

Quarterly Dialysis Facility Compare -- Preview Report for Modified Measures

• **This Quarterly DFC Preview Report includes data specific to CCN(s): XXXXXX**

• **Purpose of the Report**

Enclosed is the Quarterly Dialysis Facility Compare (QDFC) Preview Report for your facility, based on data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The EQRS users data suspension guidelines, outlined via the January 29, 2021 EQRS Announcement (<https://mycrownweb.org/2021/01/eqrs-system-announcement-jan-2021/>), impacts available data for Dialysis Facilities. As a result, the October 2021 Release of Dialysis Facility data will be delayed until Spring 2022, and data from the October 2020 Release will remain on Medicare.gov until the next release. This report provides you with advance notice of updates in the calculations for a selection of QDFC measures that have undergone the recent National Quality Forum (NQF) process: Standardized Mortality Ratio (SMR), Standardized Hospitalization Ratio (SHR), Standardized Readmission Ratio (SRR), and Standardized Transfusion Ratio (STrR).

• **Overview**

This report was created for all Medicare certified dialysis facilities that are operating according to DFC in April 2021. The measures included in the report are based primarily on Medicare-paid dialysis claims, CROWNWeb, and other data collected for CMS. This report contains one table that previews modifications in some of the patient outcomes and measures for chronic dialysis patients: SMR, SHR, SRR, and STrR. The measures in this table will not be reported on the DFC website or included in the star rating at this time. Unless otherwise specified, data refer to all dialysis patients combined (i.e., hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis, adult and pediatric).

Description of the methodology for measures in this report can be found in the *Guide to the Modified Measures Table for the Quarterly Dialysis Facility Compare Report* which is available on the DialysisData website at www.dialysisdata.org.

• **Data Limitations in This Report**

Due to the COVID Extraordinary Circumstances Exception (ECE) data policy from CMS and incomplete CROWNWeb data for 2020, the measures shown in this report, calculated for calendar year 2020, have been modified to optimize the available information.

The CMS ECE policy restricts the use of claims data from March-June 2020. In addition, incomplete CROWNWeb data for the end of 2020 means that we are missing most incident dialysis patients during the last three months of the year and cannot attribute patients to dialysis facilities for the last two months of the year. Fortunately, many measures reported here do not require incident patients or patient assignment through the end of 2020 in order to be calculated correctly because of the 90-day new patient and 60-day transfer rules. Information on death, hospitalizations, transplants, wait listing, and nursing home are available through the end of 2020. A summary of data available for the measures in this report is provided in the following table:

Measure	Data Availability
Standardized Mortality Ratio (SMR)	
Standardized Hospitalization Ratio (SHR)	January-February, July-December, 2020 (8 months)
Standardized Transfusion Ratio (STrR)	
Standardized Readmission Ratio (SRR)	January 1st - January 30th, July-October, 2020 (5 months)

- **How to Submit Comments**

This preview period will be held during **July 15, 2021 - August 15, 2021**. As part of a process to encourage early requests of patient lists to allow sufficient time for facility review and inquiry during the preview period, patient list requests should be made **within the first ten days** of the preview period. During the entire preview period, you may submit comments to CMS on the measures included in this report. Your comments will be shared with CMS but will not appear on the DFC website. Please visit the www.dialysisdata.org website, log on to view your report, and click on the **Comments & Inquiries** tab. If you have questions after the comment period is closed, please contact us directly at dialysisdata@umich.edu or 1-855-764-2885.

Prepared by

The University of Michigan Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center (UM-KECC) under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

SAMPLE

Quarterly Dialysis Facility Compare - Preview Report for Modified Measures

Sample DFC Dialysis Facility State: XX Network: XX CCN: XXXXXX

Upcoming Modified Measures Table ^{*1}

The following table displays a preview of modified measures for this facility as they will appear in future QDFC reports. The main modifications include:

- Adding a variable for patient's Medicare Advantage status in Standardized Hospitalization and Readmission Ratios
- Identifying and adding additional Medicare Advantage patient time at risk in the Standardized Mortality and Hospitalization Ratios
- Excluding Medicare Advantage patients from Standardized Transfusion Ratio

These measures will not appear publicly on DFC or in the star rating at this time but will be included on DFC and in the star rating at a future point. The calculation of these measures has been further modified due to the CMS ECE policy and CROWNWeb data incompleteness for 2020. Please see the Data Limitations section on page 1 for further details.

