



The Final Rule: The Next 30 Days

As the final rule of the IMPACT Act takes effect, discharge planners must ensure requirements have been fully integrated into the planning process. The following steps will be helpful to keep in mind:

Build a database of local PAC provider quality measures. While home health and other PAC providers will have data readily available – such as VNA Community Healthcare & Hospice which currently boasts a 4.5 out of 5 star rating on Home Health Compare – many non-medical providers are now working to compile these numbers.

For medical providers, websites including Home Health Compare, Nursing Home Compare and Long-Term Care Hospital Compare will be helpful. For non-medical providers, plan to solicit this information and to set expectations for when this data will be updated by the provider.

Many non-medical providers may not have experience compiling this data and will only have immediate recent numbers available. Consider asking the provider follow up questions regarding how long their data gathering procedure has been in place and what their data looked like further out than just 90 days prior.

Start early. Patients and caregivers are required to be an active partner in the discharge planning, so identifying needs early and having discussions of patient goals well before discharge will help to highlight which data will be most helpful to the patient.

The more data available to patients the more they will feel empowered to be part of the decision-making when it comes to their post-discharge care.

Stay objective. Planners are required to provide data on all available PAC providers, but as has been the practice, must encourage the patient and family the freedom to make their own choice.