

Quality Counts

Arizona Home Health Quality Initiative

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Happy Holidays from HSAG!

We wish each and every one of you a very happy and healthy holiday season!



We appreciate all of your efforts and look forward to working with all of you in 2008!

HH PPS 2008

Changes in OASIS Data Collection

The Home Health Prospective Payment System (HH PPS) 2008 involves complex changes in home health data collection, which may increase documentation errors. By gaining a better understanding of these changes and how they will affect your agency's staff members and processes, you can help minimize these errors.

Agency leadership is encouraged to include all staff members in the process of incorporating these changes into daily operations. In addition, HSAG will continue to provide support and educational resources during this transition time to ensure a culture of continued quality improvement.

It is recommended that agencies download the October 2007 revision to Part 1—Implementation Manual of the OASIS User's Manual. Each chapter should be printed to ensure that the manual is complete and accurate. The manual reflects changes from the Final Regulation, effective January 1, 2008. These zip files contain the **revised chapters 2, 3, 4, 8, 11, and appendices**.

For more information and to download the manual, visit http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HomeHealthQualityInits/14_HHQIOASISUserManual.asp.

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Medicare Appeals: Provider Information

To view HSAG's new Medicare provider Web page that contains information about fee-for-service and Medicare Advantage benefits, visit <http://www.hsag.com/providers>. The page contains information on:

- The beneficiary notices initiative (BNI).
- Managed care appeals and grievances.
- Sample notice forms (downloadable).
- The *Federal Register* BIPA Regulation.

Key elements of HH PPS 2008 changes

- Significant changes in condition (SCICs) to be eliminated January 1, 2008
- Adjustment for case-mix “creep”
- National episode rate in 2008—\$2,270.32
- New Case-Mix model (153)
- Multiple therapy thresholds
- Difference for early versus later episodes
- 4-equation model for weight calculation with scores allowed to vary by episode type

OASIS Brown Bag Trainings Are Back!

HSAG has partnered with the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) to present a series of 2008 OASIS Brown Bag trainings throughout Arizona. These trainings will focus on what the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has planned for OASIS, common errors, clarifications, and reports from HSAG on current topics.

The initial Brown Bag training will take place on **January 8 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at ADHS.**

Agendas will be created based on input from attendees. What issues do you want to discuss and know more about? Come to the trainings and give us your suggestions. These trainings are informal, so bring your lunch and come find out what's new regarding OASIS!

Dates for future Brown Bag trainings are as follows:

- **March 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Tucson** (exact location TBD)
- **May 20 from noon to 2 p.m. in Kingman** at the Kingman Regional Medical Center
- **July 22 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Flagstaff** (exact location TBD)

To submit questions/topics and to register for the Brown Bag trainings, please contact Caralyn Williams at 602.745.6284 or at cewilliams@azqio.sdps.org.

- Gradual increased payment based on actual therapy visits between first and third thresholds
- Variables included (MO470, MO520, MO800)
- Points for infected surgical wounds, abscesses, chronic ulcers, and gangrene
- Additional scoring for gastrointestinal, cardiac, cancer, blood disorders, and affective and other psychosis diagnosis groups
- Scoring for some secondary diagnoses
- Scoring for combinations of conditions in the same episode
- Nonroutine supplies
 - Not included in national standardized 60-day episode payment rate
 - Case-mix adjusted based on six NRS severity groups—added to episode rate
- Outlier fixed dollar loss ratio = 0.89
- Report data on 12 measures

In addition, the OASIS Download Web site contains important information that will assist agencies in understanding these changes. Visit <https://www.qtso.com/hhdownload.html> for more information.

Two-day OASIS training session coming soon

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and HSAG will be conducting a two-day OASIS training session. This training will include a detailed review of Chapter 8, information on understanding the meaning of the MO questions, and tips on assessment strategies.

ADHS will also review the rules and regulations for agency licensing and provide information on OASIS transmission and the Haven system.

More information on dates and location will be coming soon!

Flu Season is Coming . . . Get Vaccinated!

Each year, seasonal influenza is responsible for about 500,000 hospitalizations lasting up to five days. About 36,000 deaths are directly attributed to influenza. However, this may be an underestimate since many deaths due to influenza are listed on the death certificate as caused by the individual's underlying condition.

The Advisory Council for Immunization Practices recommends providing the influenza vaccination to children ages 6 months to 59 months, adults older than 50 years, high-risk individuals ages 5 to 49 years, pregnant women, health care workers/caregivers, and household contacts of children younger than 5 years. This covers about 218 million people or 72.2 percent of the population.

Although the influenza vaccination is recommended annually for health care workers, only 42 percent of these workers receive the vaccine annually. All health care workers with responsibilities for direct patient care should be offered the influenza vaccine regardless of the setting. Providers should take a leadership

role by receiving the vaccine themselves and offering the vaccine to their staff members.

