Specifications Manual for National Inpatient Hospital Quality Reporting Measures

Guidelines for Using Release Notes
Release Notes 4.3b provide modifications to the Specifications Manual for National Hospital Inpatient Quality Measures. The Release Notes are provided as a reference tool and are not intended to be used to program abstraction tools. Please refer to the Specifications Manual for National Hospital Inpatient Quality Measures for the complete and current technical specifications and abstraction information.

The notes are organized to follow the order of the Table of Contents. Within each topic section, a row represents a change beginning with general changes followed by data elements in alphabetical order. The implementation date is 01-01-2014, unless otherwise specified. The headings are described below:

- **Impacts** - used to identify which portion(s) of the Manual Section is impacted by the change listed. Examples are Alphabetical Data Dictionary, (Measure Set) Data Element List, Measure Information Form (MIF) and Flowchart (Algorithm). The measures that the data element is collected for are identified.
- **Description of Changes** - used to identify the section within the document where the change occurs, e.g., Definition, Data Collection Question, Allowable Values, and Denominator Statement - Data Elements.
- **Rationale** - provided for the change being made.

Data elements that cross multiple measures and contain the same changes will be consolidated.
Release Notes version 4.3b - The notes in the tables below are organized to follow the Table of Contents in the specifications manual. The implementation date is 01/01/2014 unless otherwise specified.

Impacts: All footers

Rationale: The manual discharge dates are being updated to reflect a full year as directed by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Description of Changes:

Change footers throughout manual from:
Discharges 01-01-14 (1Q14) through 09-30-14 (3Q14)
To
Discharges 01-01-14 (1Q14) through 12-31-14 (4Q14)

Impacts: Inpatient Web-Based Measure

Rationale: The document is being updated to be consistent with other documents within the manual which provides a link to information and technical specifications.

Description of Changes:

Change:
This section has extensive changes. Please refer to the manual for updates.

Impacts: Appendix G

Rationale: The change is to update the resources available for the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program.

Description of Changes:

Abstraction or Measure Questions
Change title to:
Abstraction, Measure, or eMeasure Questions

Change first sentence in paragraph to:
For questions you may go to http://www.qualitynet.org then select “Hospitals-Inpatient” under “Questions & Answers” to submit your questions.

Remove bullets:
• http://www.qualitynet.org
• http://qionet.sdps.org (QIOs only, under “Applications” tab)

CMS Abstraction & Reporting Tool (CART)
Change to:
For technical assistance with CART, please contact the QualityNet help desk at qnetsupport@hcqis.org, or call 1-866-288-8912.

CMS Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program
Change to:
For information on measures that are required for CMS Hospital IQR Program and/or used for Public Reporting on Hospital Compare, refer to the Measure Comparison Document at http://www.qualitynet.org/. Please go to the QualityNet web site and select “Measure Comparison” under “Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program” located under Hospitals-Inpatient; or refer to the Final IPPS Rule at http://www.cms.gov/AcuteInpatientPPS/.