



Quality Connect is a monthly newsletter from Stratis Health designed to support your critical access hospital (CAH), 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.

December 2025 – In This Edition

- [Reporting Reminders/Updates](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Contact](#)

Holiday Greetings from Stratis Health!



Reporting Reminders/Updates

Upcoming Reporting Deadlines

- HCAHPS Q3 2025 due by January 14, 2026 (via vendor/HQR)
- EDTC Q4 2025 due by February 2, 2026 (via MHA Portal)
- OP-18 Q3 2025 due by February 2, 2026 (via HQR)
- Antibiotic Stewardship CY 2025 due by March 1, 2026 (via NHSN)
- Safe Use of Opioids CY 2025 due by March 2, 2026 (via HQR)
- HCP Q4 2025-Q1 2026 due by May 15, 2026 (via NHSN)
- OP-22 CY 2025 due by May 15, 2026 (via HQR)
- Population and Sampling is optional but encouraged

For more information on submitting MBQIP measures, refer to the [MBQIP Minnesota Quality Reporting Guide](#). Additionally, consult the [MBQIP Core Measure Set and Data Submission Deadlines](#) for upcoming submission deadlines, now updated to reflect reporting for Q3 2025 through Q2 2026.

Resources

Superior Health Quality Alliance

Stratis Health, a partner in [Superior Health Quality Alliance](#) (Superior Health), the [Quality Improvement Network-Quality Improvement Organization](#) (QIN-QIO) serving Minnesota, would like to share a valuable opportunity for your facility to receive free assistance. QIN-QIOs can help your organization by:

- Helping to connect you with other health systems and providers in your area to identify and work together on shared quality improvement goals.
- Supplying information and tools on how to implement quality improvement projects at your organization.
- Providing one-on-one technical assistance.
- Connecting your organization to community programs that help improve health outcomes for your patients.

It's easy to join, just fill out the [enrollment form](#).

- After submitting the form, a quality improvement advisor will contact you to discuss next steps.
- Watch for emails from Superior Health regarding enrollment. Ensure info@superiorhealthqa.org is on your organization's "safe sender" list. It is helpful to have your IT staff "safe list" the superiorhealthqa.org domain as well.

New Import and Save Functionality Available in HQR

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced new import-and-save functionality in the HQR system. Users will now be able to import chart-abstracted data into HQR, complete it using the data form, and save partial data without having to submit. This will allow you to save your in-progress data and return later to submit it.

Inpatient Quality Reporting Chart-Abstracted Data Submissions Now Live in HQR

CMS is phasing out the CART-Inpatient application. Sepsis is the only remaining IQR measure that currently uses CART. Beginning with calendar year 2025 quarter 3 discharges, CMS is making the abstraction process of sepsis cases available in the HQR system. All hospitals will start using this new process for submitting sepsis cases beginning with calendar year 2026 patient cases.

Updated CAH eCQM Resource List

The recently updated [Critical Access Hospital Electronic Clinical Quality Measure \(eCQM\) Resource List](#) provides CAHs with information on eCQM reporting requirements, the submission process, and public reporting. Includes information on inpatient and outpatient eCQMs as well as hybrid measures.

CMS Launches Idea Portal to Collect Feedback on HQR

Do you want the opportunity to contribute to the ongoing improvement of the Hospital Quality Reporting (HQR) System? Whether you have a small suggestion or a grand idea, you can submit it to the CCSQ [Idea Portal](#) (also linked in the HQR site footer) and make your voice heard.

Through the Idea Portal, you can create and submit ideas for system improvements, vote on ideas you find most valuable, and track and receive updates on ideas that are interesting or important to you.

Upcoming Events

MBIQIP Open Call for MN CAHs | January 14, 2026, 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 before the calls and to come with questions.

The American Heart Association (AHA) will join the call to share information about its [Rural Healthcare Outcomes Accelerator](#) program. Learn about this exciting opportunity and hear from some of your peers who are already participating. We will also be announcing our plans for a couple of upcoming learning and action network opportunities.

Additional 2026 calls and registration, as well as past calls, [can be found on the Stratis Health 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.

