



GA FLEX Quality Improvement Project Monthly Meeting
March 24, 2026



Agenda

- Welcome
- Re-cap February 24, Data Resources
- Composite 5 Measure Data
- St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital
- Liberty Regional Hospital
- Resources
- Q&A/Wrap Up



GA FLEX Improvement Project Lead



Melody "Mel" Brown, MSM

Quality Program Manager


melody.brown@allianthealth.org

Melody has over 45 years of health care experience, including varied roles at Alliant Health Solutions. She currently works on projects with hospitals, nursing homes, and physician practices concentrating on quality improvement strategies and implementation of interventions.

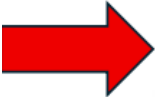
Important Dates to Remember

GA FLEX QUALITY IMPROVEMENT – FEBRUARY 24, 2026 INFORMATION

Reporting Deadlines:

These measures are collected throughout the 2025 calendar year (CY) and submitted once in early 2026. 

Measure Description 	Reporting Period	Submission Deadline
 Safe Use of Opioids (eCQM)	CY 2025	March 2, 2026 
Antibiotic Stewardship Survey	CY 2025	March 1, 2026
SDOH Screening (Social Drivers)	CY 2025	May 15, 2026
OP-22 (Left Without Being Seen)	CY 2025	May 15, 2026
HCP Influenza Vaccination	Oct 1, 2025 – Mar 31, 2026	May 15, 2026
Hybrid Hospital-Wide Readmission	July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026	Oct 1, 2026

-  **Safe Use of Opioids:** This must be submitted as an eCQM file upload via [QualityNet/HQR](#).

Information Guide and Exclusions

MBQIP 2025 Measure Core Set Information Guide:

[https://www.ruralcenter.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/MBQIP%202025%20Information%20Guide v2.0 508 1.pdf](https://www.ruralcenter.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/MBQIP%202025%20Information%20Guide%20v2.0%20508%201.pdf)

Exclusions:

The [MBQIP Safe Use of Opioids \(CMS506\) measure](#) excludes patients with cancer, those receiving palliative or hospice care, patients discharged to another healthcare facility, and those who expire during their inpatient stay. The measure focuses on reducing concurrent prescriptions of multiple opioids or opioids and benzodiazepines at discharge for patients 18 and older.

Clinical & Condition-Based Exclusions (Refer to the [eCQI Resource Center](#) for more detailed information)

- **Cancer-Related Pain:** Inpatient hospitalizations where the patient has a diagnosis of cancer or cancer-related pain that begins prior to or during the encounter.
- **Palliative or Hospice Care:** Patients who are ordered or are receiving palliative or hospice care (including comfort measures and terminal care) during the hospitalization or in an emergency department/observation stay immediately prior to admission.

Sickle Cell Disease: Patients with a diagnosis of sickle cell disease, with or without crisis.

Data Sources

Difference between eCQM data and MBQIP data:

How the data is collected and **who** it describes. **eCQMs** refer to a standardized method of electronic data extraction, whereas **MBQIP** is a specific quality improvement project for rural hospitals that *includes* eCQMs as part of its larger measure set.

1. Data Collection Method

- **eCQM Data:** Extracted directly from **Electronic Health Records (EHRs)**. It relies on "structured data" entered into specific fields by clinicians during their workflow, which is then automatically calculated by an [eCQM engine](#) without manual entry.
- **MBQIP Data:** Historically relied on **manual chart abstraction** (humans reviewing medical records) and reporting to [national systems](#) like the CDC's NHSN or [HCAHPS](#) surveys.

2. Program Scope and Purpose

- **eCQM:** A technical standard used across many CMS programs (like MIPS and the Hospital IQR) to reduce the burden of manual reporting.
- **MBQIP:** A federal initiative specifically for **Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)** to improve care quality. It uses a "core set" of measures relevant to low-volume rural settings, such as [Emergency Department Transfer Communication \(EDTC\)](#).

