Methodology

Scoring Methodology

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The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) evaluates overall hospital performance under the Hospital-Acquired Condition (HAC) Reduction Program by calculating Total HAC Scores as the equally weighted average of scores across measures included in the program. Hospitals with a Total HAC Score greater than the 75th percentile of all Total HAC Scores (that is, hospitals in the worst-performing quartile) will receive a 1-percent payment reduction.

The HAC Reduction Program scoring methodology to calculate Total HAC Scores and determine which hospitals will receive a payment reduction includes the following steps:

Calculation of Measure Results

- Determine the composite value for the Patient Safety and Adverse Events Composite (CMS PSI 90) measure.
- Determine the standardized infection ratios (SIR) for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) healthcare–associated infection (HAI) measures.

Measure Score Calculation (Winsorized *z*-scores)

- Winsorize measure results for each measure.
- Calculate Winsorized *z*-scores, also known as measure scores, for each hospital using the hospital's Winsorized measure results, national mean, and standard deviation of Winsorized measure results for each measure.

Total HAC Score Calculation (Equal Measure Weights)

- Apply an equal weight for each measure for which a hospital has a measure score.
- Multiply the measure score by the weight for each measure to obtain each measure's contribution to the Total HAC Score.
- Sum the contributions of the measure scores to obtain the Total HAC Scores.

Worst-Performing Quartile Determination

- Determine the 75th percentile of Total HAC Scores.
- Classify hospitals with a Total HAC Score greater than the 75th percentile in the worst-performing quartile.

CMS is not calculating measure scores or the Total HAC Score for any hospital in FY 2023 as finalized in the FY 2023 Inpatient Prospective Payment System/Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System (IPPS/LTCH PPS) final rule. No hospital is receiving a payment reduction for the HAC Reduction Program for FY 2023. CMS is still publicly reporting hospitals' HAI and CMS PSI 90 results on the Care Compare website to provide transparency to the public on important infection and patient safety metrics during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Additional Information and Resources

For more information on the current scoring methodology, refer to the HAC Reduction Program Scoring Methodology Infographic or the FY 2023 HAC Reduction Program FAQs. For more information on the scoring methodology in previous years, refer to the HAC Reduction Program FAQs for previous program years. Both are available on the [Resources](#) page.

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