



# FORVIS™

**PHE END  
COUNTDOWN  
SERIES:  
MOVING FORWARD**



**PHE End Countdown Series**

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# Meet the Presenters



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# AGENDA

- Brief Recap
- Panel Discussion
- Top Ten Takeaways
- Q&A

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# Telehealth Insights

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# PERMANENT MEDICARE CHANGES

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) & Rural Health Centers (RHCs) can serve as a distant site provider for *behavioral/mental telehealth* services

Medicare patients can receive telehealth services for *behavioral/mental healthcare* in their homes

There are no geographic restrictions for originating site for behavioral/mental telehealth services

Behavioral/mental telehealth services can be delivered using audio-only communication platforms

Rural hospital emergency departments are accepted as an originating site

# Temporary Flexibilities Expiring on December 31, 2024

Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)/Rural Health Clinic (RHC) can serve as a distant site provider for non-behavioral/mental telehealth services

Medicare patients can receive telehealth services authorized in the Calendar Year 2023 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule in their home

There are no geographic restrictions for originating site for non-behavioral/mental telehealth services

Some non-behavioral/mental telehealth services can be delivered using audio-only communication platforms

An in-person visit within six months of an initial behavioral/mental telehealth service, & annually thereafter, is not required

Telehealth services can be provided by a physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech language pathologist, or audiologist



# Temporary Flexibilities Expiring on May 11, 2023

- Telehealth can be provided as an excepted benefit
- Medicare-covered providers may use any non-public facing application to communicate with patients without risking any federal penalties — even if the application isn't in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)
- During the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), authorized providers can prescribe controlled substances via telehealth, without the need for an in-person medical evaluation. The Administration's plan is to end the COVID-19 public health emergency on May 11, 2023
- During the public health emergency, CMS waived the “established patient” requirement & allowed providers to bill for remote patient monitoring (RPM) for new patients. Once the PHE ends, CMS will require that RPM services be furnished only to established patients
  - CMS' statements suggest after the PHE the physician must first conduct a new patient evaluation & management service before rendering RPM to such patient

# Senior Living & Long-Term Care Impacts

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# The “PHE Experience” for Long-Term Care Providers

Impact to Operations

Changes in Billing & Revenue Cycle Procedures

Clinical Impacts of COVID Vaccines, Testing, Outbreaks, Infection Control

The Unknown for Third-Party Reimbursement

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# PHE Impacts on Operations/Billing/Clinical/Reimbursement

## COVID REPORTING

- SNFs Will Continue to Report Infections & Vaccination Status to **CDC**
- **Family Reporting No Longer Applicable as of May 1st Subject to New CDC Guidance**
- **COVID STAFF VACCINATION** Will End Subject to New CDC Guidance From May 1st

## NURSE AIDE TRAINING

- Nurse Aides Will Have Four Months From the End of PHE to Complete Training/Certification (1135 Waiver)

## STATE MEDICAID “UNWINDING” OF PHE

- Income Eligibility Determination
  - Disenrollment
  - Patient Resource Changes
- State-Specific. 12 Month Window to Unwind

## 1135 BILLING IMPACTS

- Three Day Qualifying Stay
- 100 Day Benefit Period (60 Day Recovery)
- Vaccine Billing – Consolidated Billing Rules

## CLINICAL IMPACTS

- Pre-Admission Screening & Resident Review (PASRR) – Waiver for Completion Ending
- Resident Transfer & Discharge Waivers Ending
- Access to Vaccines, Tests, Supplies After Some Programs Expire With the PHE

## TELEHEALTH

- Location Requirement Waiver During PHE
- Consolidated Appropriations Act Extend the Flexibilities Through December 31, 2024

## STATE MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT

- States Lose the Ability to Extend Add-Ons or Supplemental Payments Tied to PHE
- Creates State Budget Constraints for FY2024 Budget Cycles

# Regulatory Reimbursement Focus

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# PHE EXPIRATION – REIMBURSEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

**Medicaid  
Revalidation  
Process  
Restarted  
on April 1,  
2023**

- Anticipated Impact on Collections
- Additional Burden on Business Office Teams
- Hospital 340B Threshold Considerations



