



CMS Pressure Injury Reporting Changes

The Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program is a pay-for-reporting program that reduces payments to hospitals failing to meet the appropriate requirements. Hospitals falling short are subject to a one-fourth reduction in their Annual Payment Update. **CMS is currently finalizing a series of new measures and modifications, one of which will directly impact pressure injury reporting beginning in 2025.**

Hospital Harm New Electronic Clinical Quality Measures (eCQM) added by CMS

CMS is changing the way pressure injuries are reported and hospitals will need to comply or face reductions in reimbursements. Three new **Electronic Clinical Quality Measures (eCQM)** will be added — one concerning radiation doses, one on acute kidney injury and **one specifically focused on pressure injuries.**

Hospitals were originally required to report pressure injuries categorized as Stage 3, Stage 4 Deep Tissue Injury and Unstageable. Beginning with the Calendar Year/Reporting Year 2025, hospitals will be encouraged to voluntarily report Stage 2 pressure injuries. By 2028, reporting Stage 2 and up is predicted to be mandatory.

Hospital Harm Pressure Injury Prevention & Health Equity

CMS believes that adding HH-PI to the Electronic Clinical Quality Measures will ALSO help alleviate health care disparities among people of color and further advance their commitment to health equity.

Darker skin tones are harder to assess through current protocols. With the new Stage 2 reporting standards, hospitals will be required to implement measures that provide accurate skin assessments for all patients.



Specifically, CMS is adding three new electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs) to the inventory of eCQMs from which hospitals can select to meet the eCQM reporting requirements for a given year for both the Hospital IQR and Medicare Promoting Interoperability Programs:

- Hospital Harm — Pressure Injury eCQM, with inclusion in the eCQM measure set beginning with the CY 2025 reporting period/FY 2027 payment determination.
- Hospital Harm — Acute Kidney Injury eCQM, with inclusion in the eCQM measure set beginning with the CY 2025 reporting period/FY 2027 payment determination.
- Excessive Radiation Dose or Inadequate Image Quality for Diagnostic Computed Tomography (CT) in Adults (Hospital Level — Inpatient) eCQM, with inclusion in the eCQM measure set beginning with the CY 2025 reporting period/FY 2027 payment determination.

CMS believes the adoption of the Hospital Harm-AKI and Hospital Harm-PI eCQMs will support CMS' goal of advancing health equity. AKI is more common in Black hospitalized patients than non-Black patients. Research has shown a higher prevalence of pressure injuries in patients with darker skin tones and that patients with darker skin tones are at higher risk of developing higher-stage pressure injuries.

This research suggests that current skin assessment protocols could be less effective at assessing lower-stage pressure injuries for people with darker skin tones. By adding these measures to the Hospital IQR Program, hospitals will be better able to implement appropriate quality improvement to reduce them.

1. Cox, J., Edsberg, L., Koloms, K., VanGilder, C. (2022, January/February). Pressure Injuries in Critical Care Patients in US Hospitals. *Journal of Wound, Ostomy, Continence Nurses*. 21-28
2. Li, Z., Lin, F., Thalib L. (2020, January). Global prevalence and incidence of pressure injuries in hospitalized adult patients: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *International Journal of Nursing Studies*. 105

EHOB Solution:

Several studies estimated the prevalence of Stage 2 pressure injuries to be nearly 30%^{1,2}. And with reimbursements tied to performance, hospitals are going to **NEED** effective options for pressure injury prevention that won't negatively impact the bottom line.

The WAFFLE line of products along with the TruVue Heel Protectors will fit nicely into the new guidelines and are ideal for preventing and managing Stage 2 pressure injuries. **The first line of defense will be critical** when the changes take affect in 2025.

