

**September 12, 2013**

**Updated Errata Document**

An updated errata for the LTCH CARE Data Set data submission specifications v1.01.0 has been posted. This errata document applies to V1.01.0 of the specifications, which is scheduled for implementation on July 1, 2014, as finalized in the FY 2014 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule. You can access this document by selecting the file titled **LTCH Data Specs Errata v1.01.1 (September 2013) – Implementation on July 1, 2014** located under the **Downloads** section of LTCH Quality Reporting Technical Information webpage. The LTCH Quality Reporting Technical Information webpage is accessible by selecting the link of the same name in the upper left-hand corner of this webpage.

[LTCH Data Submission Specs FINAL v1.01.1 \(January 2014\) – Implementation on July 1, 2014 \[ZIP, 3MB\]](#)

**June 25, 2013**

CMS has posted our LTCH Reconsideration Manual. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on how to create and submit a request for reconsideration for the FY 2014 payment determination. The manual is located under the **Downloads** section of the **LTCH Quality Reporting Reconsideration and Disaster Waiver** web page, which is accessible by selecting the link of the same title located in the upper left-hand corner of this web page.

[LTCH Reconsideration Request Manual for FY 2014 \[PDF, 149KB\]](#)

**June 6, 2013**

**LTCH Reconsiderations**

Beginning with Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will reduce a long-term care hospital's (LTCH) annual payment update by 2 percentage points if that hospital is found to be non-compliant with the reporting requirements of the Long-Term Care Hospital Quality Reporting Program (LTCH QRP). CMS will notify LTCHs found to be non-compliant if it is determined that they have not met the reporting requirements for the LTCH QRP. Those LTCHs have the opportunity to request a reconsideration of this

adverse decision through the Agency's reconsideration request process. For additional information on this process we invite you to visit our newly-populated LTCH Quality Reporting Reconsideration and Disaster Waiver Request webpage. This webpage is accessible by selecting the link of the same name in the upper left hand corner of this webpage.

### **Updated Errata Document**

An updated errata for the LTCH CARE Data Set data submission specifications v1.01.0 has been posted. This errata document applies to V1.01.0 of the specifications which is scheduled for implementation on April 1, 2014. You can access this document by selecting the file titled **LTCH Data Specs Errata v1.01.1 (June 2013) – April 1, 2014 Implementation** located under the **Downloads** section of the LTCH Quality Reporting Technical Information webpage. This webpage is accessible by selecting the link of the same name located in the upper left hand corner of this webpage.

[LTCH Data Submission Specs FINAL v1.01.1 \(January 2014\) – Implementation on July 1, 2014 \[ZIP, 3MB\]](#)

### **May 8, 2013 – DRAFT DATA SPECIFICATIONS**

Version 1.01.0 of the LTCH CARE data submission specifications has been posted. ***This version is scheduled for implementation on April 1, 2014 (pending approval of revised measure implementation dates in FY2014 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule) and includes new items related to the measure “Patients Who Were Assessed and Appropriately Given the Seasonal Influenza Vaccination (Short Stay) (NQF #680)”, which was finalized in the FY 2013 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule (77 FR 53624 through 53627). Please note that version 1.01.0 of these specifications should be considered provisional or draft and are subject to change until the final specifications are published.*** Please refer to the item change report and the edit change report that are included with the specs for details on the changes that are being made in this new version. An errata document has also been posted which identifies known errors in the data specifications. Version 1.01.0 of the LTCH CARE Data submission specifications and the related errata document can be accessed by selecting the files titled **LTCH data specs (v1.01.0) 01-15-2013.zip** and **LTCH data specs errata (v1.01.0 DRAFT) 04-23-2013.zip** respectively under the **Downloads** section of the **LTCH Quality Reporting Technical Information page**, which you can navigate to by selecting the link of the same name in the upper left hand corner of this webpage.

[LTCH Data Submission Specs FINAL v1.01.1 \(January 2014\) – Implementation on July 1, 2014 \[ZIP, 3MB\]](#)

## **LTCH QUALITY REPORTING PROGRAM MANUAL UPDATE**

CMS has now posted the **LTCH Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Manual version 2.0 DRAFT**. This version of the manual (v2.0) should be considered provisional or draft and is subject to change until the final manual is published following approval of the LTCH CARE Data Set PRA package by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). This version of the manual contains instructions on the submission of the measure “Patients Who Were Assessed and Appropriately Given the Season Influenza Vaccine (Short Stay) (NQF #0680)”, which was finalized in the FY 2013 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule. Data collection and submission of this measure will begin on April 1, 2014 (pending finalization of revised begin date in the FY 2014 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule in August 2013). CMS encourages all LTCH providers and vendors to read and become familiar with this new version of the manual, which will also go into effect on April 1, 2014. LTCH training related to the contents of this manual will be offered in fall 2013. Please continue to check the **LTCH QRP Website Training** page for updates related to upcoming trainings. The manual is accessible by selecting the link titled “**LTCH QR Program Manual v2.0 DRAFT**” under the **Downloads** section of this web page.