## Hospitals & Health Systems

- 20% Increase in Reimbursement for COVID Claims Expires as of End of PHE
- Inpatient – New COVID-19 Treatments Add-On Payment (NCTAP) Expires as of December 31, 2023
- Outpatient – APC Bundling of New COVID-19 Treatments Will Begin After PHE Expires

## PHE Expiration Reimbursement Considerations

# PHE Expiration Reimbursement Considerations



## Hospitals & Health Systems

- Medicare-Dependent Hospital (MDH) Criteria
  - Available Bed & Medicare % Calculations
- Sole Community Hospital (SCH) Mileage Criteria
- Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Criteria
  - Available Bed, ALOS Calculations, & Location Criteria
- SCH & MDH Should Reconsider if Volume Decline Adjustment Request Is Applicable



# PHE Expiration Reimbursement Considerations



## Hospitals & Health Systems

- Teaching Hospitals
  - Intern to Available Bed Calculations
  - Considerations for Resident Time at Alternative Locations or Other Hospitals
  - Psych & Rehab Teaching Adjustments Have Been Protected During PHE, but Will Resume Historical Approach After PHE Ends

# Cost Reporting Timelines

**Expectation of Reduced Flexibility for Cost Report Extensions Beyond Five-Month Deadline**

# Revenue Cycle & Waivers Insights

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# Preparing Providers



Encourage retention &  
transition



Educate & prepare  
workforce



Establish connections with  
local stakeholders

# Patient Access

**Verify Insurance**

**Patient  
Financial  
Clearance**

Scheduling



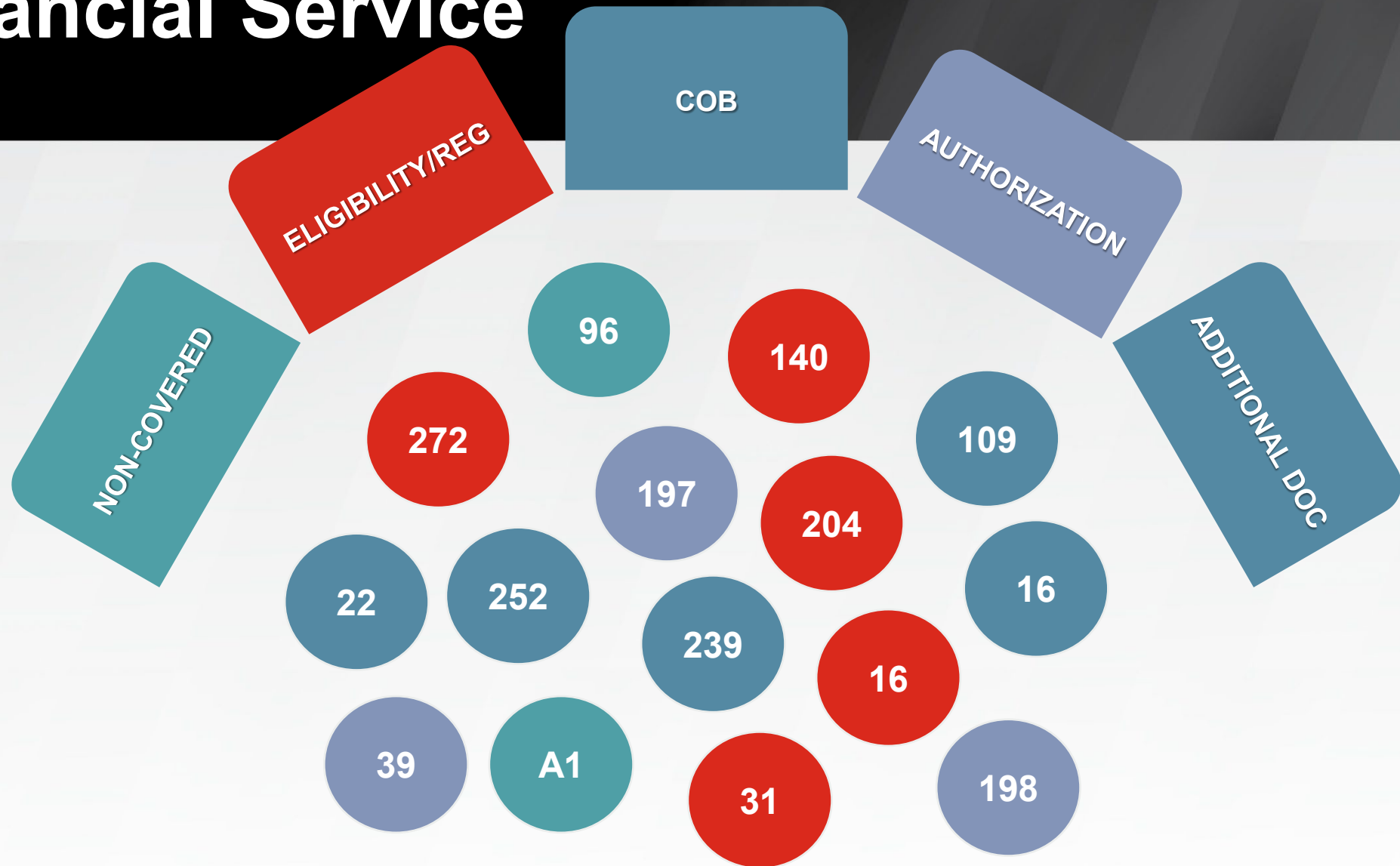
Pre-Reg

Registration/  
Admissions

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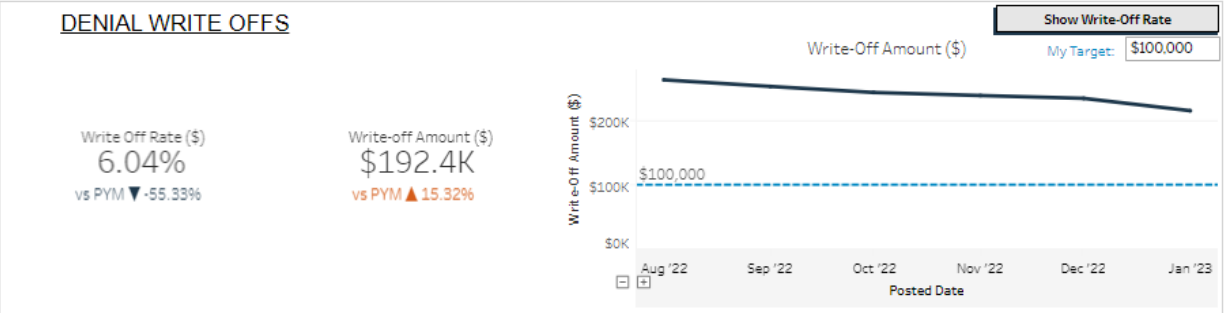
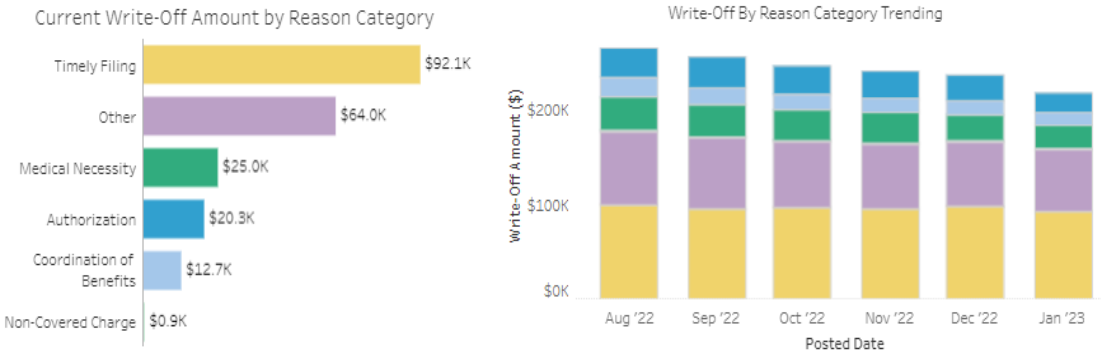
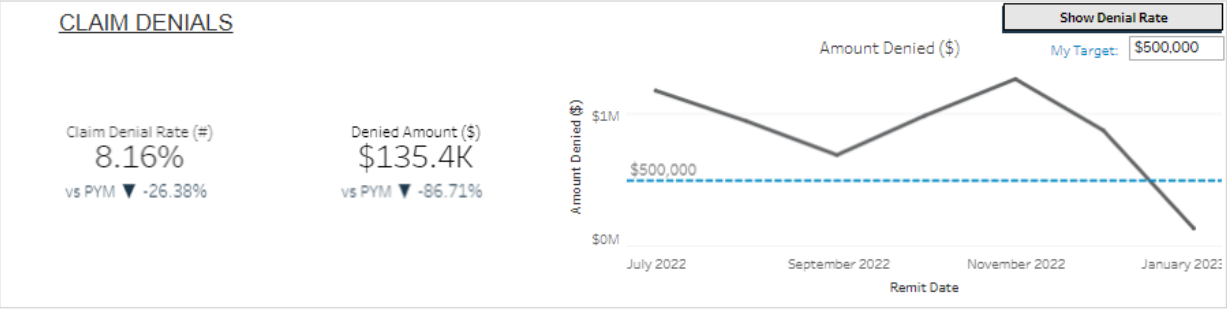
# Patient Financial Service

