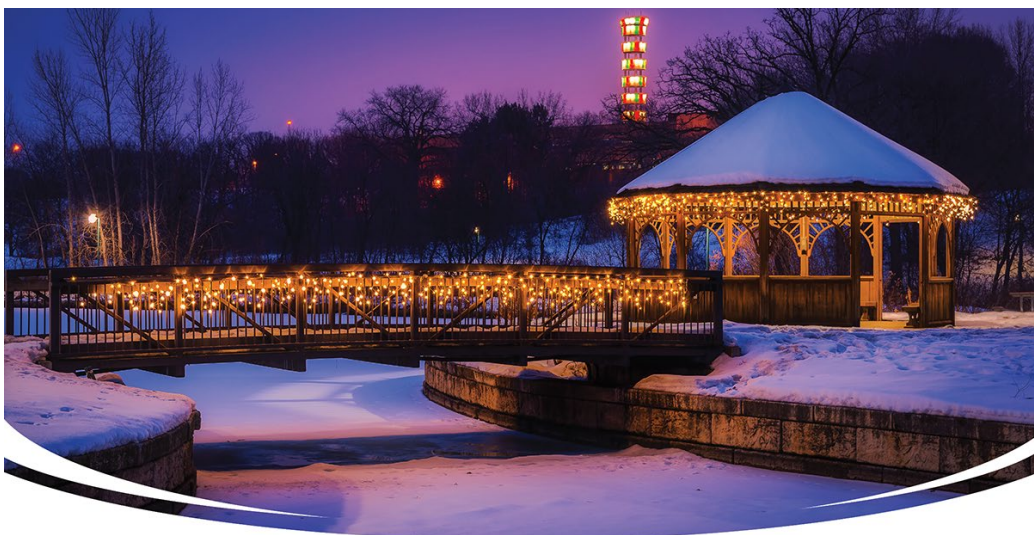




Quality Connect is a monthly newsletter from Stratis Health designed to support your critical access hospital, providing updates and resources related to quality reporting and improvement efforts. To share your feedback or request to have another team member added to the list, please contact Jodi Winters – jwinters@stratishealth.org.

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**We take joy in being part of your community
this festive season and always.**

Have a Happy Holiday and a Healthy New Year

Reporting Reminders/Updates

- **EDTC Q4 2024 due January 31, 2025 (MHA Portal)**
- **OP-18 Q3 2024 due February 1, 2025 (Hospital Quality Reporting)**
NEW CART for DATA ABSTRACTION AVAILABLE
- Population and Sampling is **optional but encouraged**.

NEW CART for DATA ABSTRACTION AVAILABLE

The **CMS Abstraction and Reporting Tool (CART)-Outpatient 1.25.0** has been released. The CART 1.25.0 download, installation instructions, edits, and online help are on the CMS [QualityNet](#) website.

- Select the **Hospitals – Outpatient** card on the home page of [QualityNet](#).
- On the Hospitals-Outpatient page, select **Data Management** and then select [CMS Abstraction & Reporting Tool \(CART\)](#) under **Data Collection**.

To install this new version, you must “uninstall” any previous versions of Outpatient CART from your server or desktop client. To install a new CART, you will need to select “initial installation”.

NOTE: Edits and Online Help Guide are located at the bottom of the Download Cart page under Resources.

This release contains updates to CART Outpatient 1.25.0 to support the Sex Data Element changes as listed in [Specifications Manual 17.0a](#). This CART version must be used for encounter dates 07-01-24 through 09-30-24.

Details of the new Sex Data Elements are listed below:

- - Sex Assigned at Birth – Required
 - Sexual Orientation – Voluntary
 - Gender Identity – Voluntary

NOTE: Use this newly released CART 1.25.0 version for Q3 2024 encounters only. CMS is expected to announce a new submission process in January 2025 for encounters starting with Q4 2024 and beyond.

The CCSQ Service Center at QNetSupport@cms.hhs.gov or phone toll-free at 866.288.8912 (TTY: 877.715.6222) weekdays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET. is a CMS resource for any installation issues.

Update on the Hybrid Hospital-Wide Readmission (HHWR) MBQIP Data Reporting Deadline

The HHWR measure's first reporting deadline for MBQIP **has moved to October 1, 2026**, for encounter period data for July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This change aligns MBQIP with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) reporting changes to the [IQR program](#) for this measure. Hospitals are encouraged to report this measure as soon as possible and may report it by the October 1, 2025 deadline if they choose.

CY 2024 eCQM and Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program Reporting

For CAHs participating in the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program, please note that CMS has extended the deadline for submitting electronic clinical quality measure (eCQM) data for the calendar year (CY) 2024 reporting period: The deadline has been extended from Thursday, February 28, 2025, to March 14, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time (PT).

Please note for CY 2024 reporting, all other aspects of eCQM reporting requirements remain the same for the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program. Successful submission continues to be defined as:

Reporting on three CMS-selected eQMs (Safe Use of Opioids-Concurrent Prescribing; Cesarean Birth, and Severe Obstetric Complications) and three self-selected eQMs for four quarters (Qs) of 2024 data (Q1, Q2, Q3, and Q4).

- Verifying that each quarter contains the same six eQMs.
- The data must be reported using the Office of the National Coordinator Health Information Technology certification criteria to meet the Certified Electronic Health Record Technology (CEHRT) requirement.

Resources

[Keep Sharing the Message: National Influenza Vaccination Week Resources](#)

National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) may have passed in early December, but the importance of flu vaccination remains! The CDC's NIVW Resource Center continues to offer valuable materials to promote flu vaccination throughout the season, including social media graphics and messages, educational resources and fact sheets, and customizable print materials for outreach campaigns. Use these tools to raise awareness, encourage vaccination, and combat misconceptions about the flu to protect your community well beyond National Influenza Vaccination Week.

Upcoming Events

Minnesota MBQIP Open Call | January 15, 2025, 1-2 p.m. CT

[Register](#)

Stratis Health hosts open discussion calls for Minnesota CAHs to support CAHs in submitting data for core MBQIP measures, sharing promising practices with other CAHs, and having a chance to ask questions of Stratis Health staff and each other. CAHs are encouraged to review their MBQIP reports ahead of the calls and come with questions.

Additional 2025 calls and registration [can be found on our website](#).

Contact

For support with your quality reporting and improvement needs, please contact Jodi Winters at jwinters@stratishealth.org.

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About Stratis Health

Stratis Health is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to collaborate and innovate to improve health. Stratis Health delivers data-driven insights, evidence-based interventions, and leading-edge improvement methodologies that inspire organizations and communities to achieve solutions to their most complex health improvement challenges. Visit the Stratis Health website at www.stratishealth.org for more information.