



Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program

Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support

Hospital IQR Program Phase 2 APU Reconsideration Process Presentation Transcript

Speakers

Candace Jackson, ADN, RN
Program Manager, Hospital IQR Program
Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development
and Program Support

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Jamie Halloran: Welcome to *Phase 2 Fiscal Year 2027 APU Reconsideration* webinar. My name is Jamie, and I'll be your moderator for today's event. All participants are currently in the listen-only mode, but we will hold a Q&A session at the end of the presentation. At that time, I will provide further instructions on how to ask questions. Please note that today's conference is being recorded. I will now turn the call over to Candace Jackson. Candace.

Candace Jackson: Thank you, Jamie. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Candace Jackson, and I am the Hospital IQR Program manager. I'll be your presenter for today's event. We also have a great team joining us on the line, including Mary Ann Jones, Project Director, and Donna Bullock, [Hospital] IQR Program Lead with the [Hospital] IQR Program support contractor, as well as representatives from CMS, the appeals contractor, and the HCAHPS support contractor. Before we dive in, I have a few quick housekeeping announcements. We emailed a link to the slides to all registered attendees shortly ago. If you did not receive it, you can download them right now by clicking the Handouts link in your webinar panel or visit the [Quality Reporting Center](#) website. A full recording and transcript of today's event will be posted during the reconsideration period on both the Quality Reporting Center and [QualityNet](#) websites. As Jamie mentioned, we will hold a Q&A at the end of the call. Please note that we can only answer questions about the reconsideration process itself. We are unable to address individual hospital circumstances during this webinar. For those specific questions, please contact Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support. Their contact information is listed at the bottom of your hospital's APU notification letter, and we will share it again later in this presentation. Next slide, please.

Today's webinar covers the CMS Hospital IQR Program annual payment update reconsideration process for fiscal year 2027. We will outline the IQR requirements that affect your APU and provide a step-by-step guide on how to submit a reconsideration request.

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Fiscal year 2027 APU decisions directly impact hospital Medicare reimbursement rates from October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027. Next slide, please.

By the end of this presentation, you will know how to navigate the Hospital IQR Program requirements and successfully submit your APU reconsideration request. Next slide.

This slide defines the acronyms used throughout the presentation. Next slide, please.

CMS upholds Hospital IQR Program payment reductions in two review phases. A hospital that fails to meet one or more of the Hospital IQR Program requirements, as specified in the applicable CMS IPPS final rule, is subject to a reduction of one-fourth of its market basket update. Phase 1, which occurs in March, focuses on initial data submission requirements outlined on the left side of the table. Phase 2, which occurs in May, focuses on the remaining program criteria. CMS has notified hospitals of their annual payment update status via priority overnight mail for this phase. Phase 2 requirements are listed on the right side of the table and will be detailed in the upcoming slides. Next slide, please.

These two determinations for the fiscal year 2027 annual payment update are currently in progress. To remain compliant, hospitals were required to submit the following data by the May 18, 2026, deadline. That would have been the Quarter 4 2025 sepsis data, which included the initial patient population counts, sample size counts, and patient-level measure data; and the calendar year 2025 structural measures, which include maternal morbidity, age-friendly hospital, and patient safety data. Next slide, please.

Phase 2 also includes the HCAHPS survey data for Quarter 1 through Quarter 4 of 2025. Submission of all four quarters of 2025 data by March 7, 2026, of the following eQMs: Safe Use of Opioids-Concurrent Prescribing, PC-02, PC-07, and three additional self-selected available eQMs. Additionally, they needed to complete the following by the May 18, 2026, submission deadline:

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The Data Accuracy and Completeness Acknowledgement; the Notice of Participation, if you are a new facility; registering with QualityNet; and having a designated Security Official. Next slide, please.

Fiscal year 2027 Phase 2 APU determination letters were mailed via FedEx Priority Overnight on May 29, 2026, to hospitals that did not meet all Phase 2 requirements. Hospitals should have received their letters by May 30. Hospitals have exactly 30 days from their receipt of the letter to file a request for reconsideration with CMS, making the deadline Thursday, July 2, 2026, if they receive the notification letter on May 30, 2026. Reconsideration decisions are expected in July of 2026. Next slide, please.

For a detailed overview of the APU reconsideration process and to access the request form, please use the direct link provided on this slide or visit the CMS QualityNet website. Next slide, please.

