



Advancing Quality and Safety: *No-Cost Support from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)*

February 3, 2026

Agenda



CMS' Quality Improvement Program – Overview – 5 mins



Hear from Other Healthcare Leaders – Their Experience Working with the IPRO Team on CMS' Quality Improvement Program - 20 mins



Next Steps - 5 mins

Four Initiatives for CMS Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs)

Beneficiary and Family-Centered Care – Quality Improvement Organizations (BFCC-QIO) - 2

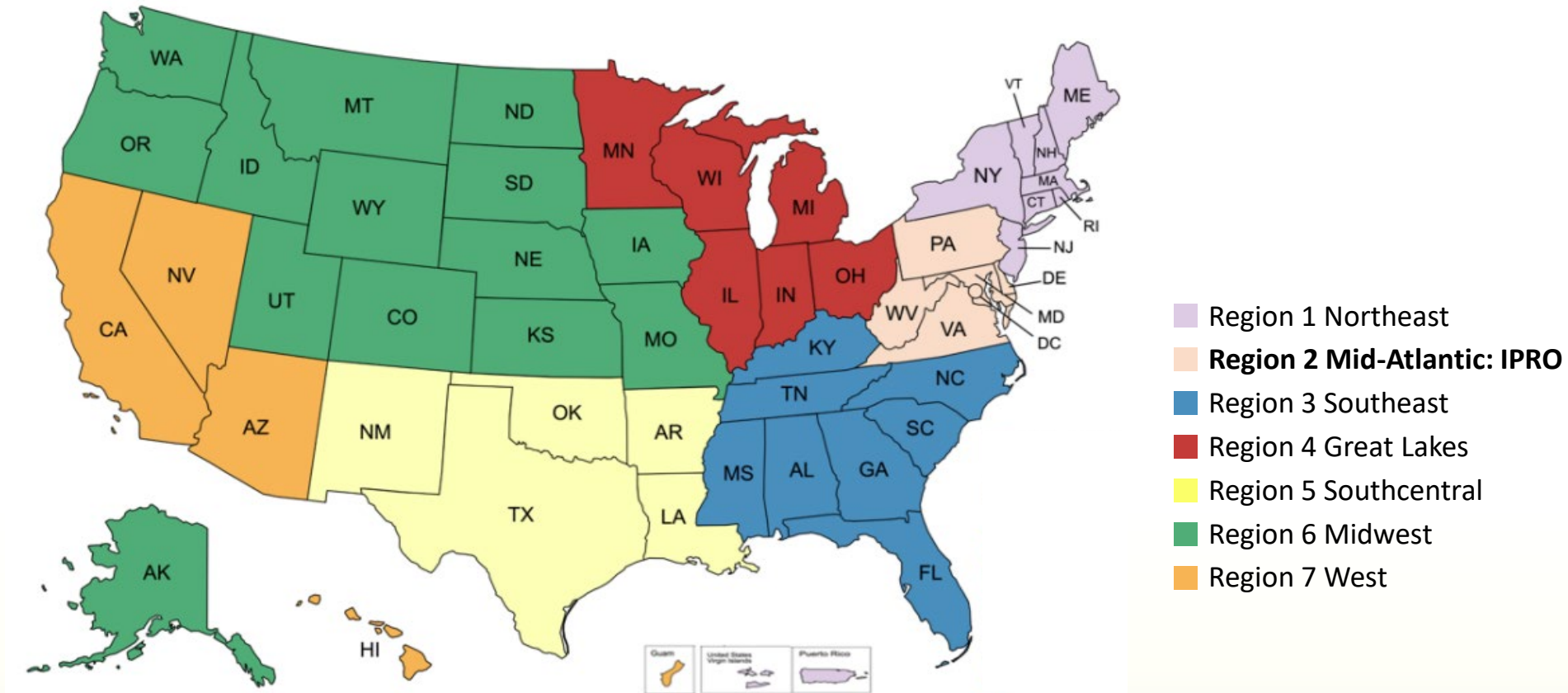
The American Indian Alaska Native Healthcare Quality Initiative (AIANHQI)

End Stage Renal Disease Network (ESRD)

