

NM Nursing Facility HCQS Redesign Operational Workgroup

Meeting Summary

October 9, 2025

Summary

The meeting provided updates on the HCQS VBP program, that included planning for the HCQS VBP operational work group, scheduling of structural measure meetings, start of provider MDS review period, and dashboard developments.

HCQS NF-VBP Update

The 30-day provider review period is open for MDS submissions from July to September.

- Facilities should verify that all MDS data have been submitted to Net Health
- NetHealth will email a reminder to all facilities

Proposed Structural Measure Meeting Dates and Times

The proposed meeting schedule for the upcoming quarter was presented for feedback.

- Three 30-minute sessions are scheduled for each measure in October and early November (NO December meeting dates). Facilities only need to attend one session per measure.
- NMHCA/NMCAL will share proposed meeting dates for the upcoming quarter to gather feedback on concerns, and report back to HCA by October 17 if changes are needed.
- Suggestions for changing meeting days were discussed, particularly regarding conflicts with existing quality measure calls.

Structural Measures and Poll Question Feedback

The group discussed the structural measures and the feedback received from previous meetings.

- Feedback from polls and comments will be compiled and NextHealth will present findings at the next workgroup meeting.
- Providers are concerned that meetings don't feel or operate collaboratively.
 - Facilities lack visibility into how comments are addressed during meetings, including some chat comments being ignored.

- Facilities perceived poll questions as leading, suggesting there must be a problem without allowing for positive feedback.
 - Facilities could not report that they had “no issues”; and requested an option to indicate that everything is functioning well.
- HCA/NetHealth stated that structural measures are intended to foster collaboration among facilities, with no evaluation based on poll responses.
 - HCA/NetHealth stated that polls were meant to identify improvement areas, not evaluate performance.
 - Comments are being used to guide deeper, topic-based collaboration in future sessions.
 - All facilities’ feedback is valued, and future discussions are anticipated to be more interactive.

Concern with Facility Engagement and Feedback

There was discussion on facility engagement and the importance of addressing concerns raised by facility participants.

- Facilities expressed concerns about the clarity of structural measures and the dashboard's functionality.
- The need for ongoing communication and transparency regarding quality measures and expectations was highlighted.
- Workgroup participants were encouraged to share feedback from their facility meetings to improve collaboration and understanding.

Health Inspection Measure and Cut Points

Updates were provided on the recalculated cut points for health inspection scores due to CMS changes.

- Health inspection scores below 90 receive 200 points, while scores of 396 or above receive no points. An updated Program Description will be distributed.
- The cut points will be reviewed twice a year, including annually, with no adjustments unless necessary based on data analysis.

Dashboard Updates (w/attestations) and Functionality

The HCQS dashboard is undergoing final testing, to ensure quality measurement accuracy.

- A release is expected by October 17 and will include attestation functionality.
- In-app guides and self-service tools will be available.
- Facilities will have access to a user-friendly interface for attestations, quality measures performance, and payment estimates.
- Attestations for SFY26 Q1 (July-Sept) will be made as soon as the functionality is available on the new HCQS dashboard.
- Attestations for structural measures will take place during the 30-day provider review period each quarter.
- Attestations must be submitted by a facility-level user (not regional).
- Concerns were raised about the visibility of quality measures and the impact of CMS data reporting delays.

Concerns Regarding CMS Government Shutdown

The potential impact of the CMS government shutdown on health inspection data was discussed.

- NetHealth reported that CMS mission-critical activities will continue, but the release of data may be affected.
- The group will monitor the situation closely, especially as it relates to the current quarter's calculations.

Pro Long Stay Measure

- Net Health acknowledged a calculation error for the Pro Long Stay measure and is working to correct it.
- Once finalized, an impact analysis on payments for NMVBP Q2 2025 will be completed.

Update on Health Inspection Score Calculation

NetHealth provided an update regarding the calculation of health inspection scores when none are posted by CMS.

- Options for calculating scores when data is missing have been defined and will be reviewed with HCA.
- Currently, missing measure values are imputed at the state average, but alternative options are being explored.

Health Inspection Score and Star Ratings

There was concern expressed with using star ratings as a proxy for health inspection scores and their implications for providers.

- Star ratings can serve as a proxy for potential tier placements, though they are not exact.

Communication and Education Needs/Access to Quality Data:

There is a recognized need for better communication and education regarding quality measures and continuous quality improvement principles.

- Some providers may not fully understand quality measures and their implications.
 - Facilities can access all quality measures via the Net Health Value-Based Care Solutions application.
- Suggestions were made to reach out to smaller providers who may lack resources to connect the dots.
- Basic education on continuous quality improvement principles, such as PDSA, is deemed necessary.
 - NetHealth is committed to providing such foundational education to support facilities.
 - Net Health will send reminder communication via email to help users locate these tools.

Attendance at NMHCA biweekly meetings:

- Provider attendance remains steady.
- Large organizations (Genesis, OPCO) hold internal weekly reviews to keep facilities informed.