

EQIP All-Cause, Unplanned Hospital-Wide Readmission (HWR) Measure

What This Measure Is

The EQIP HWR measure evaluates unplanned hospital readmissions within 30 days of an inpatient discharge, using the CMS national methodology. It applies to Medicare Fee-for-Service beneficiaries age 65+ and is calculated using claims data only.

Goal

To have fewer unplanned readmissions than would be expected for patients with similar clinical risk.

Step-by-Step: How Your Score Is Calculated

Step 1: Eligible Admissions Are Identified

- CMS defines which inpatient admissions are included
- Planned readmissions are excluded
- Patient medical complexity is taken into account
- Readmissions are measured using CMS methodology and claims data only

Step 2: Admissions Are Attributed to Clinicians and Entities

- Admissions are attributed to clinicians (NPIs)
- Clinicians are grouped under their EQIP entity
- Attribution follows EQIP's existing episode logic

Step 3: Clinical Cohorts Are Used to Ensure Fair Comparisons

- Each admission is assigned to one of five CMS-defined clinical cohorts
- Cohort assignment is based on admission type, not clinician specialty
- A clinician (NPI) may contribute to multiple cohorts
- Each cohort uses a separate CMS regression model
- Cohorts are used only for risk adjustment and aggregation

CMS Clinical Cohorts:

- Cardiorespiratory
- Cardiovascular
- Medicine
- Neurology
- Surgical / Gynecology

Step 4: Low-Volume Results Are Smoothed for Reliability

- Clinicians with fewer than 25 eligible admissions are identified as low volume
- Their results are included using statistical smoothing to improve reliability
- Smoothing reduces the impact of small sample sizes
- This is a safeguard, not a penalty or exclusion

Step 5: One Final Entity Score Is Calculated

- Results are combined across cohorts into one NPI-level score
- NPI scores are weighted by admission volume
- Each EQIP entity receives one final HWR score

What You Will See in Reports

- Total eligible admissions
- One overall HWR score for the entity
- Summary indicators for volume and reliability