



End Stage Renal Disease Quality Reporting System

Quarterly Newsletter

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EQRS System Update

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will conclude the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Quality Reporting System (EQRS) data suspension as of July 12, 2021. Therefore, all ESRD facilities will be responsible for resuming the following quality data reporting to EQRS as of July 12, 2021:

- EQRS Clinical Data
- In-Center Hemodialysis Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (ICH CAHPS) Attestation
- Clinical Depression Screening and Follow-Up Plan submissions

Refer to the next page of this newsletter for the 2020 and 2021 Clinical Closure submission deadlines for the reporting months affected by the data suspension.

See below for information on an upcoming EQRS Town Hall to help you successfully report data. Plus, we answer your frequently asked questions (FAQs) pertaining to the data suspension and resumption of data reporting in EQRS in the [EQRS Suppression Ending FAQs](#) document on [MyCROWNWeb.org](#).

The data suspension guidelines were originally outlined in the [January 29, 2021 EQRS Announcement](#).

Register for the EQRS Town Hall

Join the ESRD Outreach, Communication and Training (EOCT) Team for a [Town Hall event](#) for tips to meet CMS data reporting deadlines for data submissions with the July 12, 2021 re-opening of EQRS.

Date: Thursday, July 8, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time

We'll also discuss these EQRS topics:

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| • EQRS Reporting Requirements and Data Submission Deadlines |
| • Entering Clinical Depression Data |
| • Entering Clinical Information |
| • EQRS Data Reporting FAQs |
| • Submitting an ICH CAHPS Attestation |

Question: Who is responsible for completing the CMS-2746 form (ESRD Death Notification) in EQRS if a patient expires but is not currently admitted to a dialysis facility?

Answer: The last outpatient dialysis facility where the patient was permanently admitted in EQRS is responsible for completing and submitting the CMS-2746 form if the patient expires within 30 days of the discharge date. The CMS-2746 form must be submitted in EQRS within 14 days of the patient's date of death. For additional assistance with this form, contact your local [ESRD Network](#).

EQRS Patient Admit/Discharge Guidance

Since the launch of EQRS in November 2020, EQRS users can no longer use “transient” as a patient admission status. The change was made to improve data quality and to ensure only one patient record is maintained in the ESRD patient registry. To further maintain ESRD patient registry accuracy:

- Only admit permanent patients
- Enter the date that the patient had their first dialysis treatment at the facility as the admission date
- Enter the date that the patient received their last dialysis treatment at the facility as the discharge date
- Admit patients that are dialyzing at a facility temporarily or as a visitor for more than 13 treatments and/or more than 30 days as a permanent patient

CMS requires EQRS users to admit **permanent** patients in EQRS within five business days of the patient’s first dialysis treatment date. Patient discharges also need to be entered in EQRS within five business days of the patient’s last dialysis treatment in the facility.

CMS will continue to assess the Admit/Discharge process in EQRS. CMS will implement updates, if necessary, to meet data reporting requirements and the ESRD community’s needs.

For additional guidance refer to the [EQRS: Admit/Discharge Guidance](#) document on [MyCROWNWeb.org](#).

Clinical Closures

Clinical closure dates apply to all Collection Types (Hemodialysis and Peritoneal Dialysis) and clinical data submissions apply to all submission methods. Additionally, CMS **highly** recommends completing large data submissions prior to the official clinical closure date of September 1, 2021.

2020 Data Submission Deadlines

Reporting Month	Clinical Closure Date
September 2020 Clinical Month	September 1, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time (PT)
October 2020 Clinical Month	September 1, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. PT
November 2020 Clinical Month	September 1, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. PT
December 2020 Clinical Month	September 1, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. PT

2021 Data Submission Deadlines

Reporting Month	Clinical Closure Date
January 2021 Clinical Month	TBD
February 2021 Clinical Month	TBD
March 2021 Clinical Month	TBD
April 2021 Clinical Month	TBD
Remaining 2021 Clinical Months	TBD

The 2020 data will support the Payment Year (PY) 2022 ESRD Quality Incentive Program (QIP) and the 2021 data will support the PY 2023 ESRD QIP. For additional details, please refer to the calendar year (CY) 2022 ESRD Prospective Payment System (PPS) proposed rule that is available from the [Federal Register](#).