3. Overlap and Evolution

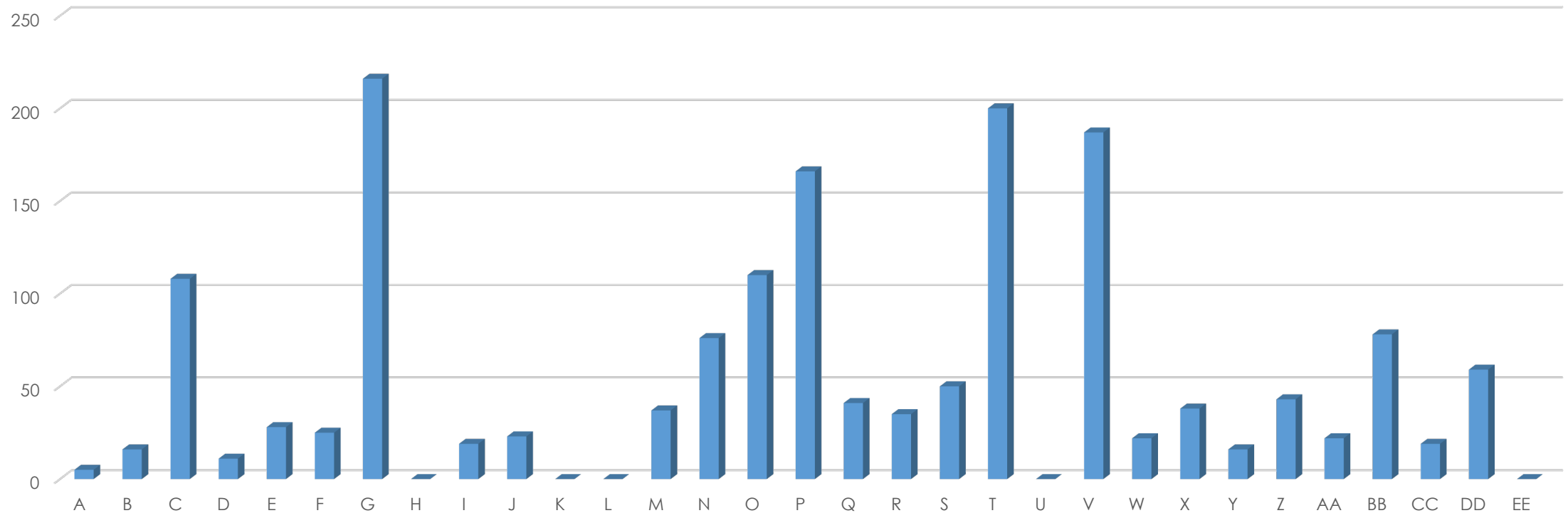
The two are now merging. As of **2025**, MBQIP has added eCQMs (like the "[Safe Use of Opioids](#)" measure) to its core requirements to align rural hospitals with modern electronic reporting standards.

Quick Guide

Feature	eCQM Data	MBQIP Data
Source	Electronic Health Records (EHR)	EHR, manual charts, and surveys
Primary Goal	Automated, standardized measurement	Rural hospital quality improvement
Target Entities	All hospitals and clinicians	Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)
Data Entry	Point-of-care (structured fields)	Manual abstraction or surveys

