

Release Notes: 6.10.16

In this release, we provided the 2016 Q2 data refresh to all v3 and v4 TargetWatch customers. As a quarterly refresh, every data set was updated. In addition to the Q2 refresh, there were several additional enhancements:

1. HME Market Intelligence Data: Four refreshed buckets (Compression Garments, HFCWO, Oxygen Therapy, Sleep Therapy)
2. Market Intelligence Data: One new bucket (Lifts Beds)
3. CMS: Star Ratings were added to the Home Health Agency tab

The addition of CMS Star Ratings to the TargetWatch Home Health agency tab provides users with an additional Star Ratings filter when building a target. This enhancement optimizes the results by comparing the user's agency to competitors, potentially providing additional geographic market opportunities that may not have been previously identified using just the individual Quality of Patient Care and Patient Survey data.

What are Home Health Star Ratings?

CMS developed the Home Health Compare (HHC) website on Medicare.gov as a resource for consumers to use when choosing a home health care provider. It is designed to be an easy-to-use tool that reveals information on the quality of the provider.

However, to make it even easier for consumers to choose a home health company, CMS added "Star Ratings" that summarize some of the current measures of health care provider performance. The star ratings are an additional tool to support consumers' health care decision-making.

Two Types of Star Ratings

The Quality of Patient Care Star Rating is based on OASIS assessments and Medicare claims data. These ratings were first published on HHC in July 2015.

Patient Survey Star Ratings are based on the HHCAHPS survey data. CMS has been developing "Patient Survey Star Ratings" that are based on the patient experience of care measures.

Quality of Patient Care Star Rating Methodology

Which measures are included? The Quality of Patient Care Star Rating methodology includes nine of the 24 currently reported process and outcome quality measures.

The nine measures selected based on these criteria are:

Process Measures:

1. Timely Initiation of Care
2. Drug Education on all Medications Provided to Patient/Caregiver

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3. Influenza Immunization Received for Current Flu Season

Outcome Measures:

4. Improvement in Ambulation
5. Improvement in Bed Transferring
6. Improvement in Bathing
7. Improvement in Pain Interfering With Activity
8. Improvement in Shortness of Breath
9. Acute Care Hospitalization

All Medicare-certified HHAs are potentially eligible to receive a Quality of Patient Care Star Rating. Currently, HHAs must have at least 20 complete quality episodes for data for each measure to be reported on HHC. In addition, home health agencies must have 40 or more completed patient surveys over the four quarter period to receive Star Ratings for that reporting period. Agencies that do not have 40 or more completed surveys for calculating Star Ratings will still have their HHCAPHS data publicly reported on the Medicare.gov website.