



March 2026

# CMS Patient Safety Structural Measure (PSSM) 2026 Annual Training



**Julie Hardy, MPH, CIC**  
NHSN Protocol and Training Team



**Addison Blackmon, MPH**  
NHSN Acute Care Analytics Team (ACAT)

# OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Describe the PSSM requirements
- Explain the reporting timeline
- Identify the five (5) priority domains
- Access the PSSM form within the NHSN application
- Understand the PSSM scoring
- Explore and interpret PSSM data report options within NHSN application

## The PSSM is an Attestation Measure

**Attestation-based** measure includes five priority domains

Assesses hospital **structure and culture for prioritization of patient safety**

**Reporting required** for hospitals participating in:

- **Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program**
- **Prospective Payment System (PPS)-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting (PCHQR) Program**

## The CMS PSSM Reporting Timeframe is April 1 – May 18

- **Reporting for calendar year 2025:** April 1, 2026 – May 18, 2026
- **Measurement period:** January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025
- Must attest 'Yes' or 'No' to each statement in the five priority domains
- All hospitals must report using NHSN facility ID
  - Multi-facility systems sharing a single CCN, hospitals must attest separately
- CMS Quality Reporting Program requirements are satisfied if participating hospitals complete data submission to NHSN – scores do not impact payment

# The Five Priority Domains

01

## Domain 1: Leadership Commitment to Eliminating Preventable Harm

Senior leadership and governing board(s) set the tone for patient safety commitment and accountability

02

## Domain 2: Strategic Planning & Organizational Policy

Written policies demonstrating safety as core value, including the goal of “zero preventable harm”

03

## Domain 3: Culture of Safety & Learning Health System

Evidence-based practices that promote a culture that prioritizes safety and established learning systems

04

## Domain 4: Accountability & Transparency

Culture promoting event reporting without fear and free flow of safety information

05

## Domain 5: Patient & Family Engagement

Meaningful involvement of patients, families, and caregivers as co-producers of patient safety

# PSSM Resources can be found on the NHSN PSSM Webpage

<https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/psc/pssm.html>

**CDC** National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Search

Home NHSN Home

NHSN Login

About NHSN +

Enroll Facility Here +

CMS Requirements +

Change NHSN Facility Admin

Resources by Facility +

**Patient Safety Component**

- Nurse Staffing Hours Indicator
- Patient Safety Structural Measure**
- Annual Surveys, Locations & Monthly Reporting Plans

Protocol

CDC's website is being modified to comply with President Trump's Executive Orders.

## Patient Safety Structural Measure (PSSM)

[Print](#)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Patient Safety Structural Measure is an attestation-based measure to assess a hospital's structure and culture in accordance with patient's safety. The Patient Safety Structural Measure helps to identify hospitals that have a system and culture for patient safety.

Hospitals participating in the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) and the Prospective Payment System (PPS)-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting (PCHQR) Programs must complete the PSSM during the reporting time period.

### Educational Roadmap

### FAQs

- [Nurse Staffing Hours](#)
- [Analysis](#)
- [Annual Surveys](#)
- [Locations](#)

# Additional PSSM Resources can be found on CMS Webpages

<https://qualitynet.cms.gov/inpatient/iqr/measures#tab2>

Home / Hospitals - Inpatient / Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program /

## IQR Measures

Overview **IQR Measures** IQR Proposed Measures Participation APU Resources Webinars

IQR Measures

**Web-Based Data Collection**

Hospitals participating in the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program are required to complete web-based measure data collection. Data for these measures are collected through an online data collection form, available to hospitals and authorized vendors, within the *Hospital Quality Reporting (HQR) Secure Portal*.

**NOTE:** Web-based data **cannot** be submitted via an XML file.

**Web-Based/Structural Measures**

Hospitals participating in the Hospital IQR Program are required to submit data on web-based/structural measures on an annual basis. For the CY 2025 reporting period/FY 2027 payment determination, the reporting period will be from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, with the submission period being from April 1 through May 15, 2026.

**NOTE:**

- The Patient Safety Structural and Age Friendly Hospital measures will be mandatory beginning with the CY 2025 reporting period/FY 2027 payment determination.

