**Verbatim from CMS**

**CY 2018 eCQM and Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program Reporting**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is notifying eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAHs) participating in the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program and/or the Promoting Interoperability Program of a deadline extension. The deadline for the submission of electronic clinical quality measure (eCQM) data for the calendar year (CY) 2018 reporting period, pertaining to the fiscal year (FY) 2019 payment determination, has been changed from Thursday, February 28, 2019,to **Thursday, March 14, 2019, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time (PT)**. The Promoting Interoperability Program attestation deadline for eligible hospitals and CAHs has similarly been changed from Thursday, February 28, 2019,to **Thursday, March 14, 2019, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time (PT)**. CMS understands that some hospitals and their health information technology (IT) vendors need additional time to submit their eCQM data and attest for Medicare Promoting Interoperability requirements. This extension is intended to reduce reporting burden and is part of CMS’ continued commitment to ensuring successful data submissions to the Hospital IQR and Medicare Promoting Interoperability Programs.

For CY 2018 reporting, all other aspects of eCQM reporting requirements remain the same. Successful submission continues to be defined as reporting on at least four eCQMs utilizing a combination of Quality Reporting Document Architecture (QRDA) Category I files, zero denominator declarations, and/or case threshold exemptions. This information is reported through the *QualityNet* *Secure Portal*. Data submitters will continue to have access to the Pre-Submission Validation Application (PSVA) tool for test and production QRDA Category I file format validation activities. For hospitals participating in the Hospital IQR Program, the deadline for submitting an Extraordinary Circumstances Exceptions (ECE) request for CY 2018 reporting remains April 1, 2019.

The Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program has a separate hardship exception process. The Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program hardship instructions and applications for eligible hospitals and CAHs based on payment adjustment year are available on the [Payment Adjustments & Hardship Information page](https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/PaymentAdj_Hardship.html) in the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program section of the CMS.gov website.

**Note**: This extension applies to the eCQM submission requirement for the Hospital IQR Program and all attestation submission requirements for the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program for eligible hospitals and CAHs.