

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Statement from Defeat Malnutrition Today on the Final CMS FY 2018 IPPS Rule

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Yesterday, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a [final rule](#) which included their decisions on electronic clinical quality measures to be implemented in 2018's Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program, including malnutrition electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs) submitted last year for consideration.

While no new eCQMs were approved for implementation, we are pleased by the weight CMS gave to the many comments they received supporting the malnutrition electronic clinical quality measures. CMS documented in the final rule that malnutrition screening and assessment are important for better patient outcomes and there is an opportunity for hospitals to improve nutrition screening and assessment practices.

The Defeat Malnutrition Today coalition believes that CMS' actions are a step in the right direction, but only a step. Our disappointment resides with their decision not to identify a specific time frame during which the malnutrition electronic clinical quality measures would be implemented in their IQR program, whether now or in the future.

Our coalition has conveyed its dedicated support for approving malnutrition quality measures for FY 2018 and the importance of these measures for improving healthcare outcomes for older adults. In comments submitted in June 2017, the coalition [wrote](#), "As there are currently no malnutrition quality measures, we urge CMS to immediately adopt the proposed malnutrition eCQMs into the FY 2018 Hospital IQR Program versus a future IQR program. Malnutrition is a vital sign of older adult health risk and must be addressed with great urgency."

It is our intention to continue to work both with CMS and with specific Members of Congress who have expressed their interest in including malnutrition quality measures in the Hospital IQR Program by FY 2019.

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**About Defeat Malnutrition Today:** The Defeat Malnutrition Today coalition is a diverse alliance of over 60 national, state, and local stakeholders and organizations, including community, healthy aging, nutrition, advocacy, healthcare professional, faith-based, and private sector groups. Learn more at [www.defeatmalnutrition.today](http://www.defeatmalnutrition.today).

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