File Name	File Type	File Size	
Hospital IQR Program Quick Reference Guide: FY 2027 Web-Based Measures (January 2026)	PDF	204 KB	<a href="#">Download</a>

<https://qualitynet.cms.gov/pch/measures/safety>

Home / PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospitals / Measures /

## Patient Safety Structural Measure (Patient Safety)

Overview

### Patient Safety Structural Measure (Patient Safety)

The Patient Safety measure assesses how well hospitals have implemented strategies and practices to strengthen their systems and culture for safety. It is comprised of a set of complementary statements (or attestations) that aim to capture the most salient, systems-oriented actions to advance safety that exemplify a culture of safety and leadership commitment to transparency, accountability, patient and family engagement, and continuous learning and improvement.

File Name	File Type	File Size	
Patient Safety Structural Measure (September 2025)	PDF	252 KB	<a href="#">Download</a>
Patient Safety Structural Measure Attestation Guide (September 2025)	PDF	368 KB	<a href="#">Download</a>
Patient Safety Structural Measure Quick Reference Guide (June 2025)	PDF	154 KB	<a href="#">Download</a>

### Patient Safety Structural Measure (Patient Safety)

The Patient Safety measure assesses how well hospitals have implemented strategies and practices to strengthen their systems and culture for safety. It is comprised of a set of complementary statements (or, attestations) that aim to capture the most salient, systems-oriented actions to advance safety that exemplify a culture of safety and leadership commitment to transparency, accountability, patient and family engagement, and continuous learning and improvement.

File Name	File Type	File Size	
Patient Safety Structural Measure (September 2025)	PDF	252 KB	<a href="#">Download</a>
Patient Safety Structural Measure Attestation Guide (September 2025)	PDF	368 KB	<a href="#">Download</a>

# Guidance and Interpretation Questions should be sent to CMS through the 'Ask a Question' portal

[https://cmsqualitysupport.servicenowservices.com/qnet\\_qa?id=csm\\_index](https://cmsqualitysupport.servicenowservices.com/qnet_qa?id=csm_index)

**CMS.gov | QualityNet**

Quality Q&A Tool Home   Browse Program Articles ▾   **Ask a Question**   My Questions   How To Use This Tool