To access resources and forms for the APU reconsideration process, visit the QualityNet homepage and select Hospitals-Inpatient. Next, click Learn More under the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program section and select APU Reconsideration. Next slide, please.

To access the Reconsideration Overview page and forms, click on the APU link at the top of the page. Select APU Reconsideration from the left-hand menu. Scroll down to find the reconsideration form and the reconsideration quick reference guide. Next slide, please.

When completing the Reconsideration Request Form, a hospital must explain why it failed to meet the requirement referencing the APU determination notification letter. You must also detail exactly why you believe you met the requirements and should receive the full APU. Be as specific and thorough as possible. Next slide, please.

This slide explains how to submit the completed APU Reconsideration Request Form. Submission options include the Unified File Management Secure Mail function, secure fax at 877-789-4443, or email to QRFormSubmission@hsag.com.

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For anyone using Unified File Management Secure Mail, you must uncheck the Require Registered Users box in the Options section. If that box remains checked, the document cannot be accessed. You may also note that UFM was formerly known as Managed File Transfer. Questions related to the reconsideration process can be directed to Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support at InpatientSupport@hsag.com or by phone at 844-472-4477. For questions about a reconsideration request that has already been submitted, those questions should be directed to the reconsideration team at the email address shown on this slide: Reconsideration@cms.hhs.org. Next slide.

If a hospital disagrees with CMS's reconsideration decision, it may appeal to the Provider Reimbursement Review Board. A hospital may file an appeal with the PRRB only after it has submitted a reconsideration request and received an adverse decision. Hospitals must submit PRRB appeals within 180 days of the notification date on the IQR reconsideration decision. Next slide, please.

As Jamie noted, we now have time to address your questions. Please note that, again, we can respond only to questions about the reconsideration process and will not be able to address questions related to your hospital's specific circumstances. Our moderator, Jamie, will now provide instructions on how to submit your question.

Jamie Halloran:

Thank you, Candace. We'll now begin the question-and-answer session. If you have a question, please press the raised hand feature as indicated by the red box on the image on this slide. Note the icon may appear on either side of your screen. If you wish to be removed from the queue, please press the raised hand icon again to your hand, and we'll just wait a few moments for the first question to come in.

OK. Again, if you would like to ask a question, you just press the raised hand feature. OK. It looks like we have our first question coming from Mubashir Hashmi, and you may need to unmute yourself as well.

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Mubashir Hashmi: Hi, this is Hashmi from Pacifica Hospital. Where can we download the slides?

Jamie Halloran: After this webinar, we will have them posted to the Quality Reporting Center website. Also, if you see on your screen there, it looks like a paper icon with a paper clip on it. You should be able to download it from that link as well. Did you have any further questions?

Mubashir Hashmi: No, not at this time.

Jamie Halloran: OK. Thank you. OK. We'll wait to have any further questions come in. I don't see any further questions coming in. Again, I'll give you just a few more moments if you have any last minute questions. It looks like our next question is coming from Deborah DiPernardo, and you may need to unmute yourself.

Deborah

DiPernardo: I have a question. You just spoke about when we send the information to you, we have to uncheck a box. Could you just review that again? I think I missed it.

Candace Jackson: Donna, would you be able to assist with that question? I've seen you do that a lot with that access. Donna, are you on mute?

Donna Bullock: Hi. No, I'm not on mute anymore. Thank you, Candace. Hi, that is only if you're going to submit your request via what used to be the Managed File Transfer. Now, it's UFM. You can send it via email; you can send it via fax, but if you choose to send it via UFM, then there's an option there that is already checked. That's the default. You have to uncheck it. It says Require Registered Users. If that is checked, we can't access the document. So, just uncheck it.

Deborah

DiPernardo: OK. Thank you.

Donna Bullock: It'll get to us.

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Jamie Halloran: OK. Thank you. We'll just give it another few seconds here to see if anyone else has a question. Again, if you have a question, you need to use the raised hand feature in order for us to call on you.

We will not be answering any questions out of the question box. OK. It appears that there are no further questions at this time. I can go ahead and pass it back to you, Candace, to end the webinar.

Candace Jackson: Great, thank you, Jamie. We would like to thank you all again for joining us today, and we hope you have a wonderful afternoon. Thank you.