

NM Nursing Facility HCQS Redesign Operational Workgroup

Meeting Summary

October 23, 2025

Summary

The bi-weekly meeting provided updates on the HCQS VBP program, including

- Evaluation and performance of the Legacy HCQS program
- SFY26 Q2 Structural Measure Meetings dates
- SFY26 Q1 Structural Measure Meeting Poll Results
- HCQS VBP Dashboard Update
- Program Review and Evaluation Process

Legacy HCQS Program Evaluation Overview and Closeout

NetHealth reviewed the mid-year evaluation submitted to CMS for the Legacy HCQS Program. The evaluation report submitted to CMS shows performance targets and results for the legacy HCQS program.

- Facilities met or exceeded 3 of 4 measures in the program.
- Falls with Major Injury (target 2.4%; actual 3.4%) not met but performance is consistent with national average.
- Measure remains a focus in the redesigned program.

NetHealth discussed

- CMS has increased requirements for data-driven target setting and evaluation under state-directed payment programs.
- Performance is evaluated in aggregate statewide, not by facility.
- States must justify performance targets and explain unmet goals.

SFY26 Q2 Structural Measure Meetings

Proposed dates for a third session on structural measures are set for the week of December 8, 2025.

- Feedback from previous sessions indicates a preference for morning meetings.
- The sessions aim to provide flexibility and accommodate holiday schedules.
- NMHCA/NMCAL will discuss these dates with nursing facility providers and provide feedback to the Workgroup on November 5.

SFY26 Q1 Structural Measure Meeting Poll Results and Themes

Poll results were reviewed to identify common themes.

Infection Control

- 28% have a full-time infection preventionist; 69% dual role; 1.6% vacant.
- Top challenges: staff compliance, antibiotic prescribing, vaccine administration, limited IP capacity.

Patient Experience

- 71% of facilities use patient satisfaction/experience surveys.
- Top barriers: resident cognition/language, workflow, and staffing limitations.

Behavioral Health Coordination

- 47% rated coordination as “good,” 32% “fair,” and 7.8% “very poor”
- Top challenges: lack of referral partners, staffing, and training needs.

Future sessions will incorporate peer sharing of best practices with the goal of highlighting facilities that demonstrate effective strategies in challenging areas. NetHealth clarified that poll responses are shared with HCA for informational purposes only. Data will not be used for regulatory enforcement. NetHealth emphasized that the goal was to create a safe space and build trust with facilities.

HCQS VBP Dashboard Update

The attestation functionality went live, with a deadline for facilities to submit attestations by October 30, 2025.

As of the October 23, 14 facilities had completed their attestations, with expectations that this number has increased.

The dashboard is designed to be intuitive, and further functionalities will be rolled out in phases.

Dashboard is currently separate from legacy app (same credentials; username is case-sensitive).

Quality measure performance and payment data will be released soon.

Integration with legacy app is planned; timeline to be confirmed.

Program Review and Evaluation Process

The group discussed the evaluation process for the HCQS program and its cut points. There emphasis on the importance of maintaining stability in program targets while regularly reviewing outcomes

- The program will undergo a mid-year review and an annual review as per CMS requirements. The mid-year review is not scheduled as it will first require complete data and analysis.
- The review will analyze benchmarks, baselines, cut points, and overall performance.
- Changes to the program structure can be proposed during the mid-year review. Targets are not intended to change midway through the program, so mid-year changes are unlikely unless significant data issues arise.
- The program operates on a fiscal year, while CMS reviews are on a calendar year basis.

Scheduling and Meeting Requests

Facilities requested more predictability for SFY26 Q2 meeting schedules to better plan their participation.

- NetHealth appreciated the need to plan ahead to allow better planning for facilities.
- The need for clear communication regarding meeting schedules was highlighted.

Concerns About Program Rollout

Facilities expressed concerns regarding the rollout of the program and its impact on operations.

- The program software challenges are frustrating and such issues should have been resolved before the program's start.
- Facility responses to poll questions may be impacted by concerns of confidentiality.

Attendance/Engagement at NMHCA Meetings:

Acknowledgement that center-level staff have limited time and attendance can be challenging.

AHCA Vaccination Campaign and Toolkit

The group discussed utilization of AHCA vaccination campaign to enhance infection control measures in facilities.

- The focus is on promoting influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations as they are still monitored measures.
- Suggestions include email blasts and in-app messages to promote vaccination resources.
- Facilities report that some residents are declining COVID vaccinations.
- Net Health will plan to send email and in-app message with resources and MDS tip sheets provided by NMHCA (QIO).

Updates on Health Inspection Scores

Progress has been made regarding facilities that do not have a health inspection score.

- Currently, only one facility lacks a reported health inspection score.
- A solution has been developed to calculate the score from raw data.
- Future use cases may arise, and options for handling these situations are being analyzed.
- An update on this issue is expected in the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.