



Reference #: 2026-20-IP
From: Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Systems Development and Program Support
Sent: February 25, 2026
To: IQR/OQR/ASC/PCH/PI/REH Recipient List
Subject: **January 2026 Data Release published in February 2026 Hospital Quality Initiative Public Reporting Data Refresh for Hospitals**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [Care Compare tool on Medicare.gov](#) website provides consumers with information on over 100 quality measures for over 4,000 hospitals nationwide, including Veterans Administration (VA) medical centers and Department of Defense (DoD) military hospitals.

With the [Provider Data Catalog](#), users can explore and download hospital data, as well as data on ambulatory surgical centers, inpatient psychiatric facilities, and some cancer hospitals. Publicly displaying quality information encourages hospitals and other healthcare facilities to make continued improvements in care.

CMS updates the data on the Care Compare tool on Medicare.gov and the Provider Data Catalog websites quarterly, though not all data are updated each quarter.

Data Updates

Today, February 25, 2026, CMS has updated data for hospitals on the public reporting websites. Because of the lapse in federal appropriations, scheduled data refreshes and other routine updates were temporarily paused. With the resumption of government operations on November 13, 2025 these updates are being released.

CMS updated data for the following measures, measure groups, quality reporting programs and payment programs:

- Healthcare associated infections (HAI)
- Payment and Value of Care
- Timely and effective care
- Unplanned Hospital Visits
- Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reporting (ASCQR)
- Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement (CJR) Model
- Hospital-Acquired Condition Reduction Program (HACRP)
- Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) Survey (includes data on Medicare-certified hospitals, VA medical centers, and Department of Defense [DoD] hospitals)
- Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program (HRRP)
- Hospital Value-Based Purchasing (HVBP)

- Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR)
- Outpatient and Ambulatory Surgery Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (OAS CAHPS)
- Prospective Payment System- Exempt Cancer Hospital (PCH) Quality Reporting Program
- Rural Emergency Hospital (REH) Quality Reporting Program

CMS added the following new measure for public reporting on the Provider Data Catalog website for Hospital Value-Based Purchasing (HVBP) Program:

- HVBP-SEP-1; Percentage of patients who received appropriate care for severe sepsis and/or septic shock

CMS has added the following new measures for Rural Emergency Hospitals (REH) measure data on Care Compare on Medicare.gov.

- REH-OP-10; Percentage of outpatient CT scans of the abdomen that were “combination” (double) scans
- REH-OP-36; Ratio of unplanned hospital visits after hospital outpatient surgery

CMS retired the following measures from public reporting in January 2026:

Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) (Including VHA, DoD and PCH)

- Composite 3: Responsiveness of Hospital Staff; Patients who reported that they “[answer]” received help as soon as they wanted
 - Question 4: Patients who reported that they “[answer]” received help after using the call button as soon as they wanted
 - Question 11: Patients who reported that they “[answer]” received bathroom help as soon as they wanted
- Composite 7: Care Transition; Patients who “[answer]” understood their care when they left the hospital
 - Question 20: Patients who “[answer]” that the staff took my preferences into account when determining my health care needs
 - Question 21: Patients who “[answer]” understood their responsibilities in managing their health
 - Question 22: Patients who “[answer]” that they understood the purposes of their medications when leaving the hospital

Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR)

- FCHE; Facility Commitment to Health Equity: The number of domains (0-5) that the facility can affirm they used to assess facility commitment to health equity using a suite of equity-focused organizational competencies aimed at achieving health equity.

More Information and Compare Websites

For more information on the Care Compare tool, please visit: <https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare/>

For more information on the Provider Data Catalog, please visit: <https://data.cms.gov/provider-data/topics/hospitals>

For general questions regarding Hospital Public Reporting go to the [QualityNet Question and Answer Tool](#). Under Program please select: Hospital Care Compare Site Support and choose your specific Topic. This will get your inquiry directly into the Hospital Care Compare Site inbox.

For questions regarding Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings go to the [QualityNet Question and Answer Tool](#). Under Program please select: Overall Hospital Star Ratings and choose your specific topic. This will get your inquiry directly to the Overall Star Ratings inbox.