Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Questions and Answers:

Home Health, Hospice and DME Open Door Forum

February 23, 2023

1. Question: I just wondered if it's possible to pin down the date a little bit more for the hospice QRP update in late April.
    a. Answer: The HQRP form is going to be towards the end of April. I'm not sure if that helps any, but it won't be at the very beginning it will be towards the end of April. And again, you should see some information in reference to registration about mid-March.
2. Question: I was questioning the mention of the patient who was transferred or discharged to hospice. I saw in the document M2420 Response 3, but I didn't see anything about M2410 where the patient is transferred to an inpatient hospice. Could you confirm that?
    a. Answer: If it's the specific item I don't want to misconstrue any information or give you an incorrect answer. If you could forward this specific question to the Home Health help desk, they will be able to get you back a more concrete answer.
        i. Question: Okay, so I just want to make sure, is it they're being discharged to home hospice and/or transferred to inpatient hospice and the outcomes were impacted or just discharged to home hospice?
            1. Answer: It's my understanding that it is hospice as a whole. But I do want to make sure that you forward that specific question because there are nuances between the inpatient hospice and then the Home Health.
                a. Comment from participant: Right, yes, I understand. I just understood it was just home hospice, but when I read it myself, and so I just want to make sure.
                    i. Comment from CMS: Right. No, it's not necessarily clear, but we always associate it with home hospice based on the Home Health benefit. But again, if you forward that question with those specifics then we'll be able to make sure that we get you a reply that you can move forward with.

3. Question: Would you please repeat the exclusions for the hospice transfers and where I can find the information on those?

    a. Answer: The information was just recently updated on the Measures page in the Download section. But the exclusion for the outcome measures is what you wanted me to repeat. So, the exclusions are going to apply to the following assessment based measures, improvement in ambulation and locomotion, improvement in bathing, improvement in bed transferring, improvement in toilet transferring, improvement in upper body dressing, improvement in lower body dressing, improvement in management of oral medications, improvement in bowel incontinence, improvement in confusion frequency, improvement in dyspnea and discharge to community.