

Date: January 13, 2025

To: Hospital Chief Financial Officers and Case Mix Liaisons

From: Claudine Williams, Principal Deputy Director, HDMI

Subject: **FY 2025 Q2 Data Forum Follow-up**

Joshua Sharfstein, MD
Chairman

Joseph Antos, PhD
Vice-Chairman

James N. Elliott, MD

Ricardo R. Johnson

Maulik Joshi, DrPH

Adam Kane, Esq

Nicki McCann, JD

Thanks to all who participated in the FY 2025 Q2 Data Forum held on December 6, 2024. Below is a summary of what was discussed and next steps.

Jonathan Kromm, PhD *****
Executive Director

William Henderson
Director
Medical Economics & Data Analytics

Allan Pack
Director
Population-Based Methodologies

Gerard J. Schmith
Director
Revenue & Regulation Compliance

Claudine Williams
Director
Healthcare Data Management & Integrity

Announcements

Case Mix Weights and Market Shift (RY 2025)

Staff reviewed the grouper versions that will be applied to the IP and OP case mix data for RY 2026 (slide 5).

- IP Weights 41; OP Weights: 3.18;
- IP weights use CY 2023 (12 months);
- OP weights use CY 2023 and Q1 of CY 2024 (15 months).
Weights for FY 2025 to be available in the first quarter of CY 2025.

These weights are applied to the following policies:

- CY 2024 12-Months Marketshift
- 2025 Demographic Report

Annual Filing eTool Updates

HSCRC is changing the submission process for Hospital Annual Filing data. Starting with the FY 2025 data submission (due 120 days after FY end), hMetrix will be the new eTool provider. More information about the changes will be provided to all hospitals in the coming months (slide 6).

Data Processing Contract Update

The HSCRC has awarded a new contract to hMetrix, in partnership with Burton Policy, Aileron Consulting, and Veteran Technology Leaders. This new contract will streamline data collection and processing for most reporting, enhance data processing pipelines, enable rapid and flexible data validation across HSCRC datasets, and allow for direct submission to hMetrix (slide 7).

Expanding of Denied Admissions Template

Staff announced they will be revising the Denied Admissions template for FY 2026 that will include more detailed fields aimed at improving data collection (slide 8).

Adding NDC to Case Mix Reporting

Staff provided an update to a proposal that would add NDC code to the case mix data in FY 2026 (slide 9).

Quality Update

Staff presented updates on quality-related data initiatives and reviewed the following for CY 2025 (slides 11-17):

- PPC Updates and Feedback
- Planned Monitoring Reports
- Digital Measure Submissions to HSCRC
- eCQM Reporting Timeline (including required and optional measures for upcoming calendar years)
- HSCRC Hospital-Wide Readmission and Mortality Reporting Requirements (for CY 2024-2025)

SOGI and SDOH Update

Staff provided updates on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) data collection (slides 19-21) Updates on SOGI data collection included:

- SOGI Data Collection Implementation Timeline
- SOGI data collection asynchronous training sessions
- Edits for SOGI Data Elements

Additionally, staff presented an analysis of the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Z-Codes (slides 23-26).

CDS-A Reports

Staff reminded all participants that the CDS-A Report is available on the CRISP Portal (slides 29-31). This report allows hospitals to review growth in the cost of outpatient infusion and chemotherapy drug utilization for outlier dosage units based on 3rd Monthly case mix data in CRISP. The expectation is that hospitals will use this information to correct errors prior to submission of Quarterly case mix data. **Please be aware, hospitals will be subject to fines if any material error is found in a hospital's CDS-A audit.**

FY 2025 DSR Implementation Timeline

Staff reviewed the timeline for submitting Test and Production files (Slide 41).

- **August 1, 2024 and onwards**
 - **FY 2025 with optional ED LOS and SOGI variable with FY 2025 format**
 - Submit data with July discharges
 - Submit to TEST folder
- **August 2024**
 - **FY 2025 Q1 (Jul & Jul - Aug) FY 2024 DSR Format**
 - Submit to PRODUCTION folder
- **October 1, 2024 and onwards**
 - **FY 2025 Q1 (Jul - Sep) with FY 2025 DSR Format with optional ED LOS and SOGI variables**

- Submit to PRODUCTION folder
- **January 1, 2025 and onwards**
 - **FY 2025 Q2 (Dec)** with **FY 2025 DSR Format with mandatory ED LOS variables and optional SOGI variables**
 - Submit to PRODUCTION folder

Discontinuing Release of Case Mix Data with ICD-9 Codes

Staff announced, effective immediately, HSCRC is discontinuing the release of ICD-9 case mix data (prior to CY 2016) in public use files and databases. This change is to streamline data management and focus on more recent trends (Slide 33). This also applies to case mix data released by CRISP.

Race and Ethnicity Data Collection Update

Staff announced that the HSCRC will be updating the race and ethnicity codes to align with the revisions to OMB's Statistical Policy Directive No. 15: Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity (Slide 35-37). More information about the changes will be provided to all hospitals in the coming months.

Data Processing Vendor Update

Mary Pohl, representing hMetrix, reported on data processing updates, including upcoming changes to the submission process and processing enhancements (slides 39-46).

Rate Center Data Quality Plan

Mary Pohl discussed the Rate Center Data Quality plan that will be implemented to help hospitals identify and resolve unusual Rate Center Charges promptly. A monitoring tab will be added to the Error Reports, starting FY 2025 Q1 (Oct 2024), with refinements planned by FY 2025 Q4, and potential impact assessments by FY 2026. Mary also outlined criteria for identifying significant rate centers based on a 12-month lookback period, focusing on outliers in total charges and rate center charges beyond +/- 3 IQR, requiring hospitals to review both current and historical month data (Slide 54-56).

Upcoming Workgroups

Staff announced information for the Payments Models Workgroup, Performance Measurement Workgroup, Total Cost of Care Workgroup and ED Measure and Incentive Methodology-Subgroup 2 workgroup (slide 53-56).

Next Meeting

The next Quarterly Data Forum Meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2025. If you have any agenda items, please send them to Curtis, or myself by **February 28, 2025**. If you have any questions or concerns about the topics discussed above, please contact Curtis Willis at: Curtis.Wills@maryland.gov.