

# QualityNet 04/23/2009 HCAHPS Release Notes

## **HCAHPS Version 3.1 includes enhancements to both the XML Data Submission and Online Data Entry Tool. The following is a summary of the enhancements:**

1. The HCAHPS Warehouse no longer accepts files submitted by providers that have closed. With this new release, the HCAHPS Warehouse import processor validates each file submission against a list of open providers to ensure only open providers' data will be accepted into the warehouse. The My QualityNet secure log-in procedure checks for open status and will not allow an Online Tool user to log-in if their facility is closed.
2. All documents that reference a provider's unique six (6) digit identification number (formerly known as the Medicare Provider Number) now use the term CCN (CMS Certification Number).
3. Hospitals with five or fewer eligible patients in a month are no longer required to submit survey data for those patients. Hospitals with five or fewer eligible patients in a month are still required to submit information to the HCAHPS Warehouse. XML files must include the Header and Administrative data. Online Tool users need only create a new month with the number of eligible discharges and sample size.
4. When DSRS (Disproportionate Stratified Random Sample) sampling is utilized, the system checks for consistent strata names and number of strata per quarter.
5. Users must now enter the methodology used to determine the patient's service line.
6. Russian and Vietnamese have been added as language options in the Survey Language field.

## **HCAHPS Version 3.1 Enhancements Specific to the Online Data Entry Tool**

1. Session time-out for inactivity has been increased to 15 minutes.
2. Users may electronically delete one HCAHPS survey at a time up until the data submission deadline for that survey. The entire HCAHPS survey record will be deleted.

### HCAHPS Version 3.1 Enhancements Specific to the File Specifications

Field Name <XML Element>	Description of Change	Comments	Implementation Date
<Discharge Status>	Answer Value 70 has been added, as follows: “Discharge/transfer to a health care institution not defined elsewhere in the code list.”	Discharge Status is a required data element. Value 70 is now an option.	2Q 09 Discharges
<Discharge Status>	Answer Value 5 has been changed, as follows: “Discharge/transfer to a designated cancer center or children’s hospital.”	Discharge Status is a required data element. Value 5 has been changed.	2Q 09 Discharges
<Lag Time>	Description has been changed, as follows: “Number of days between patient discharge and return of mail survey, or final disposition of telephone or IVR survey.”	Description changed to better define this data element for all survey modes.	2Q 09 Discharges
<determination-of-service-line>	This element has been added. Methodology used by a facility to determine whether a patient falls into one of the three service line categories eligible for HCAHPS survey.	New required Header Record data element.	2Q 09 Discharges