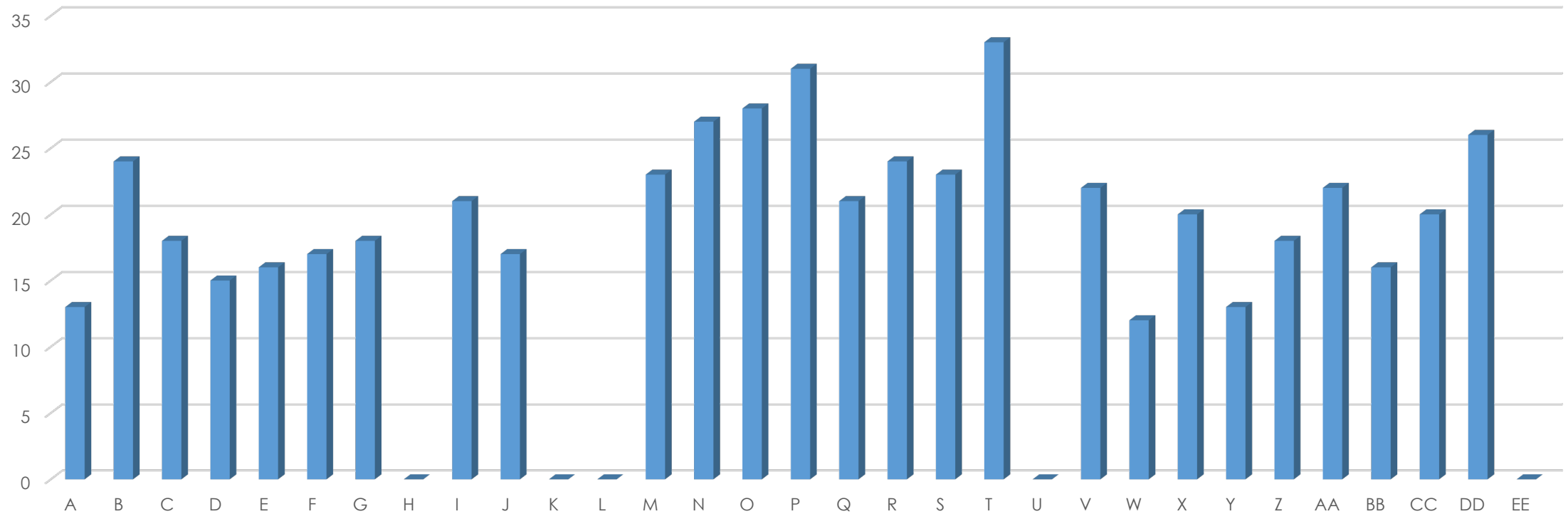
Composite 5

Composite 5
Completed Number for Communication About Medicines
Q3 2024 - Q2 2025



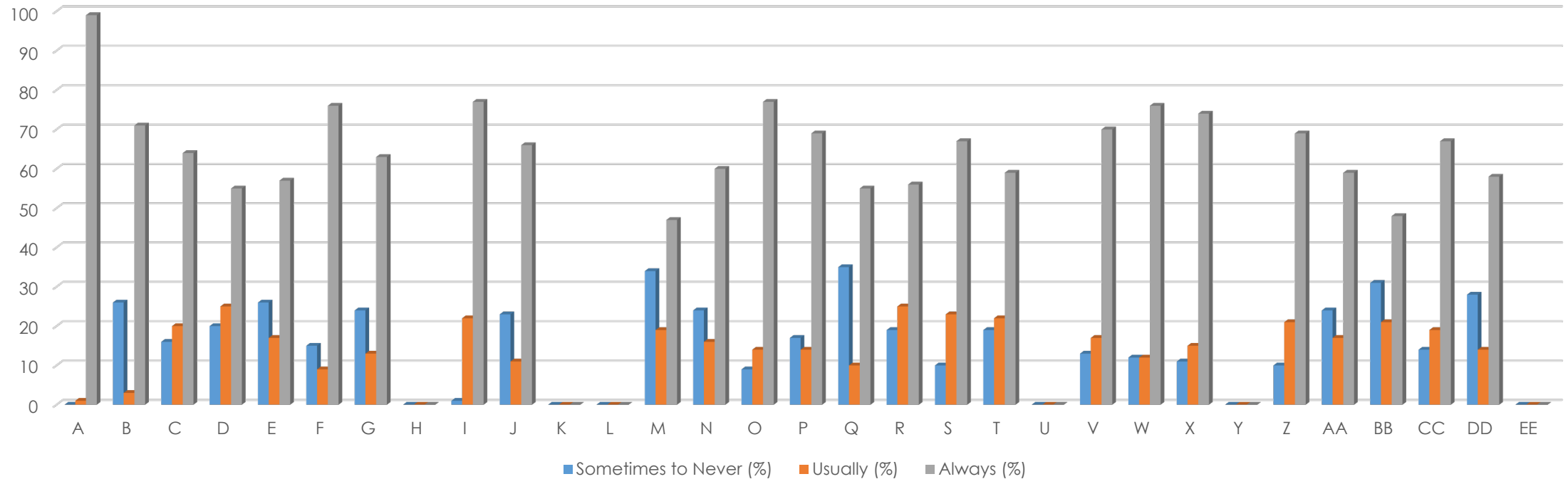
Composite 5

Composite 5
Completed % for Communication About Medicines
Q3 2024 - Q2 2025



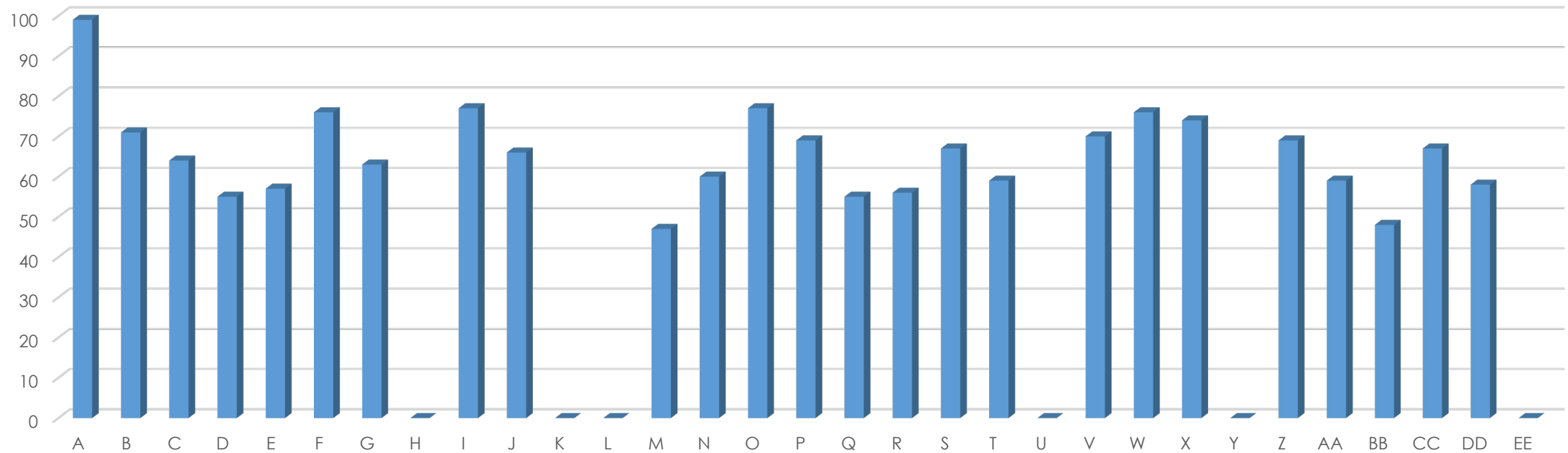
Composite 5

Composite 5
Communication About Medicines
Q3 2024 - Q2 2025



Composite 5

Composite 5
Communication About Medicines
Answered Always (%)
Q3 2024 - Q2 2025



CMS.gov Q/A Tool

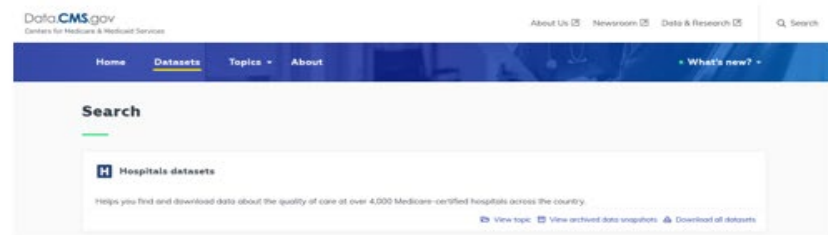
<https://oig.hhs.gov/documents/evaluation/10195/OEI-02-23-00360.pdf>



Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Inspector General
Office of Evaluation and Inspections

DATA BRIEF
February 2025 | OEI-02-23-00360
Not All Medicare Enrollees Are Continuing Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder

<https://data.cms.gov/provider-data/search?theme=Hospitals>



Data.CMS.gov
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Home Datasets Topics About What's new?

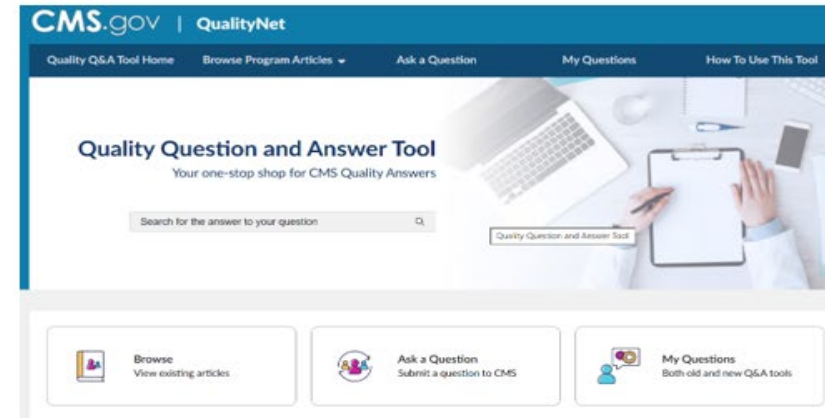
Search

Hospitals datasets

Helps you find and download data about the quality of care at over 4,000 Medicare-certified hospitals across the country.

