



Department  
of Health

New York State Department of Health  
Metropolitan Area Regional Office  
90 Church Street, New York, NY 10007  
[www.health.ny.gov](http://www.health.ny.gov)

Howard A. Zucker, M.D., J.D.  
Commissioner

Sally Dreslin, M.S., R.N.  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

## eHIVQUAL I Announcement Regarding 2014 Reviews

September 1, 2015

Dear eHIVQUAL Participant,

We are pleased to announce the upcoming eHIVQUAL quality review of services provided in 2014. This year, we will only undertake a "short" review of core measures focusing on Ending the Epidemic along with a few selected measures prioritized by the HIV Quality of Care Advisory Committee. Your clinic-based performance data are one of the key metrics for statewide assessment of our progress in moving along the continuum of reducing new infections and controlling viral load suppression to reach our goal by 2020.

We are also excited to announce that all FQHCs participating in the CHCANYS-supported CPCI/Azara DRVS Reporting Platform will not be required to manually submit data this year! We have worked closely with Azara and CHCANYS to develop an extract that will automatically transfer data to the eHIVQUAL system for incorporation into the statewide data report. Moreover, we will be able to produce quarterly reports allowing for more timely monitoring of performance to drive improvements in the quality of care, which also will contribute to NY Links data submissions. Stay tuned for more information about this new feature!

As you know, HIV performance data are incorporated into benchmark reports that facilitate attention to individualized quality improvement needs at each clinic. eHIVQUAL is also part of the NYSDOH Open Data initiative, with reports posted on [health.data.ny.gov](http://health.data.ny.gov).

Please take a moment to review the schedule for the 2014 eHIVQUAL review process:

- Reference materials, including the indicator guide, import specifications, sampling and chart abstraction forms are being finalized and will be posted on the website in early September. You will receive an announcement that they are ready. **Please note that any materials**

**pertaining to the previous (2013) review are out of date and should not be used for the upcoming review.**

- Over the next few weeks, we will be in contact with all HIV clinics to review our contact information and register new users as needed.
- In mid-September, we will hold an in-person overview session and begin a series of training webinars. We will post the details on [www.ehivqual.org](http://www.ehivqual.org) and send a broadcast email when available. Please be on the lookout for information about dates and times. We will also post this on the [www.hivguidelines.org](http://www.hivguidelines.org) website and send out the information in the "Screenshot" from the Office of the Medical Director. If you do not receive these email announcements, now is the time to alert Jacob Lowy at [jacob.lowy@health.ny.gov](mailto:jacob.lowy@health.ny.gov) and send him your email address.
- We anticipate that the "official launch date," when data entry can commence, will be in late September, and we will send a specific announcement when an exact date has been determined.
- As this review will only cover a limited set of indicators, we will establish a due date in mid-November.
- Given increased emphasis on timely statewide reporting and plans to use these data in World AIDS Day activities, we ask that you make every effort to enter, validate and submit your data by this deadline, and we will follow up periodically to facilitate this.

In addition to indicator updates, we are also working on new features to expedite and enhance the review process, and we look forward to telling you more about these over the next couple of weeks. In the meantime, please feel free to send any questions you may have to us at [ehivqual@health.ny.gov](mailto:ehivqual@health.ny.gov) or give Chris Wells or Dan Belanger a call at (212) 417-4620.

Sincerely,

Bruce D. Agins, M.D., M.P.H.  
Medical Director/AIDS Institute  
New York State Department of Health