



## **CMS Proposes a Hospital Equity Score: The IPPS Proposed Rule Solicits Comments on Scoring Hospitals on Health Equity**

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May 27, 2021

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, the day President Biden took office he issued an [executive order](#) directing agencies to advance racial equity. Not surprisingly, CMS in its 2022 proposed rules is soliciting public comment in response to a health equity RFI. In the recently published Inpatient Hospital proposed rule ([here](#)), the health equity RFI, titled “Closing the Health Equity Gap in CMS Hospital Quality Programs,” appears beginning at page 25554.

As a part of the IPPS health equity RFI, CMS is proposing the creation of a Hospital Equity Score (HES). The discussion is at page 25560.

Essentially, CMS would score a hospital’s health equity performance based on their performance on risk-adjusted hospital outcome measures and potentially other hospital quality measures. The proposed rule states scores would summarize hospital performance across multiple risk factors, however, initially dual eligibility and race and ethnicity only. Each hospital would be scored individually and comparatively or across hospitals nationally. CMS intends to initially provide scores to hospitals confidentially and potentially publicly via Care Compare or a successor website.

CMS intends to model its HES based on the agency’s recently developed Medicare Advantage Health Equity Summary Score (HESS). A detailed explanation of HESS scoring was provided during CMS’ 2021 quality conference this past March. See slides 13, ff, from [this slide deck](#) that provides a detail explanation of HESS scoring.

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