

CMS Disaster Directive

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has a waiver process for the Hospital Outpatient Quality Data Reporting Program (HOP QDRP) that addresses hospitals affected by recent disasters, including but not limited to floods and tornados. A hospital's Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) annual payment update could be affected by the inability to complete requirements for data submission and, eventually, validation. As Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) may also be affected by such disasters, and subsequently their ability to submit data or records for validation, this process can be utilized by these facilities, though there is no impact on their payment.

In the event that a hospital is unable to submit data or access medical records due to a natural disaster, a hospital may request a waiver. Hospitals will need to complete the Disaster Waiver Information Spreadsheet (attachment) and any supporting documentation. These documents must be submitted to the Hospital Outpatient Quality Data Reporting Support Contractor (HOP QDRP SC) by e-mail at hopqdrp@fmqai.com or mail at HOP QDRP SC, 5201 West Kennedy Blvd., Suite 900, Tampa, FL 33609. The HOP QDRP SC will collect the required detailed information as to the type of disaster and how the hospital was affected and will compile and present the information to CMS for final decisions regarding disaster waivers for hospitals reporting outpatient data. As part of the waiver review process, the HOP QDRP SC will confirm hospitals impacted through Web sites, newspaper articles, and any provided supporting documentation.

A spreadsheet has been developed to assist the hospital in collecting the necessary information. The Disaster Waiver form can be found at www.fmqai.com under Hospital Quality Data Reporting>Outpatient. Individuals with questions should feel free to contact the HOP QDRP SC Technical Assistance e-mail address at hopqdrp@fmqai.com.