Quality Innovation Network – Quality Improvement Organizations (QIN-QIO) - 7

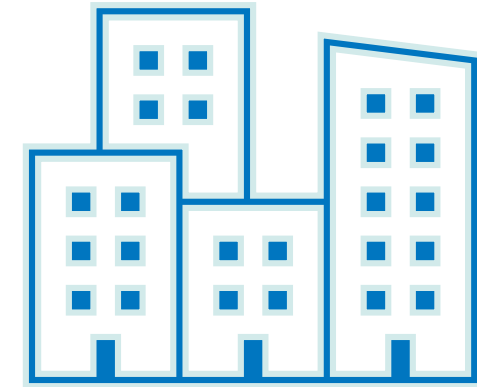
Commence Health (formerly Livanta) is the BFCC-QIO for the Mid-Atlantic Region.

National Coverage – 7 Regions



13th SOW = 13th Statement of Work (SOW)

CMS. QIOs. Available at: www.cms.gov/medicare/quality/quality-improvement-organizations/current-work

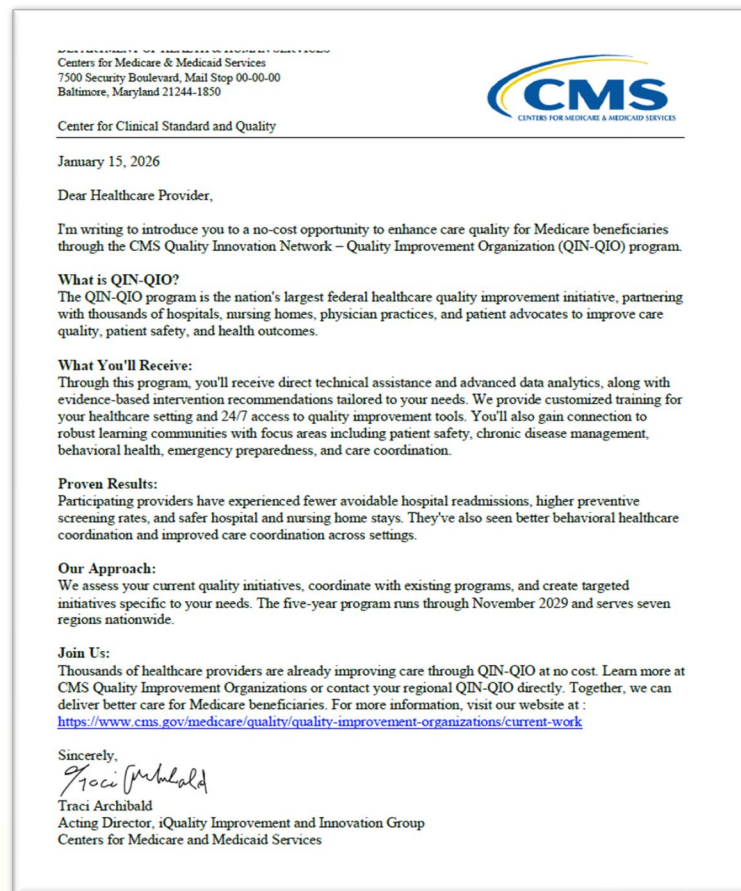


SELECT Hospitals, Nursing Homes, and Outpatient Clinical Practices were **IDENTIFIED** and are being **ENCOURAGED** by **CMS** to participate in this five-year quality improvement effort

CMS Encourages Providers to Participate

2026 - Annual Medicare
Participation letter
(<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-participation>)

A Message from Traci Archibald,
Acting Director, iQuality
Improvement and Innovation
Group, Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services (CMS) –
(<https://qi.ipro.org/a-message-from-traci-archibald-acting-director-iquality-improvement-and-innovation-group-centers-for-medicare-medicare-services-cms/>)



... and wants to know if an identified provider opts not to participate, including who made the decision, and why.

