

## **CAHPS Hospice Survey Podcast for Hospices – Transcript**

### **Participation Exemption for Newness and Participation Exemption for Size**

Presentation available at

[https://hospicecahpsurvey.org/podcasts/8\\_exemption-for-size\\_2024update.mp4](https://hospicecahpsurvey.org/podcasts/8_exemption-for-size_2024update.mp4)

Updated March 2024

#### *Slide 1*

Welcome to the CAHPS Hospice Survey: Podcast for Hospices series. These podcasts were created for administrators and other staff members at hospice organizations. In this podcast, we will discuss the Participation Exemption for Size and the Participation Exemption for Newness. Specifically, we will review the eligibility requirements for the exemptions, how to apply for the exemptions, and CMS review of the materials.

#### *Slide 2 – Hospice Eligibility*

If your hospice serves 50 or more survey-eligible patients in a calendar year, it is required to participate in the CAHPS Hospice Survey in order to receive its full Annual Payment Update or APU. We'll talk more about what we mean by "survey eligible patients" later in this podcast.

For the CAHPS Hospice Survey, hospices are identified by their CMS Certification Number, or CCN. If multiple hospice facilities or programs share a single CCN, they will be counted together for the CAHPS Hospice Survey.

#### *Slide 3 – Hospice Exemptions*

There are two ways to be exempt from participation in the CAHPS Hospice Survey – the Participation Exemption for Newness and the Participation Exemption for Size.

The Exemption for Newness is based on the date the hospice received its CCN.

The Exemption for Size is based on the number of survey-eligible decedents/caregivers the hospice served during the previous calendar year.

If your hospice is exempt from participation because of newness or size, your hospice does not need to contract with a survey vendor for the performance year.

#### *Slide 4 – Participation Exemption for Newness*

The Exemption for Newness is based on the date the hospice received its CCN. What this means is that the hospice is exempt for the remainder of the calendar year in which it receives its CCN.

For example, if a hospice received its CCN any time in a given year – whether it is in January or December - it is exempt for the remainder of that year. Unless they are eligible for the

## **CAHPS Hospice Survey Podcast for Hospices – Transcript**

Exemption for Size, they are required to start participating in the CAHPS Hospice Survey beginning with January decedents of the following year.

CMS will identify hospices that are eligible for the Exemption for Newness. There is no form that hospices need to complete.

### *Slide 5 – Participation Exemption for Size*

Hospices can apply for an exemption from CAHPS Hospice Survey data collection and reporting requirements for the performance year if they have served fewer than 50 survey-eligible decedents/caregivers in the previous calendar year.

For multiple hospice programs sharing one CCN, the survey-eligible decedent/caregiver count is the total from all facilities under that CCN. For example, if two hospices share a CCN, and they served a combined 60 survey-eligible decedents/caregivers in the previous calendar year, the CCN is **not** exempt.

Hospices must apply for the Exemption for Size **every year** if they wish to be considered for the exemption in that year. The form you submit is good for one year only and will not be considered in subsequent years.

### *Slide 6 – Participation Exemption for Size*

The Participation Exemption for Size Form is available on the CAHPS Hospice Survey website. It documents the number of survey-eligible decedents/caregivers for the calendar year. On this form you must include, for the previous calendar year, the number of patients who died while in hospice care and a count of patients who fell into the following categories:

- Patients who were discharged alive,
- Decedents who were under the age of 18 when they died,
- Decedents who died within 48 hours of their final admission to hospice care,
- Decedents for whom there is no caregiver of record,
- Decedents for whom the caregiver is a non-familial legal guardian or paid caregiver,
- Decedents for whom the caregiver has a foreign (non-US or US Territory) home address,  
or
- Decedents whose caregiver requested that they not be contacted.

A patient may not be included in more than one of these categories. It is the hospice's responsibility to accurately portray the counts of patients on the form.

### *Slide 7 – Participation Exemption for Size*

The CAHPS Hospice Survey Project Team will confirm it has received your Participation Exemption for Size Form immediately upon its submission. However, this confirmation of receipt does not mean that the exemption has been approved.

## **CAHPS Hospice Survey Podcast for Hospices – Transcript**

CMS will determine the eligibility for size exemption for the APU period when they review all hospices to see if they meet the Fiscal Year APU requirements. If your hospice's exemption is accepted, your hospice will not face a reduction in your APU. However, if CMS data indicates that your hospice has served 50 or more survey-eligible patients in the year, your hospice will not qualify for the exemption and in that instance, your hospice will face the reduction.

For this reason, it is the responsibility of the hospice submitting the Participation Exemption for Size Form to accurately portray the number of survey-eligible decedents/caregivers it has served for the year, as well as the other information required on the form.

### *Slide 8 – How to Get the Form*

The Participation Exemption for Size Form can be obtained on the survey website at [www.hospicecahpssurvey.org](http://www.hospicecahpssurvey.org).

Click on the red “Participation Exemption for Size” icon shown by the red arrow. This link will bring you to a page that describes the form. Scroll down to find the form, which on the bottom of the page.

### *Slide 9 – Participation Exemption for Size*

The form your hospice needs to submit is available on the CAHPS Hospice Survey Web site at [www.hospicecahpssurvey.org](http://www.hospicecahpssurvey.org).

Again, this form must be submitted in every year that your hospice wishes to be considered for the exemption for size.

The deadline for submitting the Participation Exemption for Size Form is December 31<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year for which the exemption is being claimed. The annual deadline is described in more detail on the next slide.

### *Slide 10 – Participation Exemption for Size Timeline*

The table on this screen shows the dates associated with each year's Participation Exemption for Size form: the reference period, or decedent dates of death, along with the Participation Exemption for Size form deadline, the dates your hospice will be exempt from CAHPS Hospice Survey participation, the year CMS will review the exemption request, and the APU year that is affected.

For example, if your hospice had fewer than 50 survey-eligible decedents/caregivers in a given year, it is exempt from participating in the CAHPS Hospice Survey the following year, and it must submit a Participation Exemption for Size form by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year.

**CAHPS Hospice Survey  
Podcast for Hospices – Transcript**

*Slide 11 – CAHPS Hospice Survey Technical Assistance*

More information on these topics can be obtained at the CAHPS Hospice Survey website at: [www.hospicecahpsurvey.org](http://www.hospicecahpsurvey.org), by email at [hospicecahpsurvey@hsag.com](mailto:hospicecahpsurvey@hsag.com), or by calling 1-844-472-4621.

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