Annual Measures		Regional Averages, per Year ^{*2}		
Measure Name		This Facility	State	U.S.
1	Standardized Mortality Ratio (SMR)	2017-2020	2017-2020	2017-2020
1.1	Medicare patients (n=number) ^{*3}	199	81.4	71.0
1.2	Patient-years at risk (n)	111	52.2	43.0
1.3	Deaths (n) ^{*3}	27	11.0	9.5
1.4	Expected deaths (n) ^{*3}	24	10.8	9.5
1.5	Standardized Mortality Ratio ^{*4}	1.12	1.02	1.00
	Lower Confidence Limit ^{*5} (2.5%)	0.74	n/a	n/a
	Upper Confidence Limit ^{*5} (97.5%)	1.62	n/a	n/a
1.6	P-value ^{*6}	0.620	n/a	n/a
1.7	Mortality Rate (per 100 patient-years)	24.7	n/a	22.1
	Lower Confidence Limit ^{*5} (2.5%)	16.2	n/a	n/a
	Upper Confidence Limit ^{*5} (97.5%)	35.9	n/a	n/a
1.8	Classification Category	As Expected	n/a	n/a
2	Standardized Hospitalization Ratio (SHR): Admissions	2020	2020	2020
2.1	Medicare patients (n)	63	82.5	66.8
2.2	Patient-years at risk (n)	39	52.3	43.1
2.3	Total admissions (n)	80	93.5	80.4
2.4	Expected total admissions (n)	80.3	94.8	81.3
2.5	Standardized Hospitalization Ratio (Admissions) ^{*4}	1.00	0.99	1.00
	Lower Confidence Limit ^{*5} (2.5%)	0.66	n/a	n/a
	Upper Confidence Limit ^{*5} (97.5%)	1.56	n/a	n/a
2.6	P-value ^{*6}	0.963	n/a	n/a
2.7	Hospitalization Rate (per 100 patient-years)	188.1	n/a	188.8
	Lower Confidence Limit ^{*5} (2.5%)	123.8	n/a	n/a
	Upper Confidence Limit ^{*5} (97.5%)	293.6	n/a	n/a
2.8	Classification Category	As Expected	n/a	n/a
3	Standardized Readmission Ratio (SRR)	2020	2020	2020
3.1	Index discharges (n)	64	86.0	72.8
3.2	Total readmissions (n)	18	22.4	19.9
3.3	Expected total readmissions (n)	16.7	22.9	20.5
3.4	Standardized Readmission Ratio ^{*4}	1.08	1.02	1.04
	Lower Confidence Limit ^{*5} (2.5%)	0.58	n/a	n/a
	Upper Confidence Limit ^{*5} (97.5%)	1.70	n/a	n/a
3.5	P-value ^{*6}	0.887	n/a	n/a
3.6	Readmission Rate (Percentage of hospital discharges)	28.9%	n/a	26.8%
	Lower Confidence Limit ^{*5} (2.5%)	15.5%	n/a	n/a
	Upper Confidence Limit ^{*5} (97.5%)	45.7%	n/a	n/a
3.7	Classification Category	As Expected	n/a	n/a

(continued)

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Sample DFC Dialysis Facility State: XX Network: XX CCN: XXXXXX

Upcoming Modified Measures Table ^{*1} (continued)

Annual Measures		Regional Averages, per Year ^{*2}		
Measure Name		This Facility	State	U.S.
4	Standardized Transfusion Ratio (STrR)	2020	2020	2020
4.1	Adult Medicare Patients (n)	52	72.2	57.0
4.2	Patient-years at risk (n)	29	42.4	33.7
4.3	Total transfusions (n)	7	8.6	7.0
4.4	Expected total transfusions (n)	6.1	8.8	7.1
4.5	Standardized Transfusion Ratio ^{*4}	1.15	0.98	1.01
	Lower Confidence Limit ^{*5} (2.5%)	0.36	n/a	n/a
	Upper Confidence Limit ^{*5} (97.5%)	4.61	n/a	n/a
4.6	P-value ^{*6}	0.706	n/a	n/a
4.7	Transfusion Rate (per 100 patient-years)	24.4	n/a	21.1
	Lower Confidence Limit ^{*5} (2.5%)	7.5	n/a	n/a
	Upper Confidence Limit ^{*5} (97.5%)	97.5	n/a	n/a
4.8	Classification Category	As Expected	n/a	n/a

n/a = not applicable

[*1] See *Guide to the Modified Measures Table in the Quarterly Dialysis Facility Compare Report*.

[*2] Values are shown for the average facility, annualized.

[*3] Sum of 4 years used for calculations; should not be compared to regional averages.

[*4] Calculated as a ratio of observed deaths (or admissions/readmissions/transfusions) to expected deaths (or admissions/readmissions/transfusions); not shown if there are fewer than 3 expected deaths, fewer than 5 or 10 patient-years at risk for admissions or transfusions, respectively, or fewer than 11 index discharges for readmissions.

[*5] The confidence interval range represents uncertainty in the value of the SMR, SHR, SRR or STrR due to random variation.

[*6] A p-value less than 0.05 indicates that the difference between the actual and expected mortality (or admissions/readmissions/transfusions) is probably real and is not due to random chance.

SAMPLE