

# Health Headlines

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## Individualized Value-Based Purchasing “Dry Run” Reports Available Now

On February 28, 2012, CMS hosted a “national provider call” on the hospital inpatient value-based purchasing (VBP) program in which CMS explained that “dry run” VBP reports would be available to each hospital through the hospital’s QualityNet account as of February 29, 2012. These dry run reports will be hospital-specific and will use the same parameters established for the 2013 VBP program except that they will use earlier baseline and performance periods than those employed for the 2013 VBP program.

Specifically, the dry run reports will use a hospital’s data from April 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008 as the baseline period, and data from April 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010 as the hypothetical “performance” period. (The 2013 VBP program uses a baseline period of July 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010 and a performance period of July 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012.) CMS included several sample VBP reports illustrating various performance scenarios in its presentation. Although the individualized dry run reports available on QualityNet will be educational only and will have no effect on payments, they nevertheless will familiarize hospitals with how the VBP report results will look and may give a hospital a sense of how it will perform in the 2013 program if no significant changes were made between the dry run performance period and the actual 2013 VBP performance period.

CMS also included a timeline in its presentation in which it made clear its intention to finalize the controversial “efficiency” domain in the 2015 IPPS final rule for the 2015 VBP program. As previously proposed, that efficiency domain was composed of a single measure of Medicare’s inpatient and outpatient spending per beneficiary from three days prior to inpatient admission to 30 days after discharge. CMS was also asked several questions regarding exclusions from the VBP program based on citations of immediate jeopardy to the health or safety of patients. CMS responded that it was aware that this area needed clarification and said that such clarification would come in a future rulemaking.

A PDF of CMS’s presentation is available [here](#). The reporter of this Health Headline presented on the VBP program at the American Health Lawyers Association’s (AHLA) Hospitals and Health Systems Law Institute last month and the **e-program** from that conference contains both the reporter’s PowerPoint and audio presentations. This presentation provides a detailed overview of the entire 2013 and 2014 VBP programs and strategic suggestions hospitals can employ to maximize their scores. The reporter will also be presenting on the VBP program, including these latest developments, at AHLA’s **Medicare and Medicaid Institute** in Baltimore later this month.

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