



End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Quality Reporting System (EQRS) ESRD Outreach, Communication, and Training (EOCT)

EQRS March 2023 Town Hall Questions and Answers

Speakers

Jane Chaine, MSN, RN, CNN, RD
Communications Director, EOCT

And

Danielle Leffler, MS
Project Manager, EOCT

March 23, 2023

DISCLAIMER: This presentation question-and-answer (Q&A) summary document was current at the time of publication and/or website upload. Medicare policy changes frequently. Any links to Medicare online source documents are for reference use only. In the case that Medicare policy, requirements, or guidance related to these questions and answers change following the date of posting, these questions and answers will not necessarily reflect those changes; this information will remain as an archived copy with no updates performed.

The written responses to the questions asked during the presentation were prepared as a service to the public and are not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. Any references or links to statutes, regulations, and/or other policy materials included are provided as summary information. No material contained therein is intended to take the place of either written laws or regulations. In the event of any conflict between the information provided by the question-and-answer session and any information included in any Medicare rules and/or regulations, the rules and regulations shall govern. The specific statutes, regulations, and other interpretive materials should be reviewed independently for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

This Q&A summary was modified to reflect the most up-to-date information pertaining to EQRS features and functions. As of the posting date, this document will not be updated any further. This document was modified for grammar. It answers provider questions submitted during the event. Subject-matter experts developed the responses during and after the event.

General Webinar Questions

Question 1: **How can I obtain the slides from the March 23, 2023, Town Hall event?**

The March 2023 Town Hall event materials including the slides, recording, and transcript are available on the Events page of the MyCROWNWeb website: <https://mycrownweb.org/events/>.

Transplant Role Questions

Question 2: **I work in a dialysis facility and a transplant facility and need ESRD Quality Reporting System (EQRS) access for both facilities. Why can't I access EQRS under both my facility user role and my transplant user role?**

The EQRS developers of this feature are currently researching how to permit access to EQRS for individuals who need access as both a facility user and as a transplant user.

COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Healthcare Personnel (HCP) Measure Questions

Question 3: **The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and vaccine mandate will expire later this year and I suspect staff will be less likely to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Will my facility be penalized if the HCP COVID-19 vaccination rates decrease in my facility?**

No. The ESRD Quality Incentive Program (ESRD QIP) scoring for the COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage among HCP measure is a reporting measure and does not score facilities based on the number of staff vaccinated. Instead, facilities will be scored on the completeness of the data that are reported to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) system for their facility. Scoring will be based on whether they submit the required reporting data by the reporting deadlines for those data. More specifically, the scoring for the COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage among HCP measure evaluates the percentage of months that the facility reports data to NHSN. Facilities can receive maximum points for this measure by meeting the data submission deadlines and reporting requirements. Therefore, the greater the number of months the facility reports data, the better the facility will score towards the measure and total performance score. Additionally, facilities can earn partial points for satisfying some of the reporting requirements for this measure.

End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Quality Reporting System (EQRS)

ESRD Outreach, Communication, and Training (EOCT)

Question 4: What is the reporting frequency to the NHSN system for the COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage among HCP measure?

Reporting for the COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage among HCP measure is required for at least **one self-selected week of each month**, and a reporting week for these data runs from Monday through Sunday. When reporting data, ensure that the self-selected week reported ends in the month you are intending to report. For instance, if you want to report data for February, confirm that the last reporting day ends in the month of February. Dialysis facilities have approximately three months to submit their quarterly COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage among HCP measure data to NHSN. Refer to the table below for the 2023 quarterly reporting deadlines.

2023 COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage among HCP Quarterly Reporting Deadlines		
Quarter	Months Reported	Quarterly Deadline
1	January–March	June 30, 2023
2	April–June	October 2, 2023
3	July–September	January 2, 2024
4	October–December	April 1, 2024

Question 5: Where will the COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage among HCP measure rates be publicly reported?

Each quarter, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will publicly report the most recent COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage among HCP quarterly rates for each facility. The quarterly rates will be calculated by averaging the data from the three weekly rates submitted by the facility for that quarter. Additionally, facilities are given a 30-day preview period before the rates are shared publicly. The quarterly rates will be posted on the [Care Compare](#) and [CMS Provider Data Catalog](#) websites. The table below displays the quarterly preview period dates and the quarterly publicly reported dates.

2023 COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage among HCP Publicly Reported Data		
Quarter	30-day Preview Period Begins	Publicly Reported
1	October 2023	January 2024
2	January 2024	April 2024
3	April 2024	July 2024
4	July 2024	October 2024

Question 6: If there are no vaccinations to report, are facilities still required to complete NHSN reporting for the COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage among HCP measure?

