



Quality Advisory

September 29, 2010

Hospital Compare: CMS Suspends Display of Hospital-Acquired Conditions Data

AT A GLANCE

The Issue:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced that it has suspended plans to add data on hospital-acquired conditions (HAC) to *Hospital Compare* (www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov), citing an error in the agency's data file used to calculate the HAC measures. Based on questions raised by hospitals and their data vendors during the brief pre-release period, CMS identified a discrepancy between the claims data that hospitals submitted and the agency's data file. The agency did not give a timeframe for when the HAC data might be reported in the future.

For a detailed discussion of CMS' plan to publically display hospital-specific HAC data, refer to our September 8 [Quality Advisory](#). We will keep you posted on any future HAC data displays.

Our Take:

While hospitals are committed to sharing reliable quality data with the public, we strongly oppose inclusion of the HACs for reporting on *Hospital Compare* for several reasons, including inadequate time for hospitals to preview the data. Additionally, the eight chosen HAC measures have not been reviewed by consensus-based entities, such as the National Quality Forum and Hospital Quality Alliance. We also are very concerned about consumer understanding of these data, as CMS has yet to field test the data display with focus groups. We will continue to urge CMS not to publish these data.

What You Can Do:

- ✓ Share news of CMS' delay with your communications team, quality improvement team, physician and nursing leaders, and trustees.
- ✓ Continue to identify quality improvement efforts that you can highlight with the media and the public in anticipation of future HAC reporting on *Hospital Compare*.

Further Questions:

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