



Dialysis Facility Compare

Frequently Asked Questions: Exceptions for Dialysis Facilities Affected by COVID-19

GENERAL QUESTIONS

How does the data submission exception announced for the QIP program affect data submission requirements for Dialysis Facility Compare (DFC)?

CMS is committed to supporting clinicians and other providers on the front lines. Data submission requirements for DFC and the DFC star ratings will be aligned with the ESRD Quality Incentive Program.

Additionally, the January, April, and July 2021 Refreshes of Dialysis Facility Compare will not take place. Instead, data from the October 2020 Release will remain on Dialysis Facility Compare until October 2021. CMS will continue to monitor and evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency on the data for the measures and will provide additional guidance on future releases of Dialysis Facility Compare data at a later date.

Will there be further changes to DFC in the future?

At this time no additional decisions have been made about how the measures and data collection for future releases may be changed due to COVID-19. CMS will continue to monitor and review data as it becomes available and will communicate with the community if additional updates need to occur.

Will the Star Rating resetting preview dry run still be held during the July – August 2020 Preview Period?

The dry run for re-setting the Star Rating to the 10-20-40-20-10 distribution is postponed and will not occur during the July – August 2020 Preview Period. CMS decided this was the best option as it provides time to evaluate the 2020 data and investigate the impact on the new baseline when star ratings are reset and to alleviate facilities' burden of previewing the additional dry run information during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Note: Only the dry run is being postponed, the Star Ratings for the October 2020 Release will be previewed during the July - August 2020 Preview Period and released publicly in October 2020 as originally planned.

Where can I find the details of what will be included in the ESRD QIP Program?

The End-Stage Renal Disease Quality Incentive Program's Frequently Asked Questions: Exceptions for Dialysis Facilities Affected by COVID-19 are available here <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-qip-esrd-faqs.pdf>

Additional Resources regarding Dialysis Facility Compare

The 2019 DFC Star Rating TEP Summary Report is available at the following link:

https://dialysisdata.org/sites/default/files/content/ESRD_Measures/2019_ESRD_DFC_Star_Rating_TEP_Summary_Report.pdf

How can I find additional information regarding CMS' COVID-19 response?

Please visit the following web pages:

- <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom>
- <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page>
- <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/guidance-memo-exceptions-and-extensions-quality-reporting-and-value-based-purchasing-programs.pdf>
- <https://www.cms.gov/outreach-education/partner-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-partner-toolkit>
- <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality-safety-oversight-general-information/coronavirus>