## Quality Question and Answer Tool

Your one-stop shop for CMS Quality Answers

Search for the answer to your question

**Browse**  
View existing articles

**Ask a Question**  
Submit a question to CMS

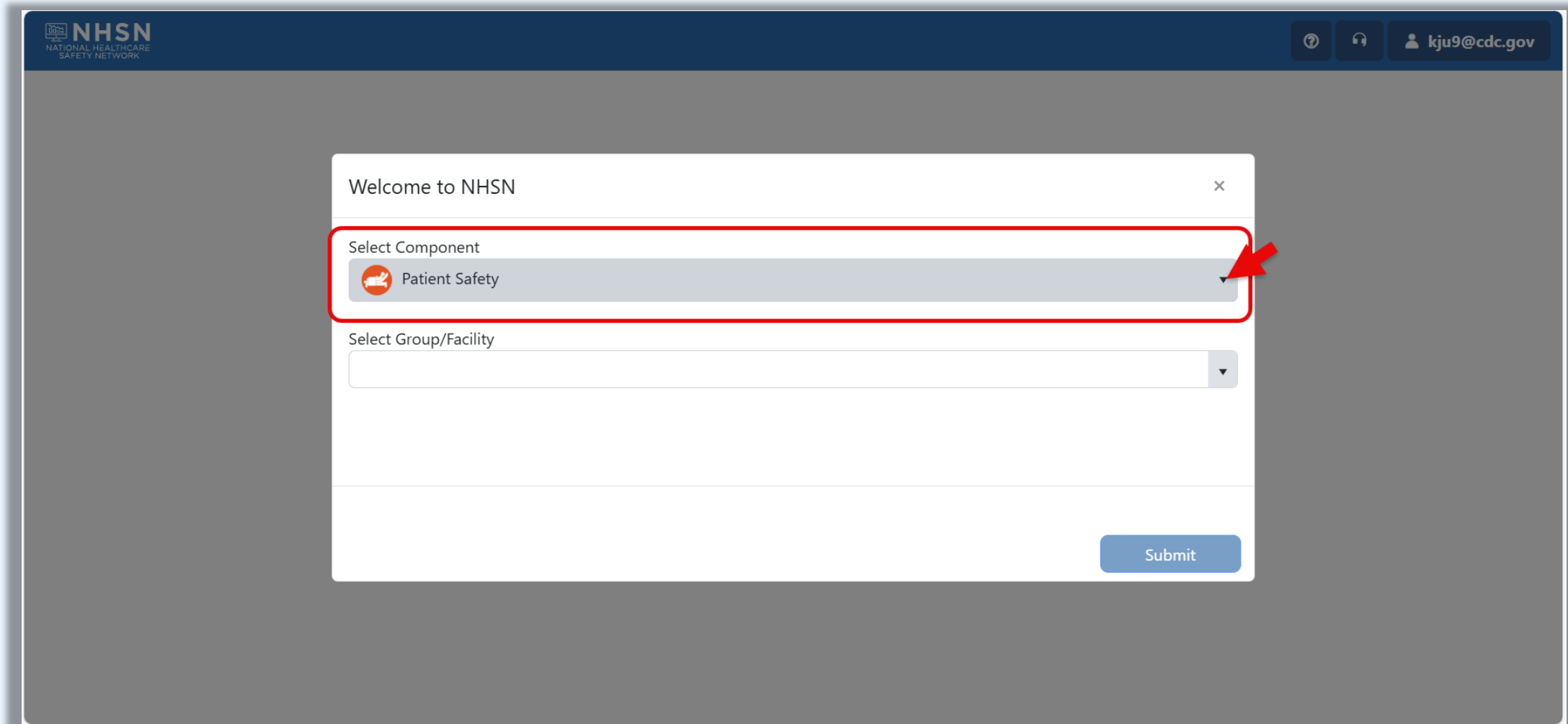
**My Questions**  
Both old and new Q&A tools

**Subscribe to a CMS Newsletter**  
Sign up to receive the latest news and updates from the Service Center or related programs. [Sign Me Up](#)

**Provide Site Feedback**  
Help us improve this website by providing your feedback in a short survey. [Give Feedback](#)

**View within the NHSN Application**

## The PSSM form is in the Patient Safety Component.



The screenshot shows the NHSN (National Healthcare Safety Network) interface. At the top left is the NHSN logo. At the top right are icons for help, a headset, and a user profile labeled 'kju9@cdc.gov'. The main content area features a white modal window titled 'Welcome to NHSN' with a close button (x) in the top right corner. Inside the modal, there are two dropdown menus. The first is labeled 'Select Component' and has 'Patient Safety' selected, which is highlighted by a red rectangular box and a red arrow pointing to the dropdown arrow. The second dropdown is labeled 'Select Group/Facility' and is currently empty. A blue 'Submit' button is located at the bottom right of the modal.

# Access the PSSM form from the NHSN Patient Safety Component home page

The screenshot displays the NHSN Patient Safety Component Home Page. At the top left is the CDC logo with the text "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention" and "CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™". At the top right is the NHSN logo with the text "NATIONAL HEALTHCARE SAFETY NETWORK". Below the logos is a dark blue header bar containing "NHSN - National Healthcare Safety Network" on the left, a help icon, a user profile icon for "KJU9 DHQP Memorial Hospital", and a dropdown arrow. On the left side is a navigation menu with the following items: NHSN Home, Alerts, Dashboard, Reporting Plan, Patient, Event, Procedure, Summary Data, Hospital Respiratory Data, Infectious Diseases of Public Health Concern, Patient Safety Structural Measure, Import/Export, Surveys, and Analysis. The "Patient Safety Structural Measure" item is highlighted with a red arrow. The main content area is titled "NHSN Patient Safety Component Home Page" and contains a list of dashboard links: TAP Strategy Dashboard, TAS Dashboard, HAI Pathogen Dashboard, Survey Data Quality Dashboard, and Action Items. Below the "Action Items" link, there is a red vertical bar and a white box with the text "COMPLETE THESE ITEMS", "Confer Rights", and "Not Accepted" in large blue letters.