[LTCH QRP 2014 Provider Training Materials \[ZIP, 841KB\]](#)

## **LTCH READMISSIONS MEASURE SPECIFICATIONS**

CMS has posted the measure specifications for the measure titled “**All-Cause Unplanned Readmissions Measure for 30-Days Post Discharge from Long-Term Care Hospitals**”, which we proposed in the FY2014 IPPS/LTCH PPS Notice of Proposed Rule. The measure specifications are available by selecting the link of the same name in the **Downloads** section of this web page below. For further information on this measure we refer you to the proposed rule, which is on display at the following website: [http://www.ofr.gov/\(X\(1\)S\(3caz1krp51dblm4qm3wqgkbl\)\)/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-10234\\_PI.pdf](http://www.ofr.gov/(X(1)S(3caz1krp51dblm4qm3wqgkbl))/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-10234_PI.pdf). The FY 2014 IPPS/LTCH PPS Notice of Proposed Rule is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on May 10, 2013.

## **March 14, 2013 – IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

A change has been made to the LTCH data submission specifications and is scheduled to take effect as of April 21, 2013. An errata document for V1.00.3 of the data submission specifications has been posted and is

available under the **Downloads** section of the **LTCH Quality Reporting Technical Information Page**, which is accessible by selecting the link of the same name in the upper left hand corner of this webpage.

**Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH) Quality Reporting Program Requirements for Payment Update Determination for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015**

Long-term care hospitals (LTCHs) are certified as acute-care hospitals that treat patients requiring extended hospital-level care, typically following initial treatment at a general acute-care hospital. If a hospital is classified as an LTCH for purposes of Medicare payments (as denoted by the last four digits of its six-digit CMS Certification Number [CCN] in the range of 2000–2299), it is subject to the requirements of the LTCH Quality Reporting (LTCHQR) Program. As required by the LTCHQR Program, LTCH providers should currently be engaging in two types of activities: data *submission* for the Payment Year 2014 cycle and data *collection and submission* for the Payment Year 2015 cycle. Current activities for each cycle are detailed below.

***Fiscal Year 2014 Payment Update Determination—Deadline for Data Submission: May 15, 2013***

In the FY 2012 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule (76 FR 51743 through 51756, and 51780 through 51781), three measures were adopted for data collection and reporting for October 1, 2012, through December 31, 2012, for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Payment Update Determination: Percent of Residents with Pressure Ulcers That Are New or Worsened (NQF #0678), Urinary Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI) (NQF #0138), and Central Line Catheter-Associated Bloodstream Infection (CLABSI) (NQF #0139). The deadline for submission of data for these three measures is May 15, 2013; to avoid a 2-percentage-point reduction in their Annual Payment Update, providers must submit data for all three measures by this deadline. For most current definitions for the three LTCH quality measures, please refer to the LTCHQR Program Manual available under the **Downloads** section of this web page

The Percent of Residents with Pressure Ulcers That Are New or Worsened (NQF #0678) measure requires use of the LTCH Continuity Assessment Record and Evaluation (CARE) Data Set Version 1.01, approved on April 24, 2012, by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act. The OMB Control Number is 0938-1163, Expiration Date April 30, 2013. Details on the LTCH CARE Data Set technical submission specifications can be found at LTCH Quality Reporting Program Technical Information page, which is accessible by accessing the link of the same name in the upper left hand corner of this web page.

For the submission of data for CAUTI and CLABSI measures, the deadline for enrollment in Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) National Health Safety Network (NHSN) was December 31, 2012. If

you have not registered with the NHSN, please visit the NHSN LTCH page, and contact the NHSN at [NHSN@cdc.gov](mailto:NHSN@cdc.gov) for additional guidance. Frequently asked questions about the NHSN enrollment process are available on the CDC website.

### ***Fiscal Year 2015 Payment Update Determination***

In addition to engaging in data *submission* activities for the FY 2014 payment update determination, LTCHs should be engaging in data *collection and submission* activities for three measures for the FY 2015 payment update determination. Per the FY 2013 IPPS/LTCH PPS Final Rule (77 FR 53614 through 53637, and 53667 through 53672), data on the three measures, Percent of Residents or Patients with Pressure Ulcers That Are New or Worsened (NQF #0678), NHSN CAUTI Outcome Measure (NQF #0138), and NHSN CLABSI Outcome Measure (NQF #0139), will be collected from January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2013. For the four quarters in Calendar Year 2013 (i.e., January–March 2013, April–June 2013, July–September 2013, and October–December 2013), final submission deadline for data submission is August 15, 2013, November 15, 2013, February 15, 2014, and May 15, 2014, respectively, for FY 2015 payment update determination.

