

CMS Response to Question Received from Federal Register Document 2021-04798 (CMS-10769)

CMS received a question from a representative of an organization with interests in long-term care inquiring about other means used by CMS to assess “*the effectiveness and value of this program, specifically in respect to nursing homes, and what the results of those assessments are.*”

Response

The independent evaluation will be carried out through an Independent Evaluation Contractor (IEC) that CMS directs. Evaluation plans over the 5-year contract for this program include assessments of the processes for the implementation, activities and services provided to improve quality in nursing homes, as well as tracking clinical outcomes, such as hospital use required for preventable incidents. IEC will be providing CMS with regular progress reports on an established set of metrics. CMS will use insights from those reports and the provider feedback survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and make adjustments as necessary. The IEC is contracted to produce an annual report each year through which we plan to release Intermediate highlights on QIO program websites (<https://qioprogram.org/>) early in 2022 and in Reports to Congress.