**CDC** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

**NHSN**  
NATIONAL HEALTHCARE SAFETY NETWORK

NHSN - National Healthcare Safety Network

KJU9  
DHQP Memorial Hospital

**NHSN Home**

- Alerts
- Dashboard
- Reporting Plan
- Patient
- Event
- Procedure
- Summary Data
- Hospital Respiratory Data
- Infectious Diseases of Public Health Concern
- Patient Safety Structural Measure**
- Import/Export
- Surveys
- Analysis

**NHSN Patient Safety Component Home Page**

- TAP Strategy Dashboard
- TAS Dashboard
- HAI Pathogen Dashboard
- Survey Data Quality Dashboard
- Action Items**

**COMPLETE THESE ITEMS**

Confer Rights


**Not Accepted**

# Facilities can view the PSSM form beginning March 1, 2026.

**NHSN Home**

- Alerts
- Dashboard ▶
- Reporting Plan ▶
- Patient ▶
- Event ▶
- Procedure ▶
- Summary Data ▶
- Hospital Respiratory Data ▶
- Infectious Diseases of Public Health Concern
- Patient Safety Structural Measure**
- Import/Export
- Surveys ▶
- Analysis ▶
- Users ▶
- Facility ▶
- Group ▶
- Cheat Sheets ▶

## Patient Safety Structural Measure

 Mandatory fields marked with\*

Facility ID  
autopopulates.

Facility ID

Survey Year

Attest whether the hospital engaged in the following activities.

Select all that apply (Note: affirmative attestation of all statements within a domain is required for the hospital to receive a point for the domain).

### Attestation Statements

Attest

#### Domain 1

##### Leadership Commitment to Eliminating Preventable Harm

\* D1-A

Our hospital senior governing board prioritizes safety as a core value, holds hospital leadership accountable for patient safety, and includes patient safety metrics to inform annual leadership performance reviews and compensation.

Our hospital leaders, including C-suite executives, place patient safety as a core institutional value. One or more C-suite leaders oversee a system-wide assessment on

# Beginning April 1, 2026, through May 18, 2026, IQR and PPS- PCHQR hospitals can complete and submit the PSSM form.

**CDC** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People™

**NHSN** NATIONAL HEALTHCARE SAFETY NETWORK

NHSN - National Healthcare Safety Network (ps1410-9ccd66df4-5flsw:80)

**Patient Safety Structural Measure**

Mandatory fields marked with\*

Facility ID  Survey Year

Attest whether the hospital engaged in the following activities.  
Select all that apply (Note: affirmative attestation of all statements within a domain is required for the hospital to receive a point for the domain).

Attestation Statements	Attest
<b>Domain 1</b> Leadership Commitment to Eliminating Preventable Harm	
* D1-A Our hospital senior governing board prioritizes safety as a core value, holds hospital leadership accountable for patient safety, and includes patient safety metrics to inform annual leadership performance reviews and compensation.	<input type="text" value="Y - Yes"/> <input type="text" value="N - No"/>
* D1-B Our hospital leaders, including C-suite executives, place patient safety as a core institutional value. One or more C-suite leaders oversee a system-wide assessment on safety (examples provided in the Attestation Guide), and the execution of patient safety initiatives and operations, with specific improvement plans and metrics. These plans and metrics are widely shared across the hospital and governing board.	<input type="text"/>
* D1-C Our hospital governing board, in collaboration with leadership, ensures adequate resources to support patient safety (such as equipment, training, systems, personnel, and technology).	<input type="text"/>

13

## Key Takeaways

- ✓ All-or-nothing scoring: Must meet ALL 5 statements per domain
- ✓ Annual submission window: April 1 - May 15 (for 2026, submission ends May 18)
- ✓ Separate attestation required for each hospital sharing a CCN
- ✓ Activities must be performed anytime Jan 1 - Dec 31 of prior year
- ✓ Complete submission before May 18, 2026 deadline

# Domain, Facility, and CCN Scoring

## The PSSM is Scored at the Domain, Facility and CCN Levels.

### Domain Score

- The domain score is one (1) if a hospital attest "Yes" to each statement in a domain on the PSSM attestation form.
- The hospital will have a domain score of zero (0) if a hospital attest "No" to any statement on the PSSM attestation form.

