

Critical Access Hospital Electronic Clinical Quality Measure (eCQM) Resource List

Updated February 22, 2022

Note: Resources included are currently available as of February 22, 2022, focusing on Calendar Year 2021 reporting requirements. This list is updated periodically to reflect updates and new materials released by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

eCQM Reporting requirements are aligned between two CMS programs

Calendar Year (CY) 2021 eCQM Reporting Requirements

- The reporting period is **two self-selected quarters of CY 2021 data**.
- Report on **four self-selected eCQMs from the set of [nine available eCQMs](#)**.
- Submission period deadline: **March 31, 2022.***

Data must be submitted through the Hospital Quality Reporting (HQR) Secure Portal as any combination of the following:

- Report QRDA Category I files with patients meeting the initial patient population of applicable measure(s).
- Zero denominator declarations.
- Case threshold exemptions.

*Extended from February 28, 2022 ([Link to 10/28/21 announcement](#))

Promoting Interoperability (PI) Program	Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAHs are required to participate in the Medicare PI Program to avoid a downward payment adjustment. • Hospitals are required to submit eCQM data from certified electronic health record technology (CEHRT). Attestation is no longer an option except in circumstances where electronic reporting is not feasible. • Submission of eCQMs is one component of participation. • For a full summary of PI requirements, see Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program Requirements for 2021. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical access hospitals (CAHs) are not held to the IQR program requirements, but meeting the Hospital IQR Program eCQM requirement also satisfies the eCQM electronic reporting requirement for the Medicare PI Program. • CAHs are not included in the CMS eCQM data validation process.

eCQM Resources:

- [QualityNet eCQM Overview](#): Information on eCQM reporting requirements for the Hospital IQR Program and alignment with the PI Program requirements.
- [CY 2021 Available eCQMs](#): List of measures for hospital eCQM submission.
- [CY 2021 eCQM Submission Overview](#): Summary of program requirements, technical requirements, and tools.
- [eCQM QRDA 1 File Submission Checklist](#): eCQM file submission instructions for the Hospital Quality Reporting System.
- [eCQM Electronic Specifications on eCQI Resource Center](#)
 - Technical documentation is available for download to support CY 2021 eCQM reporting activities, including an eCQM Implementation Checklist, eCQM eMeasure Logic Guidance, eCQM measure flows and eCQM Technical Release Notes.
Note: Ensure you select the CY 2021 Reporting Period, as resources for other reporting periods are also posted.
- **Quality Reporting Center Events:** Materials and recordings from training and events related to eCQM reporting. Available events include (additional recordings will be added as they are made available):
 - [Reviewing CY 2021 eCQM Reporting Resources for the Hospital IQR Program and Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program](#), On-demand, October 28, 2021.
 - [Steps for Successful CY 2021 Hospital eCQM Submission](#), December 16, 2021.
 - [CY 2021 eCQM Reporting Tools and FAQs for the Hospital IQR Program and Medicare Interoperability Program](#), February 25, 2022.

Changes Coming Soon!

Public Reporting

- eCQM data is not currently included in public reporting from CMS.
- Starting with CY 2021 data, eCQM data will be reported on [CMS Care Compare](#).
- CY 2021 data will be available to the public as early as Fall 2022.
- Hospitals will have the opportunity to review their data before it is made public during a 30-day preview period.

Hybrid Hospital-Wide Readmissions Measure

- A hybrid measure uses both claims data and core clinical data elements from the electronic health records (EHR) for measure calculation.
- Voluntary reporting will be available in 2022 and 2023. Reporting will be mandatory under the Hospital IQR Program starting in 2024. The measure will be publicly reported starting in 2025 (based on 2024 submission).
 - Initial data submission deadline: **September 30, 2022** for hospitalizations between July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.
 - Hospitals that voluntarily report will receive a hospital specific report in spring 2023.
For details: [Reporting the Hybrid Hospital-Wide Readmission Measure to the Hospital IQR Program](#). (Quality Reporting Center Recorded Event – May 18, 2021)

Additional Resources

- [CMS Promoting Interoperability Program Requirements](#)
- [eCQM Issues Tracker](#)
- [eCQM Extraordinary Circumstance Extensions/Exemptions \(ECE\) Clarifications](#)