View topic View archived data snapshots Download all datasets

https://cmsqualitysupport.servicenowservices.com/qnet_qa



CMS.gov | QualityNet

Quality Q&A Tool Home Browse Program Articles Ask a Question My Questions How To Use This Tool

Quality Question and Answer Tool
Your one-stop shop for CMS Quality Answers

Search for the answer to your question

Quality Question and Answer Tool

Browse View existing articles

Ask a Question Submit a question to CMS

My Questions Both old and new Q&A tools



St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital

About our Hospital

- 25 bed critical access hospital; St. Mary's Healthcare System; Trinity Health
- Greensboro, GA (Lake Oconee)
- Pop – 21K+
- Large senior/ retirement population
- TKA, THA, Shoulder, Pacemaker, GYN, Pod, Endo, Ophthalmology



HCAHPS

- Qualtrics – 59%
Communication about medications
- Bi-weekly meetings to discuss full patient experience scores – leaders shift focus to areas of improvement
- Leader rounding for each patient room; words questions to gauge patient perception related to HCAHPS Questions.
- Pharmacy and Nursing collaboration on patient education.



Safe Use of Opioids

- 13.0% (CAH)
 - State Av. 20%
 - Nat Av. 17%
- Epic BPA & warnings for prescribers
- Substance Use Recovery referrals



Wrap Up

Three main priorities:

- Patient education and communication driven by patient experience
- Data driven monitoring and continuous improvement
- System-level safeguards to support safe prescribing





“We Care”

Safe Use of Opioids
March 23, 2026

Expanding Our Services and Providing Quality Healthcare

- Introducing new specialties and advancing our facilities
- Enhancing patient experience
- Providing comprehensive healthcare
- Investing in future growth and innovation

We take immense pride in delivering the highest quality of healthcare services to our patients and residents.

- Derek Rozier, CEO

New Specialties

- **Orthopedics:** Advanced surgical and non-surgical treatments
- **Expanded Endoscopic Procedures:** Enhanced diagnostics and minimally invasive treatments
- **Ophthalmologic Services:** Advanced eye care and surgeries

Radiologic Services

- MRI: High-resolution imaging
- CT Scan: Fast and detailed imaging
- Mammogram: Early breast cancer detection
- Ultrasound: Non-invasive diagnostic tool

Retail Pharmacy

- Open to the public for convenient medication access
- Comprehensive prescription and over-the-counter services

Trauma Certification

- Level IV
- Elevating emergency care standards
- Commitment to excellence in trauma response

New Wound Care Center

- Advanced wound care treatments
- Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBO) capabilities
- Enhancing healing and patient outcomes

Comprehensive Medical Services

- Cardiology
- Critical Care
- Family Medicine
- Hematology
- Imaging/Radiology Services
- Internal Medicine
- Nephrology
- OB / GYN
- Oncology
- Ophthalmology
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- Orthopedics
- Pain Management
- Podiatry
- Pulmonary/Sleep Medicine
- Cardiopulmonary Services & Rehabilitation
- Emergency Department
- Medical-Surgical Services
- Swing Bed Program
- Wound Care Services
- Rehabilitation Services
- Surgical Services
- Perinatal Services
- Laboratory Services
- Retail Pharmacy

Coastal Manor Nursing Home

- Located in Ludowici, GA
- Providing compassionate long-term care for our community
- Dedicated to senior health and well-being

Connected Medical Practices

- Liberty Surgical Associates
- Liberty Family Medicine
- Liberty Cardiology
- Liberty OB/GYN
- Liberty Regional/Lewis Cancer & Research Pavilion

Safe Use of Opioids

- ❖ **Standardized Prescribing:** Limiting the quantity of opioids prescribed at discharge , small supply of days, and requiring the use of immediate-release rather than long-acting formulations for acute pain.
 - ❖ We do this in our departments.
- ❖ **Pharmacist-Led Monitoring:** Pharmacists review opioid orders daily to ensure appropriateness, check for drug interactions, and adjust doses for renal impairment.
 - ❖ Finding are discussed at P/T and medial staff meeting.

Safe Use of Opioids

- ❖ **Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs):** Clinicians are required to consult state databases to check a patient's history of controlled substance prescriptions before prescribing to prevent "doctor shopping."
 - ❖ We do this via our E.H.R.

