instructions to create an active HARP account are provided on the [Getting Started with QualityNet](#) web page. This mandatory registration process will enable the IPF to identify at least one [Hospital Quality Reporting](#) System SO. The SO is the individual at the IPF who will facilitate the registration process for other users at the organization.

CMS recommends that HQR SOs log into their accounts at least once per month to maintain an active account and to, at a minimum, assign the Basic User role to another individual at the IPF. Accounts that have been inactive for 90 days will be suspended. Once an account is suspended, the user will need to contact the [Center for Clinical Standards and Quality \(CCSQ\) Service Center](#) to have the account reset.

Best Practice

It is highly recommended that facilities designate at least two HQR SOs: One serves as the primary HQR SO, and the other serves as a backup.

Note: Changing the password is not the same as logging into the system. Upon changing the password, SOs and basic users must log into the system with the new password for the account to remain active. We strongly recommend that all HQR SOs and basic users log into the portal every 30–60 days to maintain an active status.

Once the HQR registration process is complete and an active HQR SO is designated, the IPF will be able to access the [Hospital Quality Reporting](#) System to meet the program requirements listed below. The HQR System provides for secure web-based healthcare quality data exchange.

To receive the full APU, IPFs **must** adhere to **all three** program requirements outlined in the next section – IPFQR Program Requirements.

IPFQR Program Requirements

Requirement One:

Complete the IPFQR Program NOP to indicate participation status.

Newly eligible facilities have 180 days from the Medicare Accept Date to submit an NOP for the IPFQR Program through the HQR System. Before an NOP can be submitted, IPFs must designate at least two contacts. An IPF NOP status of Participating must be on file in the HQR System by the annual August 15 deadline (unless directed otherwise via the IPFQR Program Listserve) to meet the NOP requirement for the current data submission period. Once a participation status is selected, the status automatically carries over year after year.

For detailed instructions about the NOP, please refer to the IPFQR Quick Reference Guide: Notice of Participation available for download from the QualityNet [IPFQR Program Resources](#) page.

Facilities are responsible for updating their staff contacts. Facilities are encouraged to maintain up-to-date contact records in the HQR System and to submit and maintain updated contact information by completing and submitting the [Hospital Contact Change Form](#).

When an eligible IPF chooses to withdraw from the IPFQR Program, it must withdraw the NOP (using the NOP tool in the *HQR Secure Portal*) **by August 15 prior to the start** of the affected fiscal year. Eligible IPFs that choose to **withdraw** from the IPFQR Program will automatically receive a two-percentage point reduction of their annual payment update for the affected fiscal year. Any eligible IPF that chooses not to participate in the program should contact the IPFQR Program Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support Program Lead by emailing IPFQualityReporting@hsag.com.

Requirement Two: Collect and submit measure and non-measure data by the annual data submission deadlines.

Newly participating IPFs must start collecting measure data at the beginning of the first quarter following submission of the IPFQR Program NOP.

The measure and non-measure reporting period is January 1 through December 31 for all structural and chart-abstracted process measures, except the Influenza Immunization (IMM-2) measure.

- For the IMM-2 measure, the reporting period aligns with the influenza season (October 1 through March 31 of the following year).

IPFs must collect and submit measure and non-measure data by the August 15 deadline, unless directed otherwise via the IPFQR Program Listserve.

IPFs are required to submit patient-level measure data, the facility-level Hospital-Based Inpatient Psychiatric Services (HBIPS)-2/-3 denominator value, and facility-level non-measure data during the summer of 2027.

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Options for this submission process will include direct upload of XML files containing patient-level data directly into the *HQR Secure Portal* as well as the use of CART for measure and non-measure data.

CMS stores submitted data in the CMS Centralized Data Repository for analysis and report generation.

Additionally, facility-level and patient experience of care survey data can be submitted directly into the web-based tool in the *HQR Secure Portal*.

For more information about the measure specifications and patient-level reporting guidance, refer to the *Specifications Manual for Inpatient Psychiatric Facility National Quality Reporting (Specifications Manual for IPFs)*.

