

# MBQIP Monthly

Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project



A publication for Flex Coordinators to share with their critical access hospitals

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Contact your Flex Coordinator if you have questions about MBQIP.

Find your state Flex Coordinator on the [Technical Assistance and Services Center \(TASC\) website](#).

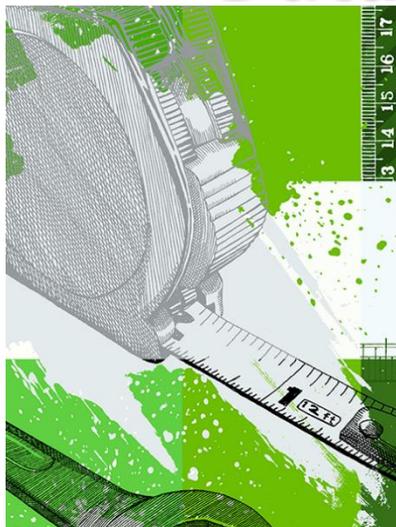
Find past issues of this newsletter and links to other MBQIP resources on TASC's [MBQIP Monthly](#) webpage.

**We recognize that our friends and colleagues in critical access hospitals and across the care continuum are deeply affected by the current pandemic. In light of the ongoing efforts of the health care community to fight coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), we are focusing the April MBQIP Monthly on resources and tools to support this work.**

**Thank you for the amazing and important work you do.  
You are appreciated.**



# Data



## Quality Reporting Updates Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

In recognition of the strain COVID-19 is putting on healthcare providers, on March 22, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced exceptions from reporting requirements for a variety of programs, including hospital quality reporting and performance programs. To learn more, see the [CMS Press Release](#).

On March 25, the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FOHRP), which oversees the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP), sent an announcement to state Flex programs announcing they would also be making exceptions for reporting requirements, making data submission *optional* over the coming months.

The current MBQIP policy change applies to data due for the upcoming reporting periods:

- Quarter 4, 2019 (Oct 1-Dec 31, 2019)
- Quarter 1, 2020 (Jan 1-Mar 31, 2020)
- Quarter 2, 2020 (Apr 1-Jun 30)

Details on each MBQIP measure and impacted submission periods are available in an updated [MBQIP Data Submission Deadlines](#) schedule. FORHP will continue to monitor the developing COVID-19 situation and re-assess reporting requirements as needed.

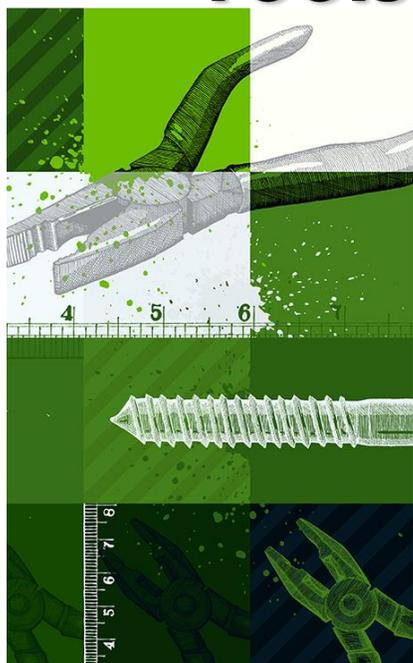
Hospitals that can report MBQIP measures are encouraged to continue reporting, as measures will be used to inform ongoing opportunities to support improvements in care for rural populations. While hospitals direct their resources toward caring for ill patients and ensuring the health and safety of their staff, FORHP recognizes that any quality measure reporting during this national emergency may not be reflective of actual performance. Of note, the updates for MBQIP data submission align with the exceptions for the CMS reporting updates (referenced above).

If you have questions about how these reporting changes may affect your status with your state Flex program, please contact them directly. If you don't have a direct contact, you can find more information in the [State Flex Profiles](#).

## Administration Request for COVID-19 Data Reporting

On March 29, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) sent a [letter](#) to the nation's hospitals on behalf of Vice President Pence requesting they report data in connection with their efforts to fight the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Hospitals are asked to share COVID-19 laboratory data and to report to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) [COVID-19 Patient Impact and Hospital Capacity Module daily](#). Details on the request can be found in this [CMS press release](#). If your facility is not yet enrolled in NHSN, follow the [5-Step Enrollment for Acute Care Hospitals/Facilities](#).

# Tools



## COVID-19 Information

Resources to support healthcare providers in responding to COVID-19 are constantly being updated. We recommend you regularly monitor these organizations and websites for the most current information.

- [American Hospital Association](#)
- [www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov)
- [CDC](#)
- [CMS](#)
- [John Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center](#)
- [National Rural Health Association's \(NRHA\) COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [Public Health Emergency: COVID-19: 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease](#)

Rural Health Information Hub - Rural Response to COVID-19:

- [Federal and National Response Resources](#)
- [State Response Resources](#)

## MBQIP Resources

**Ask Robyn – Quarterly Open Office Hours Calls for Data Abstractors  
Wednesday, April 22, 2020, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. CT – [Register](#)**

Sometimes it just helps to talk to someone! Quality Reporting Specialist Robyn Carlson will be offering open office hour calls to discuss your MBQIP abstraction questions. Sessions are free of charge, but registration is required. For more information about the Ask Robyn calls, contact Robyn Carlson, [rcarlson@stratishealth.org](mailto:rcarlson@stratishealth.org).

Can't make the call? [The Online MBQIP Data Abstraction Training Series](#) is always available as a resource.

### [Quality Improvement Implementation Guide and Toolkit for CAHs](#)

This guide and toolkit offers strategies and resources to help critical access hospital (CAH) staff organize and support efforts to implement best practices for quality improvement. It includes:

- A quality improvement implementation model for small, rural hospital settings
- A 10-step guide to leading quality improvement efforts
- Summaries of key national quality initiatives that align with the priorities of the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project ([MBQIP](#))
- Suggested strategies for improvement of current MBQIP measures
- A simple, Excel-based tool to assist CAHs with tracking and displaying real-time data for MBQIP and other quality and patient safety measures to support internal improvement efforts
- An Excel-based tool to help CAH quality and patient safety leaders prioritize and make decisions related to patient safety and quality planning



MBQIP Monthly is produced by Stratis Health to highlight current information about the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP). This newsletter is intended for Flex Coordinators to share with their critical access hospitals.

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