

Dear Stakeholder:

On an annual basis, the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) measures hospital performance for Potentially Preventable Readmissions (PPRs) and Potentially Preventable Complications (PPCs) through the Hospital Quality-Based Payment (HQBP) program.

Recently, HHSC conducted a review of the HQBP program's PPR methodology, specifically regarding the inclusion of readmissions due to neonatal jaundice. Through discussions with clinicians and 3M Health Information Systems (3M), who licenses the software used to calculate hospital PPR performance, HHSC determined that neonatal jaundice should be removed as a reason for a preventable readmission. In our discussions, 3M indicated that they already were planning to remove neonatal jaundice as a PPR with their next software update.

The updated software will not be available until the fall of 2022; however, effective immediately, HHSC will manually remove neonatal jaundice admissions from PPR consideration beginning with upcoming State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021 reports. These reports will be available on June 1, 2022, and their corresponding reimbursement adjustments will be effective in SFY 2023 (September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023).

HHSC routinely receives and reviews inquiries and feedback from stakeholders related to the HQBP program. To help ensure this input is evaluated, and, if appropriate, implemented in a timely matter, HHSC plans to host biannual stakeholder meetings to hold discussions on the program. HHSC will continue to accept and respond to feedback from individual stakeholders on a regular basis, but our hope is that adding structured stakeholder meetings will facilitate the best possible outcomes from the HQBP program.

Initially, the meetings will be held virtually in the summer and fall of each year to coincide with the release of full year reports and 3M's annual software updates. Notifications regarding the meetings will be posted to the HHSC Potentially Preventable Events (PPE) webpage: hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/process-improvement/Medicaid-chip-quality-efficiency-improvement/potentially-preventable-events and will be sent through our email distribution list.

Providers can find more information about the HQBP PPR and PPC program on the HHSC PPE webpage or via email at MCD_PPR_PPC@hsc.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

PPR PPC Coordination Team