### Facility Score

- The facility score is the individual hospital score.
- It is the sum of the five priority domain scores.
- The score ranges from zero (0) to five (5) points.

### CCN Score

- The CCN score is determined by the facility score(s) of their participating hospital(s).
- For single-hospital CCN, the Facility Score is the CCN Score.
- For participating hospitals sharing a CCN, the lowest Facility Score is the CCN Score.

#### Reminder

- PSSM score does not impact Annual Payment Update.
- Reporting requirements are met if complete data are submitted to NHSN by the deadline.

## Hospitals will have a Domain Score of One if Attest "Yes" To ALL Five Statements

- Domain Score = 1
  - Attest "Yes" to ALL 5 statements in domain.
- Domain Score = 0
  - Attest "No" to ANY statement in domain.

Example – Domain 2	
<u>Domain 2 Statements</u>	<u>Attestation</u>
A. Our hospital has a strategic plan that publicly shares...	Yes
B. Our hospital safety goals include the use of metrics...	Yes
C. Our hospital has implemented written policies...	Yes
D. Our hospital requires implementation of a patient...	Yes
E. Our hospital has an action plan for workforce safety...	Yes
<b>Domain 2 Score = 1 point</b>	

## Hospitals will have a Domain Score of Zero if Attest "No" to ANY Statement


- Domain Score = 1
  - Attest "Yes" to ALL 5 statements in domain.
- Domain Score = 0
  - Attest "No" to ANY statement in domain.

Example – Domain 2	
<u>Domain 2 Statement</u>	<u>Attestation</u>
A. Our hospital has a strategic plan that publicly shares...	Yes
B. Our hospital safety goals include the use of metrics...	No
C. Our hospital has implemented written policies...	No
D. Our hospital requires implementation of a patient...	Yes
E. Our hospital has an action plan for workforce safety...	Yes
<b>Domain 2 Score = 0 point</b>	

## The CCN Score Is The Facility Score For Single-Hospital CCNs

Single hospital with one (1) NHSN Facility ID under one (1) CCN.



CCN	NHSN Facility ID	PSSM Score
12345	555555	5



## The Lowest Facility Score Is the CCN Score for CCNs Shared By Multiple Facilities

- For multiple hospitals (multiple NHSN Facility IDs) sharing one (1) CCN, each hospital must attest separately.
- The final PSSM score is based on the lowest scored reported.

CCN	NHSN Facility ID	PSSM Score
12345	111111	5
12345	222222	3
12345	333333	4
12345	444444	5
12345	111111, 222222, 333333, 444444	3



## Knowledge Check 1

If a hospital answers 'YES' to 4 statements and 'NO' to one statement in Domain 2, how many points does it receive?

- A. 1 point
- B. 0 points
- C. 4 points



## Knowledge Check 1 – Answer and Rationale

If a hospital answers 'YES' to 4 statements and 'NO' to one statement in Domain 2, how many points does it receive?

- A. 1 point
- B. 0 points**
- C. 4 points

**If a hospital answers 'No' to any of the attestation statements within a domain, the hospital will receive zero (0) points for that domain.**

**Every domain is an 'all-or-nothing' scoring system**



## Knowledge Check 2

A hospital system with five (5) facilities can submit one PSSM attestation form on behalf of all of the facilities to satisfy the CMS reporting requirement.

- A. True
- B. False



## Knowledge Check 2 – Answer and Rationale

A hospital system with five (5) facilities can submit one PSSM attestation form on behalf of all of the facilities to satisfy the CMS reporting requirement.

- A. True
- B. False**

**Every hospital with a NMSN Facility ID that shares a single CCN must attest separately.**



## Knowledge Check 3

A hospital is part of a multi-facility system that shares a CCN with 4 other hospitals. Each hospital has a PSSM score: 5, 5, 4, 5, and 3. What is the PSSM score for multi-facility CCN?