Areas of Focus

Prevention and Chronic Disease Management

- › Nutrition and Physical Activity Promotion
- › Obesity Screening and Treatment
- › Diabetes
- › Hypertension
- › Chronic Kidney Disease
- › Behavioral Health

Quality and Patient Safety

- › Infection Prevention and Control
- › Adverse Drug Events
- › Safety Events
- › Hospital Readmissions



Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organizations Areas of Focus

Transparency, Interoperability, and Care Coordination

- › Provider optimization of use of EHRs
- › Data sharing to coordinate patient care
- › Patient access to their records & care options

Resilient and High Performing Health Care Systems

- › Cybersecurity
- › Emergency Preparedness
- › Supply Chain Management
- › Process Improvement
- › Facility Accountability

Hospital- Clinical Areas of Focus



- **Optimize Patient Safety:** Improve infection prevention and control (e.g., CLABSI, CAUTI, CDI, MRSA, SSI), improve PSI-90 score, decrease adverse drug events, and reduce safety events (e.g., pressure injury, falls, emergency visit time).
- **Reduce Readmissions & Emergency Department Visits:** Improve care coordination to minimize avoidable hospital utilization.
- **Improve Behavioral Health Care:** Equip your team with tools to manage pain, and screen for depression, suicide risk, and substance use.
- **Promote Preventive Care:** Increase healthcare personnel influenza vaccination rates.

Why Participate

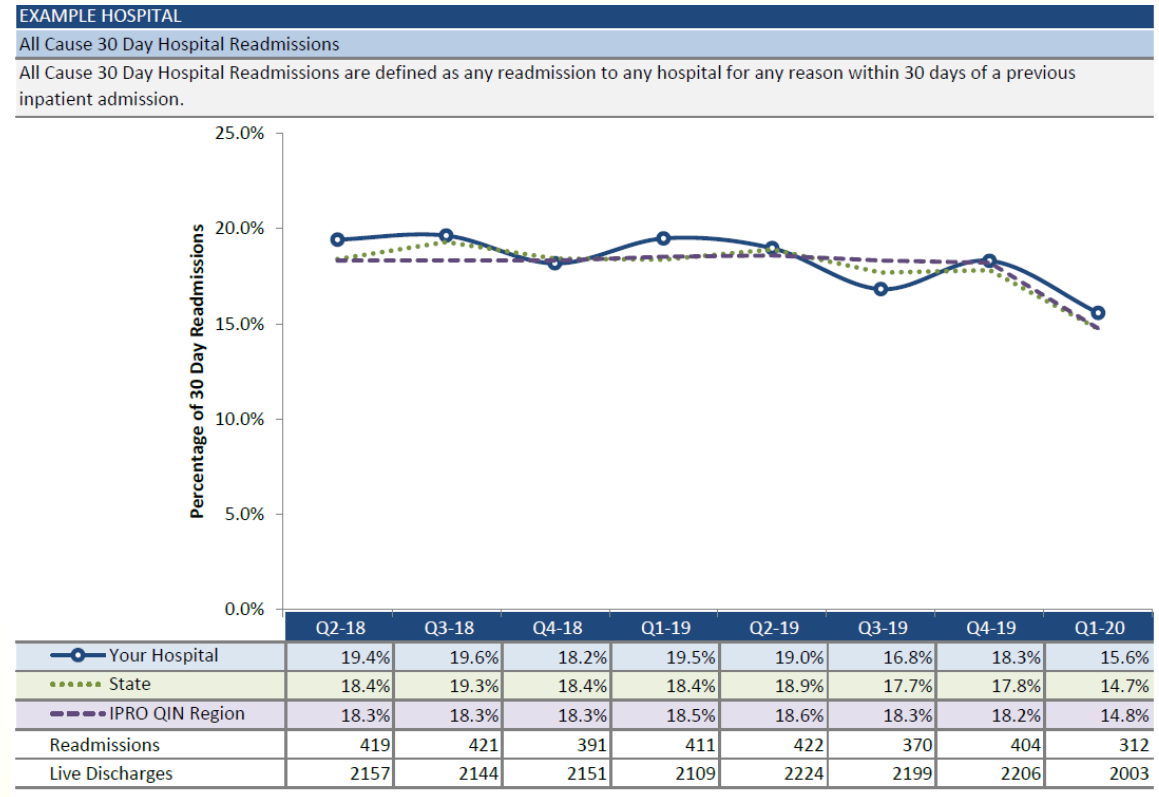
- Use the CMS QIN-QIO Program to augment your quality goals.
- Reduce penalties related to CMS Quality Reporting Programs.
- Receive support to address data needs.
- Showcase your organization's successes.
- Improve quality outcomes and avoid harms.



