

New CMS Patient Safety Measures: What Healthcare Leaders Need to Know

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CMS Raises the Bar on Patient Safety—Are You Ready?

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has introduced a new **Patient Safety Structural Measure under the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program**, signaling a major shift in how hospitals are expected to demonstrate their commitment to safe, high-quality care.

Unlike traditional outcome-based measures, this new requirement evaluates whether hospitals have the foundational infrastructure, leadership involvement, and cultural practices necessary to prevent harm—before it happens.

Why It Matters

This measure is not optional—and it comes with real financial and reputational stakes:

- Up to 25% Medicare payment reduction for noncompliance.
- Increasing emphasis on leadership accountability and proactive safety practices.
- Signals CMS's broader shift toward value-based care and transparency.

What CMS Expects from Hospitals

To meet the PSI-Structural Measure, hospitals must attest annually to have a comprehensive safety framework that includes:

- A hospital-wide patient safety plan reviewed annually.
- Executive or board-level governance oversight.
- Leadership engagement in reviewing safety metrics and culture.
- Staff training in high-reliability principles.
- Systems to identify, report, and learn from safety events.

What Executives Should Do Now

Every member of the C-suite has a unique role to play in meeting this measure:



For CEOs:

- Champion a safety culture from the top.
- Add patient safety to board agendas.
- Align safety goals with strategic planning.



For CIOs:

- Ensure safety-related data systems are integrated and interoperable.
- Provide dashboards for real-time monitoring.
- Support audit readiness and documentation trials.



For CFOs:

- Assess the financial risk of noncompliance.
- Align budgets to fund training, systems, and governance.
- Track the ROI of safety initiatives through reduced adverse events and improved payment outcomes

The Bottom Line

This new structural measure is not just a compliance **requirement—it is a leadership signal. It challenges hospitals to hardwire safety into their strategy, technology, and culture. Forward-thinking organizations that invest in infrastructure and collaboration now will be better** positioned to **protect revenue, improve outcomes**, and lead in a value-based environment.

MorCare simplifies CMS compliance by turning safety requirements into actionable workflows. Our platform automates gap assessments, tracks risk events in real time, and generates CMS-ready reports—giving hospital leaders clear visibility and control to drive safer, more compliant care.

Connect with us today

to learn how we can help you prepare for CMS's safety structural measures—and turn compliance into a competitive advantage.



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Patient Safety and Risk Management

