Outpatient Notice of Participation:
2019 Changes Affecting Public Reporting

Situation: In the 2019 Outpatient Prospective Payment System Final Rule, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) eliminated the requirement for hospitals to complete a Notice of Participation (NoP). Going forward, all outpatient measure data submitted to CMS will be publicly reported unless otherwise noted through explanatory footnotes regarding low volume data suppression.

Background: Historically, in order for outpatient quality measures to be publicly reported on Hospital Compare, hospitals were required to complete an NoP selecting either to participate in *quality improvement* or *quality reporting*. Selecting *quality improvement* meant that the hospital's data would not be publicly reporting on hospital compare. Selecting *quality reporting* meant the hospital's data would be publicly reporting on hospital compare.

Assessment: By eliminating the requirement to complete an NoP, CMS has made the determination that all submitted outpatient data that meets low volume threshold requirements will be publicly reported on Hospital Compare going forward, starting with data submitted:
- May 1, 2019 for Quarter 4 2018 for chart abstracted measures
- May 15, 2019 for web-based measures for calendar year 2019

Hospitals can anticipate seeing that data on Hospital Compare starting in January 2020.

CMS will automatically update the NoP status of hospitals previously participating as *quality improvement* to *non-participating* until their next data submission at which point they will automatically be updated to *participating* status. Past data will not be grandfathered in and made public.

Recommendation: Critical access hospitals (CAHs) participating in the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP) and other quality reporting programs that require submission of outpatient quality measures should continue to report as they always have, with the knowledge that if their data was previously not publicly reported due to the NoP selection, it will be going forward.

No further action is required at this time.