Data Driven

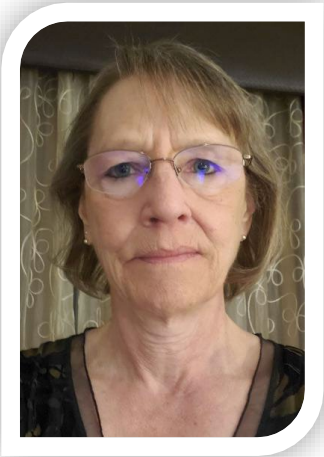
Previously, we've provided Quarterly Medicare FFS data reports for enrolled providers that showed:

- Trending over time – all cause and HRRP diagnoses
- Benchmarking with state and region
- Stratified by demographics
- Days to readmission – by discharge setting
- Top diagnosis (index/readmission)



Sample report provided separately

Provider Panel



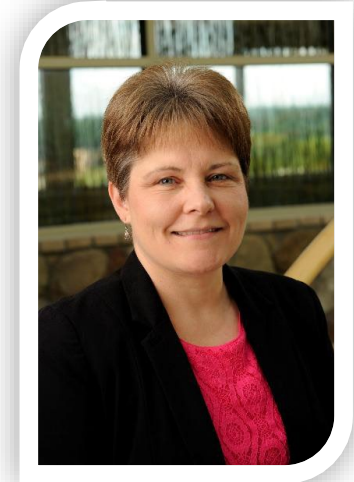
Laura Sims, MBA, BSN, RN
Senior Director, Quality and Risk, Corporate Compliance Officer
Heywood Healthcare, MA



Karen Doyle BSHSA, RN, CPHQ
Director of Quality
Berkshire Health Systems, MA

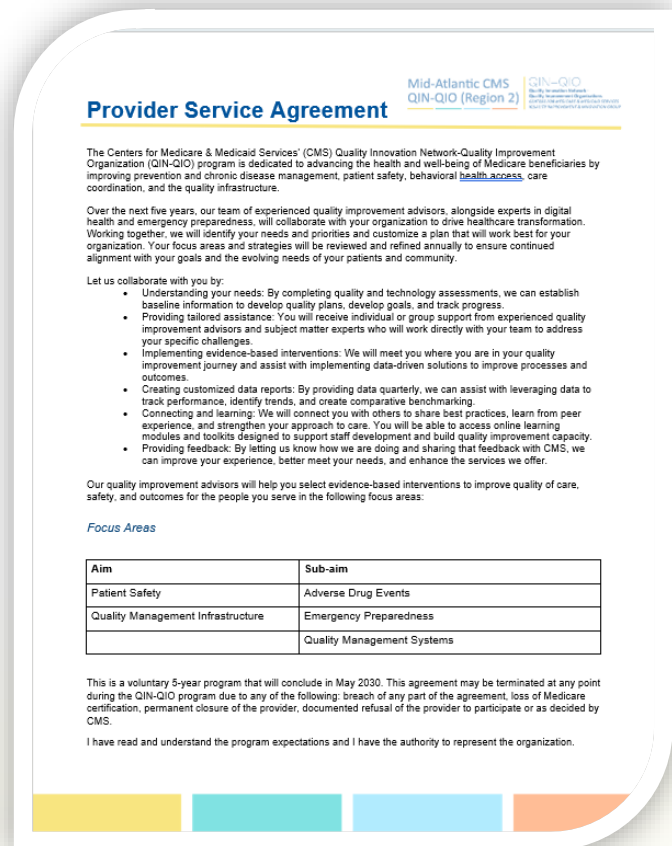


Nina Laing, RN, BSN, CCM
Director of Case Management & Behavioral Health
South County Health, RI



Angela Dubuc, RN, MSN, CPHQ
System Director of Quality
Central Maine Healthcare, ME

Ready for Next Steps – Confirm Your Participation



Following this session, we'll email you our service agreement.

To join, simply reply to the message (which will serve as confirmation) and then we'll get you started.

Once enrolled, you will have full access to our assistance, resources, online education, tracking tools, and current offerings:

- Quality Improvement 101 Training & Coaching
- Hospital Topics in Infection Prevention



Still Have Questions? Reach Out

Contact your local point of contact or one of us...

- Sara Butterfield – sbutterfield@ipro.org
- Lynne Chase – lchase@ipro.org

Learn more about the Mid-Atlantic QIN-QIO: <https://qi.ipro.org/>