See *CMS IPFQR Program Measures and Non-Measure Data for the FY 2028 Payment Determination* for details regarding data reporting and submission periods on the QualityNet [Resources](#) page and the [Resources and Tools](#) page of the Quality Reporting Center. Facilities have the option of using a vendor to submit data on their behalf. To allow a vendor to submit data, an IPF must complete the online vendor management process, accessible from the HQR System.

Note: When a vendor submits data for an IPF, the **IPF** remains responsible for the accuracy and the timeliness of the submission.

Requirement Three: Complete and submit the DACA by the submission deadline.

The DACA is a requirement for IPFs participating in the IPFQR Program. The DACA is the way IPFs electronically acknowledge that the data they submitted for the IPFQR Program are accurate and complete to the best of their knowledge.

The deadline for signing and completing the DACA is August 15. IPFs are required to complete and sign the DACA **on an annual basis** via the *HQR Secure Portal*.

The IPF must complete this requirement. A vendor cannot fulfill this requirement.

For more information about the DACA, please refer to the IPFQR Quick Reference Guide: FY 2028 DACA available for download from the QualityNet [IPFQR Program Resources](#) page.

IPFQR Program Additional Information

Claims-Based Measures

CMS collects information for certain quality measures using the data that IPFs provide on their Part A and Part B claims for fee-for-service Medicare patients. These measures are called claims-based measures and are related to either patient outcomes or payments. **No additional data submission by the IPF is necessary for these measures.** CMS calculates the measure rates based solely on data provided by the IPFs on their claims.

The IPFQR Program provides IPFs with IPF-Specific Reports (ISRs) for claims-based measures. ISRs contain confidential information that is not available to the public, like the patient-level claims data and risk factors used to calculate the measures, to help inform quality improvement activities.

IPFs will find their ISRs available for download from the *HQR Secure Portal* by clicking on Program Reporting in the left menu, select Claims-based measures, and then selecting the specific release year, program, and report for download. For help on accessing an ISR, contact the CCSQ Service Center at QNetSupport@cms.hhs.gov. The ISRs contain discharge-level data, IPF-specific results, and state and national results for the claims-based measures. ISRs will be accompanied by a user guide describing the details of the ISR.

Important Note: The ISR contains personally identifiable information and protected health information.

Resources with instructions on how to download and interpret data in the ISRs are available on the IPFQR Program Resources and Tools page on the QualityNet [IPF Public Reporting](#) and the Quality Reporting Center [IPFQR Program Resources and Tools](#) web pages. A one-page quick reference guide is also available to provide an overview of the Claims-Based Measure Confidential Review Period.

The *Quick Reference Guide for Claims-Based Measure Confidential Review Period* contains detailed instructions on how to download your ISRs and the Claims-Based Measure Specifications document contains information on how each measure was calculated.

The table below lists the claims-based measures for the IPFQR Program pertinent to the FY 2028 payment determination.

| Claims-Based Measures | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Short Name | Measure Name |
| FAPH | Follow-Up After Psychiatric Hospitalization |
| IPF Readmission | 30-Day All-Cause Unplanned Readmission Following Psychiatric Hospitalization in an IPF |
| MedCont | Medication Continuation Following Inpatient Psychiatric Discharge |

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Public Reporting

The CMS public reporting website presents performance data in a consistent, unified manner to ensure the availability of information about the care delivered in the nation's IPFs. IPFs participating in the IPFQR Program are required to display quality data for public viewing on the Compare tool available on the [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) website. Prior to the public release of data, IPFs can review their data during a 30-day preview period via the *HQR Secure Portal*.

When IPFQR Program Requirements Are Not Met

Extraordinary Circumstances Exceptions (ECE) Policy

CMS offers a process for IPFs to request exceptions to the reporting of required quality data when an IPF experiences an extraordinary circumstance beyond the IPF's control. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, natural disasters (such as a severe hurricane or flood) or systemic problems with CMS data-collections systems that directly affected the ability of the IPF to submit data.

IPFs must submit a CMS Quality Program ECE Request Form with **all** required fields completed **within 60 calendar days** of the extraordinary circumstance. Submission instructions are on the form.

