

Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH) Continuity Assessment Record and Evaluation (CARE) Data Set (LCDS) & LTCH Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Manual

December 16, 2020

LCDS Quarterly Q&As, December 2020

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is publishing the Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH) Continuity Assessment Record and Evaluation (CARE) Data Set (LCDS) Quarterly Q&As, December 2020 document, so that all LTCH providers have the benefit of the clarifications to existing guidance, CMS identifies the opportunity to clarify or refine guidance.

The Quarterly Q&As document is available in the **Downloads** section of this webpage.

June 17, 2020

Delayed: Release of Updated LCDS Version 5.0 and Accompanying Guidance Manual

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is delaying the release of updated versions of the item sets needed to support the Transfer of Health (TOH) Information Quality Measures and new or revised Standardized Patient Assessment Data Elements (SPADES) in order to provide maximum flexibilities for providers of Long-Term Care Hospitals (LTCHs) to respond to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE).

The release of updated versions of the LTCH Continuity Assessment Record and Evaluation (CARE) Data Set (LCDS) will be delayed until October 1st of the year that is at least 1 full fiscal year after the end of the COVID-19 PHE. For example, if the COVID-19 PHE ends on September 20, 2020, LTCHs will be required to begin collecting data using the updated versions of the item sets beginning with patients discharged on October 1, 2021.

For more information regarding the trainings associated with the LCDS Version 5.0, please see the [LTCH Quality Reporting Program \(QRP\) Training](#) webpage.

For more information regarding the FY 2022 LTCH QRP Annual Update (i.e. the APU) Table for Reporting Assessment-Based measures and SPADES, please see the [LTCH QRP Measures Information](#) webpage.