- ❖ Tracking the administration of naloxone within the hospital to identify and investigate potential adverse events related to opioid-induced respiratory depression.

Safe Use of Opioids

- ❖ **Automated Dispensing Cabinets (ADCs):** Utilizing secure, biometrically controlled cabinets for medication storage with blind counts during shift changes.
- ❖ **Wasting Procedures:** Strict, double-witnessed documentation for wasting or discarding unused portions of medication.
- ❖ **Quality metrics** are embedded in the Electronic Health Record for Opioid Use and Compliance.

Find Treatment

<https://findtreatment.gov/>

 U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

[En Español](#)

FindTreatment.gov

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

Search SAMHSA.gov

Search

Home

Search For Treatment

State Agencies

Facility Registration

FAQs

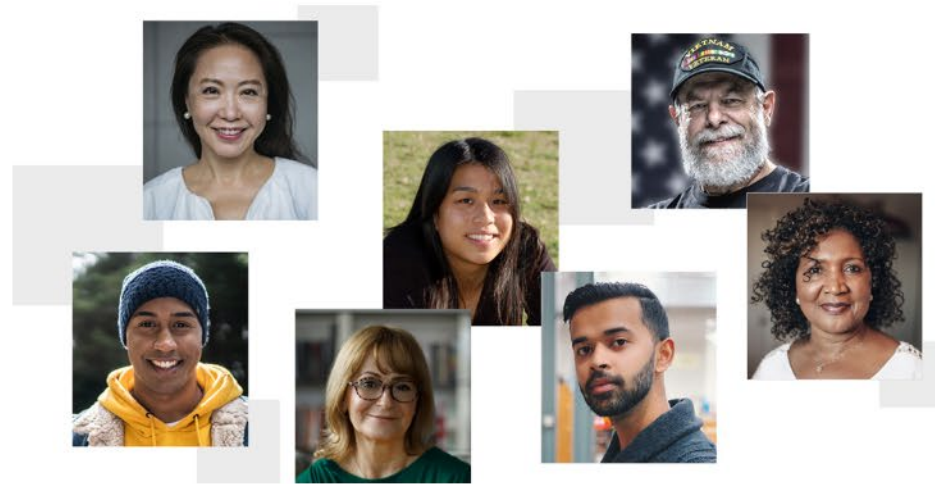
Help

About

Contact Us

Millions of Americans have mental and substance use disorders. Find treatment here.

Welcome to FindTreatment.gov, the confidential and anonymous resource for persons seeking treatment for mental and substance use disorders in the United States and its territories.



A^A



Find Treatment

Find a Treatment Facility

Enter your address, city, zip code, or facility name

Search

Help Resources

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

Free and confidential support for people in distress, 24/7.

Call or text 988

National Helpline

Treatment referral and information, 24/7.

1-800-662-HELP (4357)

Disaster Distress Helpline

Immediate crisis counseling related to disasters, 24/7.

1-800-985-5990

Project Timeline

Date	To-Do List
4 th Tuesday of each month 10AM EST	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly calls
April 24, 2026	<input type="checkbox"/>



Email melody.brown@allianthealth.org to schedule a meeting.

Alliant Health Website and GA Flex Resources

<https://quality.allianthealth.org/ga-flex/>



GA Flex Resources

Hospital Resources

[Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project \(MBQIP\) 2025 Measure Core Set Information Guide – Version 2.2 – 3.1.2025](#) ➔

[The Rural Quality Improvement Technical Assistance \(RQITA\) Resource Center](#) ➔

Safe Use of Opioids

[Safe Use of Opioids – Concurrent Prescribing](#) ➔

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

[Screening for SDOH Measure and the Screen Positive Rate Measure](#) ➔

[FAQs Social Determinants of Health \(SDOH\) Measures](#) ➔

[Discharge Referral List](#) ➔

[Improving the Collection of Social Determinants of Health \(SDOH\) Data with ICD-10-CM Z Codes](#) ➔

[Show More](#)

Resources

1. The Rural Quality Improvement Technical Assistance (RQITA) Resource Center: <https://www.telligen.com/rqita/>
2. Rural Health Information Hub website: <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/>
3. Rural Health Research Gateway: <https://www.ruralcenter.org/>



Questions?

 **ALLIANT**
HEALTH SOLUTIONS

 **SORH**
State Office of Rural Health
A Division of the Georgia Department of Community Health