Yes. Even if there are zero vaccinations in your facility for the reporting month, facilities are still required to report COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage among HCP measure data to NHSN for at least one self-selected week each month.

Question 7: Am I supposed to report the number of HCP that received a COVID-19 primary vaccination series or the number of HCP that received a booster dose for the self-selected week being reported to NHSN for the COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage among HCP measure?

Currently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers individuals to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines if they either received a bivalent booster dose or if they completed their COVID-19 primary vaccination series less than 2 months ago. Therefore, when reporting the number of HCP that are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines (Question 5 of the NHSN COVID-19 vaccination module) facilities need to report both the number of HCP that received their primary series less than 2 months ago and the number of HCP that received a bivalent booster dose. The table below provides a summary of the data that are required to be reported to NHSN for the COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage among HCP measure. The CMS measure that will be publicly reported on the [Care Compare](#) and [CMS Provider Data Catalog](#) websites will only include the HCP primary vaccination series rates.

For the most recent information on COVID-19 vaccination key terms and up-to-date vaccination criteria, refer to the [COVID-19 Vaccination Modules: Understanding Key Terms and Up to Date Vaccination](#) document that is available on the NHSN *Weekly HCP COVID-19 Vaccination* landing [page](#).

Question 1	→	Eligible Healthcare Personnel (sum for Questions 2 and 3)
Question 2	→	Healthcare Personnel that received primary series
Question 3	→	Healthcare Personnel with other conditions
Question 4	→	Healthcare Personnel with booster dose or additional dose
Question 5	→	Healthcare Personnel that are up to date (received bivalent booster, or primary vaccination series within 2 months)

ESRD QIP Questions

Question 8: Who can I contact if I have a question about the scores on my Performance Score Report (PSR)?

Facilities have approximately 30 days during the ESRD QIP preview period to review their preview period reports, including their PSR, and to submit any inquiries to CMS about their scores. Inquiries are submitted through an email-like form in the EQRS QIP user interface (UI). To submit an inquiry, log in to [EQRS](#), click **QIP Scores**, then click **Preview Period Inquiries** and follow the steps provided on the page.

The Payment Year (PY) 2023 preview period closed on December 14, 2022, at 11:59 Pacific Time (PT). Once the preview period closes, facilities can no longer submit inquiries regarding their Final PSR. The PY 2024 preview period is tentatively scheduled to open in the summer of 2023.

For instructions on how to access the ESRD QIP UI in EQRS, refer to the [ESRD QIP UI Quick Start Guide](#) and for additional information about ESRD QIP PSRs, refer to the [Guide to the ESRD QIP PSRs](#).

Question 9: Can one person have multiple ESRD QIP roles? For instance, can one person be a Facility Point of Contact (POC) and a Corporate POC?

Yes. It is possible to have more than one ESRD QIP role assigned to a single EQRS user. However, the Corporate POC role has all the same abilities and more capabilities than a Facility POC (see chart below). Refer to the [ESRD QIP Quick Start Guide](#) for more information and instructions for each ESRD QIP role within the EQRS UI. For further assistance with requesting access to the ESRD QIP UI, please contact the CCSQ Service Center. The CCSQ Service Center is open Monday–Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET and can be reached via phone at (866) 288-8912, email at qnetsupport-esrd@cms.hhs.gov, or by going to [CCSQ Support Central](#).

End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Quality Reporting System (EQRS)

ESRD Outreach, Communication, and Training (EOCT)

ESRD QIP Role	Available Reports to View and Download
Facility Viewer A facility may have multiple Facility Viewers.	View and download reports (PSR, PSC only)
Facility POC A single user can be the Facility POC for multiple facilities. A facility may have multiple Facility POCs.	View and download reports (Patient List Report (PLR), Patient Score Report (PSR), Performance Score Certificate (PSC))
Corporate Point of Contact (POC) An organization may have multiple Corporate POCs.	View and download all reports (PLR, PSR, Performance Summary Score Report (PSSR), PSC)

CMS 2744 Annual Facility Survey Questions

Question 10: Can I print my finalized CMS-2744 survey in EQRS?

Currently, EQRS does not have the ability to print CMS-2744 surveys for dialysis facilities. However, transplant facilities can print CMS-2744 surveys in EQRS. CMS continues to periodically apply updates to enhance system function abilities and performance. In the meantime, screenshots of your survey can be taken and printed from your computer.

Question 11: Who can I contact if I need to make a correction on my CMS-2744 annual facility survey and I can't make the correction in EQRS?

If you are unable to make a correction to your CMS-2744 Form, please contact your ESRD Network for assistance. Click this link to find your ESRD Network contact information: <https://esrdncc.org/en/ESRD-network-map>.