- A. 5
- B. 4.4
- C. 3
- D. 4



## Knowledge Check 3 – Answer and Rationale

A hospital is part of a multi-facility system that shares a CCN with 4 other hospitals. Each hospital has a PSSM score: 5, 3, 4, 5, and 5. What is the PSSM score for multi-facility CCN?

- A. 5
- B. 4.4
- C. 3**
- D. 4

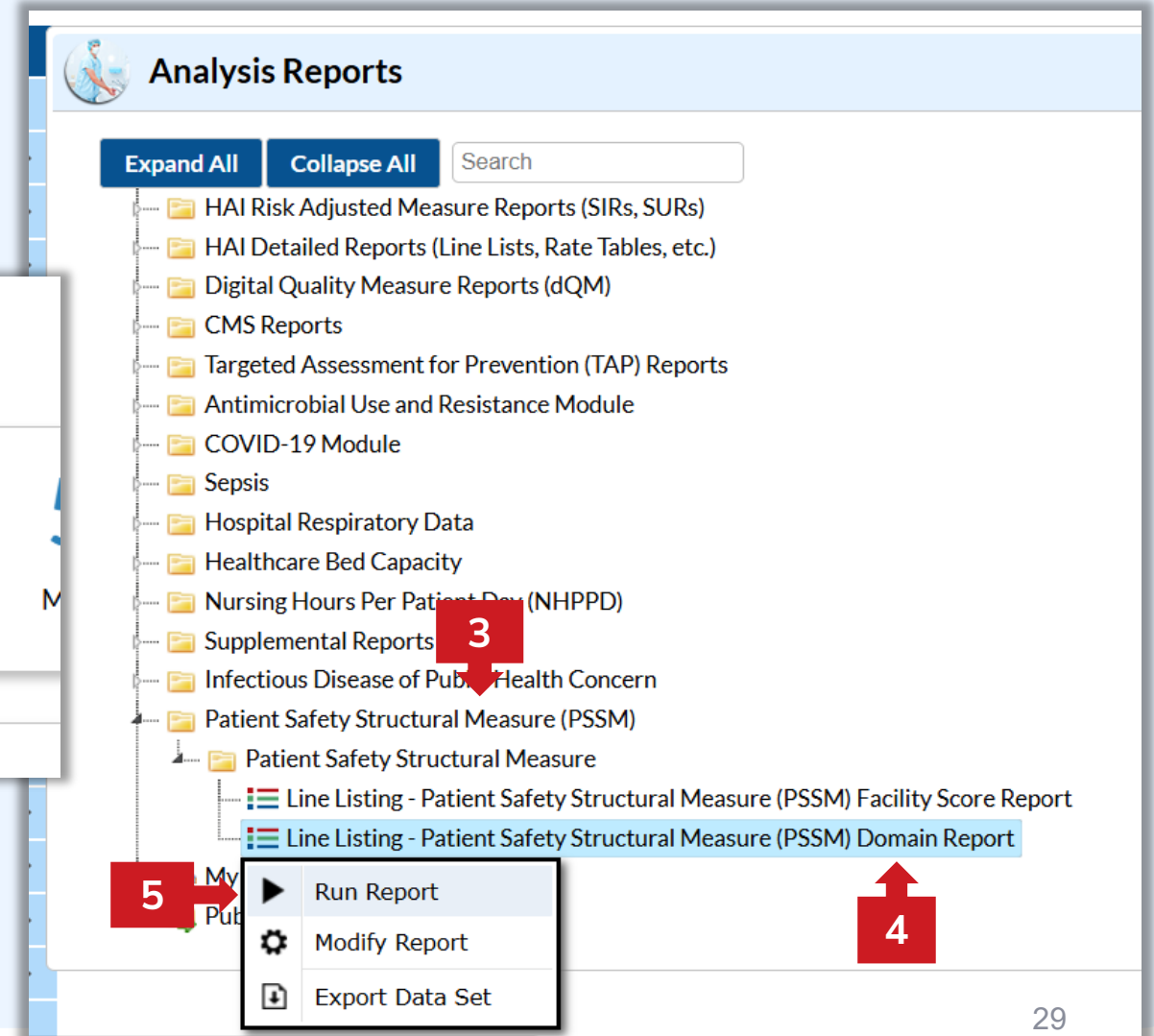
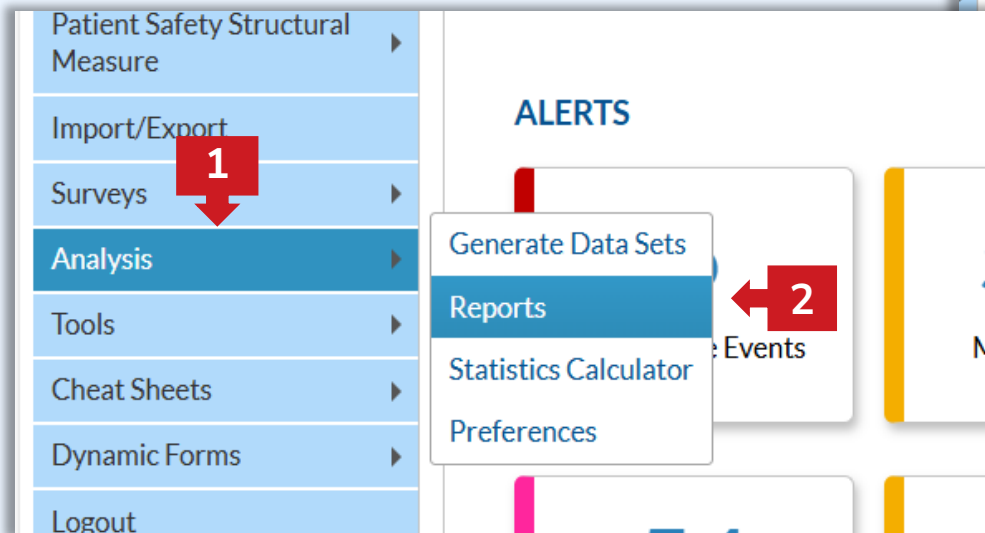
**If a hospital is part of a multi-facility system with a shared CCN, the lowest PSSM score in the multi-facility system will be used.**

