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Sent: Thursday, February 3, 2022, 2:34 PM
Subject: WHA Quality Alert: Extraordinary Circumstance Exception from CMS

Good afternoon,

I just wanted to take a minute and forward you a release that came out from CMS last week. This was also included in an “AHA Today” email this week Monday and includes an important link to the official release:

CMS reminds hospitals how to request quality measurement program exceptions, reviews COVID-19 measure suppressions

Hospitals experiencing an extraordinary circumstance beyond their control affecting their ability to submit data or their performance may continue to request an exception to reporting required quality data, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services reminded hospitals last week in a [notice](#). CMS will evaluate and grant exception requests on a case-by-case basis. The notice also recaps how CMS has applied the COVID-19 measure suppression policy it adopted last year. The suppression policy allows CMS to exclude measures and data timeframes the agency believes have been adversely affected by the pandemic in calculating hospital performance.

To further explain how the ECE works, please see the [CMS page](#) that provides a good explanation (scroll towards the bottom of the page) on what data has been suppressed already as well as how a hospital’s response to COVID-19 can also be considered under an ECE; whereas in the past the ECE was allowed for those impacted by natural disasters.

Thanks,
Nadine

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