The ECE Request Form is available on QualityNet:

QualityNet.cms.gov > Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities > Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR) Program > Participation > [Extraordinary Circumstances](#)

APU Reconsideration Process

A reconsideration process is available for IPFs that received notification that they **did not** meet IPFQR Program requirements and are, therefore, not eligible to receive the full annual payment update. Information regarding the reconsideration process is available on the [IPFQR APU Reconsideration](#) web page on QualityNet.

Contact Information and Resources

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

www.CMS.gov

CMS is the Department of Health and Human Services agency responsible for administering Medicare, Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, and several other health-related programs.

Federal Register

www.federalregister.gov

The *Federal Register* is the official publication for rules, proposed rules, and notices of federal agencies and organizations, as well as executive orders and other presidential documents. Refer to Appendix B of this document for links to past final rules pertinent to the IPFQR Program.

Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting Program

To learn more about the IPFQR Program and its requirements, visit the links below. CMS may use any of these resources to inform stakeholders about the IPFQR Program.

IPFQR Program Website

QualityReportingCenter.com > Inpatient > [Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities Quality Reporting \(IPFQR\) Program](#)

The IPFQR Program website contains numerous resources concerning reporting requirements, including reference materials; tools for data collection and submission; educational presentations; timelines, and deadlines. CMS and the IPFQR Support Contractor provide National Provider Webinars on a routine basis.

IPFQR Program Webinars

The slides from each of the education sessions are published to the *QualityNet* website and are available for review from the [Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting \(IPFQR\) Program](#) landing page by selecting the [Webinars](#) link from the top menu. These materials are also available on the *Quality Reporting Center* website on the [Archived Events](#) web page.

Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support

The IPFQR Program Support Team is available via phone and email to assist with answering inquiries regarding program eligibility.

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- Phone Numbers: (844) 472-4477 or (866) 800-8765 (9 a.m.– 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday–Friday)
- Email: IPFQualityReporting@hsag.com

IPFQR Program Questions and Answers

The CMS [Quality Question and Answer Tool](#) is a knowledge database, which allows users to search knowledge articles for answers to questions by keywords or phrases, and if not found in the search results, submit a new question.

All inquiries pertaining to measure specifications, measure abstraction, and program requirements should be submitted via the Quality Question and Answer tool. Please ensure that all correspondence includes the name and CCN of your IPF.

Best Practice

Ensure that all correspondence includes the IPF's name and CMS Certification Number (CCN).

IPFQR Program Listserve

Notices generated on the Listserve are used to disseminate timely information related to quality initiatives. QualityNet users are urged to register for these email notifications to receive information on enhancements and new releases, timelines or process/policy modifications, and alerts about applications and initiatives. The IPFQR Notify: Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR) Program Notifications list is available for signup on [QualityNet](#).

QualityNet

QualityNet Website

<https://qualitynet.cms.gov/>

Established by CMS, the QualityNet website provides healthcare quality improvement news, resources, as well as data-reporting tools and applications used by healthcare providers and others. The *HQR Secure Portal* is the only CMS- approved website for secure communications and healthcare quality data exchange.

CCSQ Service Center

The CCSQ Service Center assists providers with technical issues, such as sending and receiving files in the *HQR Secure Portal*.

- Phone Number: (866) 288-8912
- Fax Number: (888) 329-7377
- Email: QNetSupport@cms.hhs.gov

Appendix A: Acronyms and Terms

| Acronym | Term |
|---------|---|
| APU | Annual Payment Update |
| CART | Chart Abstraction and Reporting Tool |
| CCN | CMS Certification Number |
| CCSQ | Center for Clinical Standards and Quality |
| CMS | Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services |
| CY | calendar year |
| DACA | Data Accuracy and Completeness Acknowledgment |
| ECE | Extraordinary Circumstance Exception |
| ED | emergency department |
| FAPH | Follow-Up After Psychiatric Hospitalization |
| FY | Fiscal Year |
| HARP | Health Care Quality Information Systems Access Roles and Profile |
| HBIPS | Hospital-Based Inpatient Psychiatric Services |
| HQR | Hospital Quality Reporting |
| IMM-2 | Influenza Immunization measure |
| IPF | Inpatient Psychiatric Facility |
| IPFQR | Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting |
| IPPS | Inpatient Prospective Payment System |
| ISRs | IPF-Specific Reports |
| LTCH | Long-term Care Hospital |
| MedCont | Medication Continuation Following Inpatient Psychiatric Discharge measure |
| NOP | Notice of Participation |
| PPS | Prospective Payment System |
| SO | Security Official |

