



*Administrator*

Washington, DC 20201

May 15, 2025

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

Thank you for your letter about improving the ability for consumers to compare care provided to patients at inpatient psychiatric facilities (IPFs). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) shares your interest in promoting transparency and improving the quality of care in these facilities. We appreciate hearing from you about this important issue, and value your long-term commitment to these priorities.

CMS is continuously working to improve the information we display on our Care Compare website. We have been publicly reporting IPF data since 2014 based on quality measure data from the Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting (IPFQR) Program, which is a statutorily mandated pay-for-reporting program. All measures in the IPFQR Program must go through pre-rulemaking and rulemaking processes that are required by statute. Currently, Care Compare publicly displays data IPFs submit to CMS on the IPFQR measures in accordance with section 1886(s)(4)(F) of the Social Security Act (the Act). These measures generally assess the following areas: Preventive Care and Screenings, Substance Use Treatment, Patient Safety, Follow-up Care, and Unplanned Readmissions.

CMS is also working on future developments that could offer several advantages by improving transparency, accountability, and decision-making for patients and families. We know that star ratings serve an important function for patients, caregivers, and families, helping them to more quickly comprehend complex information about a facility's care quality and to easily assess differences among facilities. Star ratings also spotlight differences in health care quality and identify areas for improvement. CMS is considering expanding the quality and safety information for psychiatric facilities by adding star ratings to Care Compare in future rulemaking. In the Medicare Program; FY 2026 Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities Prospective Payment System – Rate Update (FY 2026 IPF PPS) proposed rule (90 FR 18494),<sup>1</sup> CMS is seeking input from the public on the development of a star-based methodology for IPFs that can meaningfully describe the quality of care offered by IPFs. This would serve an important informational function for consumers, while also promoting transparency in health care.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/30/2025-06298/medicare-program-fy-2026-inpatient-psychiatric-facilities-prospective-payment-system-rate-update>

Because of your interest in improving transparency, you may be interested in looking further at the impacts of Section 1865(a)(1) of the Act, which permits providers and suppliers accredited by a CMS-approved national accrediting organization (AO) to be exempt from routine surveys by State Survey Agencies to determine compliance with Medicare conditions. The majority of Medicare-participating IPFs are accredited by AOs. However, Section 1865(b) of the Act prohibits CMS from generally disclosing (except for home health agencies and hospices) AO survey information, unless such disclosure relates to an enforcement action by the Secretary. This statutory limitation to publishing AO survey data publicly is a barrier to displaying public information on IPFs. It would require a statutory change to make hospital AO survey data public. Regarding the list of hospitals shared in your letter, these IPFs are currently accredited by The Joint Commission, and that statute prohibits CMS from disclosing AO survey information.

Currently, CMS publishes state survey agencies' acute and psychiatric hospital survey data (which are not subject to the restriction under section 1865(b) of the Act) through the CMS Regulations, Certification, & Compliance for Hospitals website,<sup>2</sup> which includes the "Hospital Surveys with 2567 Statement of Deficiencies" Excel file in the "Downloads" section<sup>3</sup> and the Quality, Certification and Oversight Reports (QCOR) website.<sup>4</sup> The hospital surveys are conducted based on observations and interviews with staff and patients, as well as hospital record reviews. Psychiatric hospitals are subject to additional regulations beyond basic hospital conditions of participation. Surveyors prepare a "Statement of Deficiencies," Form CMS-2567, which is the document that lists deficiencies cited by the surveyors and requiring correction.

The "Hospital Surveys with 2567 Statement of Deficiencies" Excel file contains 2010-2024 data from surveys performed by State Survey Agencies (SAs) and federal surveyors for Medicare certification purposes or in response to complaints. The data does not include findings from inspections related to state licensure requirements or surveys conducted by an AO. The Excel file contains only surveys that resulted in a deficiency and are run and updated on a quarterly basis. The Excel file designates the type of survey in which the deficiency was cited, the Condition of Participation regulation citation, the deficiency tag, deficiency tag description, and deficiency narrative.

Additionally, QCOR – a public database available online – includes survey data for both surveys that result in a deficiency as well as those that do not.<sup>5</sup> This database is updated weekly and provides reports and information on all CMS-certified and deemed facilities. Examples of the facility survey information available include, but are not limited to: survey history, which AO deems the facility, survey types, deficiencies cited for any given survey performed on behalf of CMS by SA or federal surveyors, and facility-specific as well as summary data by state and nationwide. QCOR does not include survey data from AOs.

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/health-safety-standards/guidance-for-laws-regulations/hospitals/hospitals>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/hospital-surveys-2567-statement-deficiencies-through-2024-q4.xlsx>

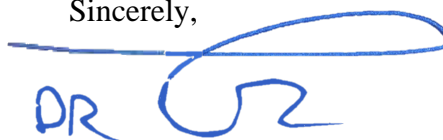
<sup>4</sup> <https://qcor.cms.gov/main.jsp>

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

In addition, surveys may not be included on the CMS Hospital or QCOR websites for several reasons, including that the case may still be undergoing processing before the data is loaded into the CMS system, and in some cases, there have been delays. CMS is transitioning to a new national system in which we expect to significantly improve the timely availability of public information.

Thank you again for your letter. We appreciate your interest in the transparency and ability to compare care provided to patients at inpatient psychiatric facilities. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact the CMS Office of Legislation.

Sincerely,



Dr. Mehmet Oz