

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Questions and Answers from

Open Door Forum: Hospital, August 31, 2021

1. As part of the Medicare DSH calculations, every year, CMS will post a listing of SSI percentages for hospitals. The last couple of years, this cover would have been posted in the spring. It's been at different times over the years. So, I'm just curious, it hasn't been posted yet. And I was wondering if there was an update on when we could expect that SSI listing to be released by CMS.
 - a. We'll issue instructions when we release that file, but we have not released it yet.
 - i. My cost report period is such that I'll be filing costs for next month and I wanted to know if you had any idea if it's going to come out sooner or later, or any guess at all on the anticipated timing on that.
 1. Yes. I don't have a firm date on when that file will be released.
2. My question is about the value-based purchasing. Where can we find the net neutral payment adjustment that so we can record those calculations in our figures?
 - a. Before the end of the year, we will be issuing for each hospital, a percentage payment summary report. I think, normally each year, we issue that around August 1st. This year, because of the COVID-related proposals, that timeframe has been delayed. But my suggestion would be to keep an eye out for when that report becomes available. And we will be putting out like listserv communications to also notify everyone when it becomes available. But that report would have the information in there. I think also in past years normally, we would post a Table 16B that would also have the payment adjustments included. For this year only, we will not be doing that because essentially everybody's payment adjustment would be zero. So, it wouldn't really be useful information in that sense. But the percentage payment summary report, the hospital-specific report, will have that information available, and we'll be issuing that a little bit later this year. Unfortunately, I don't have a more definitive timeframe for you right now, but it will be before the end of this year.
 - i. Are the current payments still going to use our last year's rate until October 1 or until it's released?
 1. Until October 1, that's correct. It would be the fiscal year 2021 payment adjustment. And then beginning with October 1, 2021 discharges for the next fiscal year, it would be a neutral payment adjustment. That's correct.
3. When will the reporting here for the new eCQM measures for hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia begin?
 - a. It will be beginning with the calendar 2023 reporting period. So, there'll be a little bit of time to implement those new measures for 2023.
4. It's related to the lab PAMA reporting. I was wondering, with the continuation of the public health emergency (PHE) and all the attention to that and labs reporting related to COVID, if

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there's been any consideration given to a further delay of the lab PAMA reporting until after the PHE has ended.

- a. To our knowledge, no, there has been no movement to delay. We have already delayed the reporting twice. And so, we are in the sort of third time's a charm to get the data in. And - but so it could certainly happen. The very first delay happened in the latter part of the year, but to our knowledge, no, there's been no conversation about another delay.
 - i. What is for consideration of that with maybe a quick turnaround time, if you are going to delay? The reporting is often very manual and time-consuming. If there's going to be a delay, it would be helpful and to know about that as soon as possible. Would be helpful so people don't divert work from COVID to the collection.
 1. Absolutely. And that's understood. The nuts and bolts of a delay, though, would be that it would have to be congressionally mandated. That's not something that CMS can decide, because PAMA is a statutory requirement for CMS to collect the data. So, that's why I said we have not heard anything, but it's also not, at least as I understand, that's sort of where the delay would need to be directed from.

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