

### **The Least You Need to Know:**

Starting with all hospice patient deaths on or after July 1st, 2020, the Hospice Item Set and Hospice CAHPS must both be submitted timely to avoid a two percent reduction in payment in 2022.

### **What were the Exemptions?**

The hospice quality reporting program (HQRP) consists of both the HIS, which is completed at admission and discharge, and the caregiver satisfaction survey, CAHPS. The HIS must be collected and submitted and accepted within 30 days, 90% of the time to avoid a 2% reduction of all Medicare payments. During the public health emergency, a waiver of the requirement for timely submission was provided. Specific quarters for which hospices were exempted from reporting of CAHPS® Hospice Survey and HIS assessment and discharge data for calendar years (CYs) 2019 and 2020 are listed below and end on June 30, 2020:

October 1, 2019–December 31, 2019 (Q4 2019)

January 1, 2020–March 31, 2020 (Q1 2020)

April 1, 2020–June 30, 2020 (Q2 2020)

### **When are they ending?**

**As of July 2020, hospices will need to ensure their quality reporting systems are in place and timely once again!** The 2020 HQRP will only use data from July- December to show compliance, since the first two quarters were exempt with the PHE. CMS has clarified that hospice agencies are allowed to gather the HIS by remote visits, such as telehealth at the SOC or during care, whenever feasible. This includes phone calls.

Upon discharge, it should be noted that HIS measure questions regarding number of visits prior to death must not include any "remote visits" provided by telehealth.

## **Actions of a Prudent Hospice™**

**ONE. Audit your HIS submissions since July 1st, 2020.** Ensure your agency has a quality assurance process for your HIS content and timely submissions.

**TWO. Provide education to the clinical team on how to meet the HIS measures by ensuring accurate and comprehensive data that meets CMS HIS measure specifications.** Discuss how remote visits can be used to gather HIS.

**THREE. TOP HINT:** Know that CMS encourages submission of HIS within 14 days, to allow for any additional time/alterations for acceptance of the HIS

### **More Information**

**PHE Tip Sheet**  
<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/hqrpcovid-19-phetipsheetjuly-2020508-compliant.pdf>

**CHECK IT OUT**