# Analysis Reports

## **NHSN Users Can Use Two Line Lists To Review PSSM Data Before the CMS Deadline**

- **Line Listing – Patient Safety Structural Measure (PSSM) Facility Score Report**
  - The columns that are shown in the output include: orgID, ccn, PSSMYear, Domain 1 Score, Domain 2 Score, Domain 3 Score, Domain 4 Score, Domain 5 Score, and Facility Score.
- **Line Listing – Patient Safety Structural Measure (PSSM) Domain Report**
  - The columns that are shown in the output: orgID, ccn, PSSMYear, Statement A, Statement B, Statement C, Statement D, Statement E, and Domain Score.
  - This report output will have 5 rows, one for each domain.

# Navigate to the Analysis Reports Menu To Access the PSSM Line Lists in the PSSM Folder.



# Generate Dataset Before Running The PSSM Reports To Ensure Accurate Data Are Reflected in the Reports.

NHSN - National Healthcare Safety Network (ps1410-6dcbdf868d-hrmqb:80)

**NHSN Home**

- Alerts
- Dashboard
- Reporting Plan
- Patient
- Event
- Procedure
- Summary Data
- Hospital Respiratory Data
- Infectious Disease Public Health Concern
- Patient Safety Structural Measure
- Import/Export
- Surveys
- Analysis
- Tools
- Cheat Sheets
- Dynamic Forms

**Generate Data Sets (Patient Safety)**

**Reporting Data Sets**

Include data for the following time period:

Beginning: 01/2023 Ending: mm/yyyy

[Clear Time Period](#)

**Generate Reporting Data Sets**

Last Generated: (UTC)  
February 27, 2026 2:43 PM  
to include data beginning 01/2023

[Clear data sets and processing](#)

