

Information for Hospital OQR Extraordinary Circumstances Extension or Waiver for Reporting Quality Data

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has an extension/waiver process for the Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting (Hospital OQR) Program that addresses hospitals affected by an extraordinary circumstance. A hospital's Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) annual payment update (APU) could be affected by the inability to complete requirements for data submission and/or validation. Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) may also utilize this process, though there is no impact on their payment.

In the event that a hospital is unable to submit data or access medical records due to an extraordinary circumstance such as a natural disaster, a hospital may request an extension or waiver. The Extraordinary Circumstances Extension or Waiver for Reporting Quality Data form has been developed to assist hospitals in collecting the necessary information (<http://www.hospitalogr.com/media/ExtraordinaryCircumstanceForm1.pdf>). Hospitals in a region or locale that are mass-waivered by CMS due to natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, etc. are not required to complete the form but will be notified by CMS through routine communication channels (e-mails, notices on QualityNet, etc.).

Hospitals will need to complete the Extraordinary Circumstances Extension or Waiver form and submit it and any supporting documentation within 45 calendar days from the date of the extraordinary circumstance. These documents must be submitted to the Hospital OQR Support Contractor (SC) by e-mail at hopqdrp@fmqai.com or mail at Hospital OQR SC, 5201 West Kennedy Blvd., Suite 900, Tampa, FL 33609.

The Hospital OQR SC will collect the required detailed information as to the type of extraordinary circumstance and how a hospital was affected and will compile and present the information to CMS for final decisions regarding extraordinary circumstance extensions or waivers for hospitals reporting outpatient data. As part of the review process, the Hospital OQR SC will confirm hospitals impacted through websites, newspaper articles, and any other supporting documentation provided.

Please submit questions to the Hospital OQR SC at <https://cms-ocsq.custhelp.com/>.

Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting Program

Support Contractor



This material was prepared by FMQAI, the Support Center for the Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting OQR Program, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. **FL-10SOW-2012FS211-1-12633**