

FY 2024 Hospice Wage Index and Quality Reporting Final Rule has Been Posted

To: NHPCO Provider and State Members

From: NHPCO Regulatory Team

Date: July 28, 2023

Summary at a Glance

In the 4:15 posting of the Federal Register for July 28, 2023 the [FY 2024 Hospice Wage Index and Quality Reporting final rule](#) was posted to the public inspection part of the Federal Register.

Rate Information and Cap

- **Final Rate increase: 3.1%** which is an increase from the proposed 2.8%.
- **Cap amount:** The final hospice cap amount for the FY 2023 cap year is **\$33,494.01**, which is equal to the FY 2023 cap amount (\$32,486.92) updated by the proposed FY 2024 hospice payment update percentage of 3.1%. This is an increase from the \$ 33,396.55 in the proposed rule.

Quality Reporting Information

- **HOPE Tool:** CMS states it will provide additional information on the HOPE Tool test results on the HQRP website in fall 2023.
- **Update on Future Quality Measure (QM) Development:** CMS appreciated the comments on future QM development and will continue to engage stakeholders in the development of measures.
- **CAHPS Hospice Survey Experiment:** CMS provided an update on a survey-mode experiment and stated any new modes for completion of the survey would be released with detailed information.

Request for Information on Health Equity in Hospice

CMS expressed appreciation for the many public comments on improving health equity in hospice and on a future structural measure under consideration for HQRP.

Request for Information on Hospice Utilization, Non-Hospice Spending, Ownership and Hospice Election

CMS expressed appreciation for the many public comments on this RFI and better serving vulnerable and underserved populations.

Proposals Regarding Hospice Ordering/Certifying Physician Enrollment

CMS is finalizing the requirement for the initial ordering/certifying physician(s) to be enrolled or validly opted out of Medicare. This requirement will not be enforced until May 1, 2024.

The [CMS Fact Sheet](#) on the final rule describes additional details of the rule. [Final Wage Index values](#) were also posted. NHPCO will have the FY 2024 Final State/County Rate Charts ready in the coming days.

NHPCO has begun the review of the final rule and will release a detailed analysis of the final rule and its components.

Any questions can be directed to regulatory@nhpco.org with "FY 2024 Hospice Final Rule" in the subject line.

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