**Generate Data Sets**

- Reports
- Statistics Calculator
- Preferences

# The Line Listing – Patient Safety Structural Measure (PSSM) Domain Report Output

## National Healthcare Safety Network Line Listing - Patient Safety Structural Measure (PSSM) Domain Report

As of: February 25, 2026 at 4:58 PM UTC

Date Range: pssmgold.PSSMGoldView All Dates

Filter: orgid = 13860

Sort: Sorted by PSSMYear

*PSSMType=Domain*

orgID	ccn	PSSMYear	Domain	Statement_A	Statement_B	Statement_C	Statement_D	Statement_E	Domain_Score
13860	99S999	2025	Domain 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1
13860	99S999	2025	Domain 2	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	0
13860	99S999	2025	Domain 3	N	N	Y	Y	N	0
13860	99S999	2025	Domain 4	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	0
13860	99S999	2025	Domain 5	N	Y	N	N	Y	0

# The Line Listing – Patient Safety Structural Measure (PSSM) Facility Score Report Output

**National Healthcare Safety Network**  
**Line Listing - Patient Safety Structural Measure (PSSM) Facility Score Report**  
As of: February 25, 2026 at 4:58 PM UTC  
Date Range: pssmgold.PSSMGoldView All Dates  
Filter: orgid = 13860  
Sort: Sorted by PSSMYear

---

*PSSMType=FacilityScore*

orgID	ccn	PSSMYear	Domain 1 Score	Domain 2 Score	Domain 3 Score	Domain 4 Score	Domain 5 Score	Facility_Score
13860	99S999	2025	1	0	0	0	0	1

\*Outputs are subject to change as these are mockup images

## Knowledge Check 4

Where in NHSN can a user locate the two PSSM line lists?

- A. In the Facility tab in the lefthand navigation menu
- B. In the Supplemental Reports folder in the Analysis > Reports Treeview menu
- C. In the Analysis > Reports Treeview menu under PSSM
- D. In the Survey tab in the lefthand navigation menu



## Knowledge Check 4 – Answer and Rationale

Where in NHSN can a user locate the two PSSM line lists?

- A. In the Facility tab in the lefthand navigation menu
- B. In the Supplemental Reports folder in the Analysis > Reports Treeview menu
- C. In the Analysis > Reports Treeview menu under PSSM**
- D. In the Survey tab in the lefthand navigation menu

**The line lists reports are visible in the Analysis Section under the PSSM sub-folder.**



## Knowledge Check 5

In the Line Listing – Patient Safety Structural Measure (PSSM) Domain Report a user can see their facility's overall Facility Score?

- A. True
- B. False



## Knowledge Check 5 – Answer and Rationale

In the Line Listing – Patient Safety Structural Measure (PSSM) Domain Report a user can see their facility's overall Facility Score?

A. True

B. False

**A user can find the Facility Score in the Line Listing – Patient Safety Structural Measure (PSSM) Facility Score Report. The Facility Score will not populate in the Domain Report Line Listing.**



## Knowledge Check 6

If a hospital scored 1 for domains 1, 2, 3, and scored 0 for domains 4 and 5, what is the facility score?

- A. 1
- B. 3
- C. 5
- D. 4



## Knowledge Check 6 - Answer and Rationale

If a hospital scored 1 for domains 1, 2, 3, and scored 0 for domains 4 and 5, what is the facility score?

- A. 1
- B. 3**
- C. 5
- D. 4

If domain 1, domain 2, and domain 3 have scores of 1 and domains 4 and 5, have scores of 0 then:  $1+1+1+0+0 = 3$



## Key Takeaways

- ✓ The PSSM is scored at the domain, facility and CCN level.
- ✓ PSSM Reports should be used to review your PSSM domain scores, and facility score before the CMS deadline.
- ✓ The reports include:
  - Attestation statement answers
  - Facility Score
  - Domain Scores
- ✓ The reports can be found in the Analysis section of the application in the PSSM Folder.

# Thank you.

For any questions or concerns, contact the NHSN Helpdesk.

- **NHSN-ServiceNow** to submit questions to the NHSN Help Desk.
- Access new portal at <https://servicedesk.cdc.gov/nhsncsp>.
- If you do not have a SAMS login, or are unable to access ServiceNow, you can still email the NHSN Help Desk at [nhsn@cdc.gov](mailto:nhsn@cdc.gov).

For more information, contact CDC  
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)  
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 <https://www.cdc.gov/>  
Follow us on social [@CDCgov](#)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