Multiple Web sites are available for providers as a guide for pandemic flu planning. The Centers for Disease Control has posted a Pandemic Flu Checklist and other materials for medical offices and clinics alongside checklists for hospitals and long-term care facilities. These materials can be found by visiting <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic/cdcreources.htm>.

Source: The Pulse of CMS, Fall 2007.

HHQI National Campaign Update

As of November 30, over 5,500 agencies have registered for the Home Health Quality Improvement (HHQI) National Campaign. This represents the majority of all Medicare-certified home health agencies in the country. Thanks for all your hard work and dedication to reduce avoidable hospitalizations!

New Patient Self-Management BPIP now available

The latest HHQI National Campaign Best Practice Intervention Package (BPIP) on patient self-management is now available for download by visiting http://www.homehealthquality.org/hh/hha/interventionpackages/patient_sm.aspx.

The Leadership Track of this BPIP will help agencies recognize strengths and weaknesses in current approaches to patient self-management and self-management support, identify areas for patient self-management and self-management support, and develop a plan to incorporate and promote an interdisciplinary approach to patient self-management and self-management support.

How to use this BPIP:

- Review **the Patient Self-Management Introduction** (page 8).
- View the **HHQI WebEx: Introduction to the BPIP—Patient Self-Management WebEx** (http://www.homehealthquality.org/hh/hha/interventionpackages/patient_sm.aspx).

HH Compare/HH STAR Update

The data on the Home Health Setting Targets-Achieving Results (HH STAR) Web site (<http://www.hhqi-star.org>) corresponds with the publicly reported Home Health Compare data periods. The current data period, labeled "Q1 2007" includes patient episodes of care from April 2006–March 2007. This data was posted on the Home Health Compare Web site on September 27, 2007.

The next Home Health Compare update is scheduled for December 20 and will include data from July 1, 2006—June 31, 2007. Updates to the HH STAR Web site will take place in January.

Also on HH STAR

The OASIS additional information sheets have been updated for each quality measure. These sheets can be found under "My Data Comparison" for each measure. The information found on these sheets is current as of July 23, 2007.

- Evaluate the **Building Upon the Basics Crosswalk** to review the basic interventions as they relate to patient self-management (page 11).
- Read **Planned Care: Self-Management Support in Home Health Care** (page 12).
- Complete the **Self-Management Support Agency Assessment** (page 57).

A 30-minute video on effective techniques for patient self-management, as well as audio recordings on strategies to improve patient self-management skills and self-care management for home health aides are available on the campaign's Web site by visiting http://www.homehealthquality.org/hh/hha/interventionpackages/patient_sm.aspx.

Source: <http://www.homehealthquality.org>.

Publication of Correction Notice (CMS-1541-CN2)

Since the publication of the HH PPS Final Rule, "Home Health Prospective Payment System Refinement and Rate Update for Calendar Year 2008" (CMS-1541-FC) dated August 2, 2007, technical errors have been identified. CMS had previously posted draft descriptions of those errors and advised the public to refer to the published correction notice in the *Federal Register* as official notification and publication of the errors and corrections. CMS-1541-CN2 was published in the *Federal Register* on November 30.

Key Web Sites Offer Advice for Preventing '08 Cash Flow Snafus

Take a look at the following links to ensure a smooth transition into the HH PPS 2008 system. The links include the most recent Q&A's related to the PPS transition plan and new OASIS clarifications.

- Three Q&A's related to the transition into 2008 PPS: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HomeHealthPPS/Downloads/TransitionEpisodesQA.pdf>.
- CMS' list of 191 Q&A's updated in October to include new Q&A's that previously appeared on the OASIS Certificate and Competency Board Web site: <https://www.qtso.com/hhafaq.html>.
- 24 new Q&A's. This list includes all the Q&A's that address new OASIS items, such as MO110 (episode timing) and MO826 (therapy predictions): <http://www.oasiscertificate.org>.
- HH PPS Health Insurance Prospective Payment System (HIPPS) code weight tables: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HomeHealthPPS/03_coding&billing.asp.

HSAG Home Health Team Contact Information

Mary Fermazin, MD, MPA Vice President, Health Policy & Quality Measurement mfermazin@hsag.com 602.745.6207	Joe Bestic, NHA, BA Director, Home Health & Nursing Homes jbestic@azqio.sdps.org 602.745.6205	Caralyn E. Williams, MAOM Quality Improvement Specialist cwilliams@azqio.sdps.org 602.745.6284
Pam Sensky, RN Clinical Quality Specialist psensky@azqio.sdps.org 602.745.6330	Dawn Williams, BS Communications Project Manager dwilliams@hsag.com 602.745.6316	Zel Abrams Administrative Assistant III zabrams@azqio.sdps.org 602.665.6105

Visit HSAG's Home Health Quality Initiative (HHQI) Web site at <http://hhqi.hsag.com>.

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