Appendix B: IPF PPS Final Rule Publications

Every year, CMS publishes proposed program and policy changes to the IPS PPS including the IPFQR Program in early spring. The proposed changes are published to the *Federal Register* and are open to the public for review and comment for 60 days. CMS also provides notices through the *QualityNet* website and the IPFQR Program Listserve to ensure broad awareness. Following the comment period, CMS summarizes the comments and responds to them in the final rule. The final rule is published in mid-summer. Links to the final rules listed below are provided as a courtesy and does not address any applicable correction notices that may have been published in the *Federal Register*.

The IPFQR Program was implemented with the FY 2013 Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS)/Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System (LTCH PPS) Final Rule, published August 31, 2012. Information for the IPFQR Program begins on page 53644 (direct download, 15.1 MB): <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-08-31/pdf/FR-2012-08-31.pdf>

The FY 2014 IPPS/LTCH PPS final rule was published August 19, 2013. Information for the IPFQR Program begins on page 50887 (direct download, 12.5 MB): <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-08-19/pdf/2013-18956.pdf>

The FY 2015 IPF PPS final rule was published on August 6, 2014. Information for the IPFQR Program begins on page 45961 (direct download, 718 KB): <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-08-06/pdf/2014-18329.pdf>

The FY 2016 IPF PPS final rule was published on August 5, 2015. Information for the IPFQR Program begins on page 46694 (direct download, 790 KB): <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-08-05/pdf/2015-18903.pdf>

The FY 2017 IPPS/LTCH final rule was published on August 22, 2016. Information for the IPFQR Program begins on page 56774 (direct download, 3.52 MB): <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-08-22/pdf/2016-18476.pdf>

The FY 2018 IPPS/LTCH PPS final rule was published on August 14, 2017. Information for the IPFQR Program begins on page 38461 (direct download, 7.53 MB): <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-08-14/pdf/2017-16434.pdf>

The FY 2019 IPF PPS final rule was published on August 6, 2018. Information for the IPFQR Program begins on page 38576 (direct download, 685 KB): <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-08-06/pdf/2018-16518.pdf>

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The FY 2020 IPF PPS final rule was published on August 6, 2019. Information for the IPFQR Program begins on page 38459 (direct download, 6.27 MB):

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-08-06/pdf/2019-16370.pdf>

The FY 2021 IPF PPS final rule was published on August 4, 2020..

Information for the IPFQR Program is on page 47043 (direct download, 2.96 MB):

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-08-04/pdf/2020-16990.pdf>

The FY 2022 IPF PPS final rule was published on August 4, 2021. Information for the IPFQR Program is on page 42608 (direct download, 6.14 MB):

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-08-04/pdf/2021-16336.pdf>

The FY 2023 IPF PPS final rule was published on July 29, 2022.

Information for the IPFQR Program is on page 46865 (direct download, 1.52 MB):

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-07-29/pdf/2022-16260.pdf>

The FY 2024 IPF PPS final rule was published on August 2, 2023. Information for the IPFQR Program is on page 51098 (direct download, 7.8 MB):

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-08-02/pdf/2024-16083.pdf>

The FY 2025 IPF PPS final rule was published on August 7, 2024. Information for the IPFQR Program is on page 64649 (direct download, 3.7 MB):

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-08-07/pdf/2024-16909.pdf>

The FY 2026 IPF PPS final rule was published on August 5, 2025. Information for the IPFQR Program is on page 37654 (direct download, 765 KB):

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-08-05/pdf/2025-14781.pdf>