

As announced last fall, CMS intends to suppress publicly reported quality data on DFC for facilities impacted by the 2017 Hurricanes and wildfires. Facilities located in counties/parishes that were designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a major disaster area and which closed due to the disaster will have their measures suppressed for public reporting on DFC. CMS has released a [Blanket Waiver spreadsheet](#) containing the facilities that will be included in the DFC Suppression. This suppression will include the Star Ratings for the performance periods included in site releases or refreshes using data from July 2017 through December 2017. Reporting of Star Ratings for the affected dialysis facilities will resume once Star Rating measures' periods of performance extend beyond July 2017 through December 2017.

## FAQs

### What will facilities see during the Preview Period?

- DFC will suppress individual facility results in the Quarterly Dialysis Facility Compare Preview table
- Calculated measures will be available to facilities in their specific measures table, regardless of suppression status.

### What time periods will be affected by the suppression?

- Percentage Measures will be suppressed beginning during the July 2018 Release (May preview period).
- Standardized Measures and Star Ratings will be suppressed beginning during the October 2018 Release (July preview period).
- All Measures and Star Ratings will continue to be suppressed through the July 2019 Release and will be eligible for public reporting again during the October 2019 Release.

### What do I need to do if my facility was impacted by the natural disasters?

If your facility is listed in the "Included Dialysis Facilities ECE Blanket Waiver 02\_02\_18.csv" file available at [Blanket Waiver spreadsheet](#), you don't need to do anything. Your facility's information will be suppressed on the DFC site automatically. If your facility is not included on the list, you will need to request suppression during the Dialysis Facility Compare Quarterly Preview Period.

**My facility is located in one of the counties/parishes that were designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a major disaster area impacted by the natural disasters. The facility had no significant damage and did not close, and continued to serve patients during this time. Will my facility's information be available on Dialysis Facility compare for the months impacted by one of the 2017 Hurricanes or wildfire?**

If your facility continued to serve patients during this time and did not close, it will not be exempt from reporting for the months impacted by any of the 2017 Hurricanes or wildfires. Your facility will be required to report on ESRD measures via CROWNWeb and NHSN reporting. However, CMS recognizes

the need for additional time to report and has issued 60-day extensions for CROWNWeb data submission. Please contact your Network for additional information.

**My facility is not located in one of the FEMA-designated areas impacted by one of the 2017 Hurricanes or wildfire. However, the facility had many adverse effects from the storm and was closed during this time. Will the Dialysis Facility Compare Measure results be suppressed from public reporting for my facility?**

If a facility was impacted by a 2017 Hurricane and was closed, but it was not located in one of the FEMA-designated areas, it will not be covered under the blanket waiver. As a result, facilities will need to follow the standard procedure established to request suppression during the Dialysis Facility Compare Quarterly Preview Period. Please note that CMS will respond to suppression requests, irrespective of location.

**My facility is located in one of the FEMA-designated areas impacted by one of the 2017 Hurricanes or wildfires. The facility did not close and we continued to treat patients during the storm; however, our normal operations were disrupted, which impacted patient care. Is my facility exempt from Dialysis Facility Compare during the time it was impacted by one of the 2017 Hurricanes or wildfires?**

If your facility remained open during the storm and continued treating patients, it will not be covered under CMS's blanket suppression recently circulated, and will be required to report data during this time. However, CMS recognizes the need for additional time to report and has issued 60-day extensions for CROWNWeb data submission. Please contact your Network for additional information. In addition, you can submit a suppression request via the standard procedure established during the Dialysis Facility Compare Quarterly Preview Period. CMS will assess these requests on a case-by-case basis.

**My facility is located in one of the FEMA-designated areas impacted by one of the 2017 Hurricanes or wildfires. It did sustain some damage during the storm, and was closed for a few days during this time. Do facilities need to be closed for a specific amount of time for CMS's blanket suppression to apply?**

There is no minimum time of closure required for CMS's blanket suppression for DFC measures to apply. If a facility closed for any duration of time, it would be covered under the blanket suppression.

**Some facilities in my organization are located in the FEMA-designated areas impacted by one of the 2017 Hurricanes or wildfires, and were closed due to the storm. Does CMS need proof that these facilities were closed?**

Currently, CMS does not require proof of closure for facilities located in the FEMA-designated areas, but reserves the authority to request this information from facilities at any time. If a facility outside the FEMA-designated areas sustained damages due to the hurricanes or wildfires and closed for a period of time, the facility should submit a suppression request during the Dialysis Facility Compare Quarterly Preview Period.