

Reference #: 2025-14-IPF
From: Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Quality Development and Program Support
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Subject: **CMS Announces Recruitment for the Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Patient Assessment Instrument (IPF-PAI) Beta Test**



CMS Announces Recruitment for the Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Patient Assessment Instrument (IPF-PAI) Beta Test

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), as part of its overarching initiative to improve payment accuracy and advance quality of care in Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities (IPFs), has contracted with RTI International and their partner Abt Global (Abt) to develop and evaluate a draft patient assessment instrument, the Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Patient Assessment Instrument (IPF-PAI).

Abt is now recruiting IPFs to participate in a beta test to evaluate the draft IPF-PAI.

The IPF-PAI beta test will confirm the IPF-PAI items' reliability, validity, and feasibility. The Abt team will provide guidelines and materials, and dedicated support for participants throughout the beta test.

Background

One way CMS fulfills its mission to improve healthcare quality is through its Quality Reporting Programs. Section 4125(b)(1) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA), 2023 requires IPFs participating in the IPF Quality Reporting (IPFQR) Program to submit to CMS certain standardized patient assessment data elements using a patient assessment instrument beginning in fiscal year 2028. IPFs will need to meet all requirements of the IPFQR Program, including the IPF-PAI, to receive a full Annual Payment Update (APU) each year under the IPF Prospective Payment System (PPS).

Data that CMS collects from the IPF-PAI will be used to support the IPFQR Program and the IPF PPS. **Your participation in the beta test is a vital part of IPF-PAI development.** Results from the beta test will inform refinement of the draft IPF-PAI. CMS anticipates proposing IPF-PAI data collection in future rulemaking, which would be followed by national implementation of the IPF-PAI.

Eligibility and Requirements

CMS welcomes and encourages all IPFs to take part in the beta test. Within IPFs, licensed staff (i.e., registered nurses, licensed social workers) who provide direct patient care and routinely complete admissions and/or

discharges are eligible to participate. **Participation in the IPF-PAI beta test is completely voluntary. IPFs and staff who do not wish to participate will not be penalized in any way.**

Recruitment and Selection

- Our aim is to recruit a mix of different types of IPFs to capture multiple perspectives.
- We are seeking IPFs from different geographic regions (Northeast, Midwest, West, and South), in rural and urban areas, with different ownership structures (i.e., private, not-for-profit, state run), and those that are freestanding or unit parts of an inpatient facility.
- We aim to include IPFs that represent different specialty care areas and patient populations.

We will recruit and enroll IPFs on a rolling basis starting in April 2025 and ending in June 2025. IPFs that are interested in volunteering to participate, or would like to learn more, please contact us at:

IPF-PAI_testing@abtglobal.com

The IPF-PAI development work is under CMS contract number 75FCMC18D0012.