[LTCH Reconsideration Request Manual for FY 2014 \[PDF, 149KB\]](#)

**December 21, 2012**

### **ATTENTION – IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR LTCH PROVIDERS!!**

CMS has updated Appendix E of the LTCH QR Program Manual, which outlines which LTCH CARE Data Set items are required versus which items are voluntary. Specifically, CMS has made a decision to require the submission of each patient's social security number and first name. Initially these two items were listed as voluntary, however, lack of submission of this data has led to inaccuracies related to patient record matching. Please note that the required items will accept a default response, such as a dash (-) providing the data is unavailable to providers. The use of a default response on required LTCH CARE Data Set items may lead to a 2 percentage point reduction in the facility's annual payment update determination. The updated version of Appendix E or the LTCH QR Program manual is available for download under the **Downloads** section of this web page below by selecting the link titled **Appendix E version 1.1**.

### **Quality Measure Submissions**

It has come to the attention of CMS that a number of LTCHs are not submitting quality data to either the QIES ASAP system or the CDC's National Health Safety Network. If you are unsure of your CMS-certified LTCH provider status, or you are an LTCH provider that needs assistance with the submission of quality data, we

urge you to contact CMS through the LTCH Quality help desk. Access to the CMS LTCH help desk is available by selecting the link **Email: LTCHQualityQuestions** under the **Related Links** section of this web page below.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

CMS has updated the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. This version includes the questions and responses from the October 18, 2012 Special Open Door Forum as well as several question and responses from the LTCH Quality Questions help desk. You can access the update FAQ document by selecting the link titled **FAQs – LTCH QR version 3.0 December 21, 2012** under the **Downloads** section of this web page below.

[LTCH Reconsideration Request Manual for FY 2014 \[PDF, 149KB\]](#)

### **October 18, 2012 LTCH Special Open Door Forum**

The transcript from the October 18, 2012 LTCH Special Open Door Forum (SODF) is now available for download. You can access the transcript by selecting the link titled **October 18, 2012 LTCH SODF Transcript** under the **Downloads** section of this web page below. Information on how to access the MP3 audio from the SODF is available within the transcript document. The transcript and audio file are also available on the CMS SODF website, which you can access by selecting the link titled **Special Open Door Forums** under the **Related Links** section of this web page below.

### **October 16, 2012**

CMS will hold a Special Open Door Forum for LTCHs on October 18, 2012 from 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Topics will include updates from the Division of National Systems related to the submission of LTCH quality data, recent Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and a provider question and answer session. The presentation materials that will be used during this SODF are now available for download. The slide deck is accessible by selecting the link titled **October 18, 2012 SODF Slide Deck** under the **Downloads** section of this web page below; the FAQ document is accessible by selecting the link titled **FAQs – LTCH QR Program v2.0** under the **Downloads** section of this web page below. Please note that all FAQs presented during previous open door forums have been incorporated into this updated version. We encourage all LTCHs to join us for this important call. The call-in information is as follows:

**10/18/12 Call Details: Conference held from 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Conference ID: 25080375**

**Participant Dial-In Number(s):**

**\*Operator Assisted Toll-Free Dial-In Number:** (800) 603-1774

The transcript from the September 20, 2012 LTCH Special Open Door Forum (SODF) is now posted. You can access the 9-20-2012 SODF transcript by selecting the link titled **September 20, 2012 SODF Transcript** under the **Downloads** section of this webpage below. The 9-20-2012 SODF transcript is also available on the CMS Special Open Door Forum website along with the MP3 audio file from the SODF. You can access the CMS SODF website by selecting the link titled **Special Open Door Forums** under the **Related Links** section of this web page below.

## **Downloads**

[Draft Specifications for the Proposed Functional Status Quality Measures for Long-Term Care Hospitals \[PDF, 261KB\]](#)

[Summary of Feedback from TEP on the Development of Cross-Setting Functional Status Quality \[PDF, 154KB\]](#)

[LTCH Preliminary Review Report Help \[PDF, 225KB\]](#)

[LTCH QR Program Manual v2.0 Final \[ZIP, 3MB\]](#)

[LTCH SODF Slides – November 21, 2013 \[PDF, 946KB\]](#)

[LTCH QR Program Manual v2.0 DRAFT \[ZIP, 3MB\]](#)

[LTCH Readmissions Measure Specifications \[PDF, 331KB\]](#)

[Appendix E version 1.1 December 21, 2012 \[PDF, 342KB\]](#)


[FAQs - LTCH QR version 3.0 December 21, 2012 \[PDF, 427KB\]](#)

[October 18, 2012 LTCH SODF Transcript \[PDF, 383KB\]](#)

[October 18, 2012 SODF Slide Deck \[PDF, 335KB\]](#)

## **Related Links**

[LTCH SODF Audio – August 30, 2012 - Opens in a new window](#)

[QIES Technical Support Office \(Quality Improvement and Evaluation System\(QIES\) Technical Support Office website\) - Opens in a new window](#) 

[Email: LTCHQualityQuestions@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:LTCHQualityQuestions@cms.hhs.gov) - Opens in a new window

[Paperwork Reduction Act \(PRA\) of 1995](#)

[All Open Door Forum Mailing List Sign-Up \(Receive notices for all ODFs\) - Opens in a new window](#)

[FY 2012 IPPS Proposed Rule Home Page](#)

[Special Open Door Forums](#)

<http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/LTC/ltc-welcome.html> - Opens in a new window