- Claims Adjustment Reason Codes (CARC)
- Remittance Advice Remark Codes (RARC)



# Denials Scorecard & Dashboard

Implement an executive level to monitor improvements for visibility into baselines, targets, & industry benchmarks

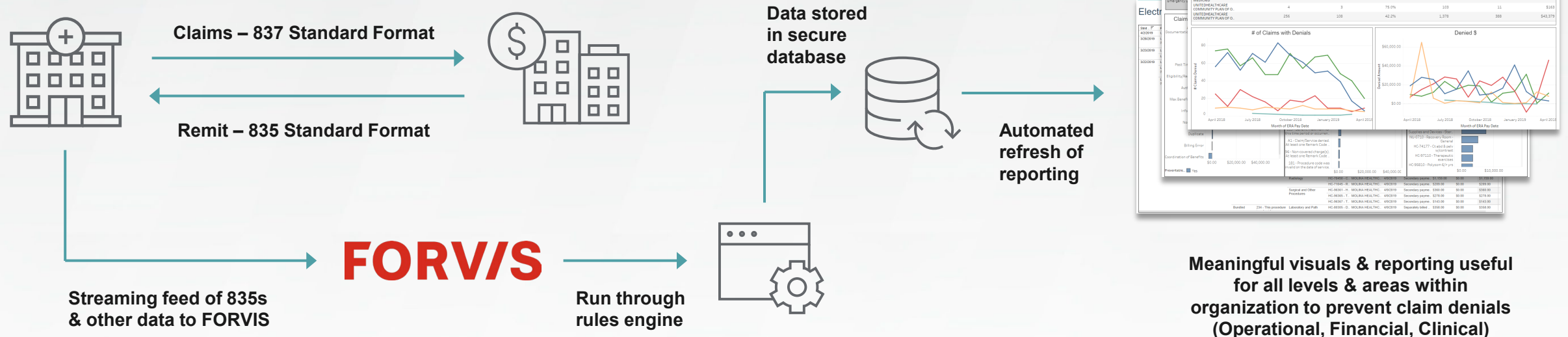


\*Source: FORVIS Denial Monitoring Tool



# FORVIS' Denials Management Monitoring Approach

- FORVIS receives an automated feed of the organizational electronic insurance claim response data (835s) & uses a rules engine to turn this information into timely meaningful insights to help support identification of root cause issues driving denials
- Rapid initial installation timeline (average four weeks)



Source: FORVIS Denial Solution Dashboard Demo

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# Accounting & Financial Reporting Considerations

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# Payment Received Period, Period of Availability, & Portal Reporting Period Summary

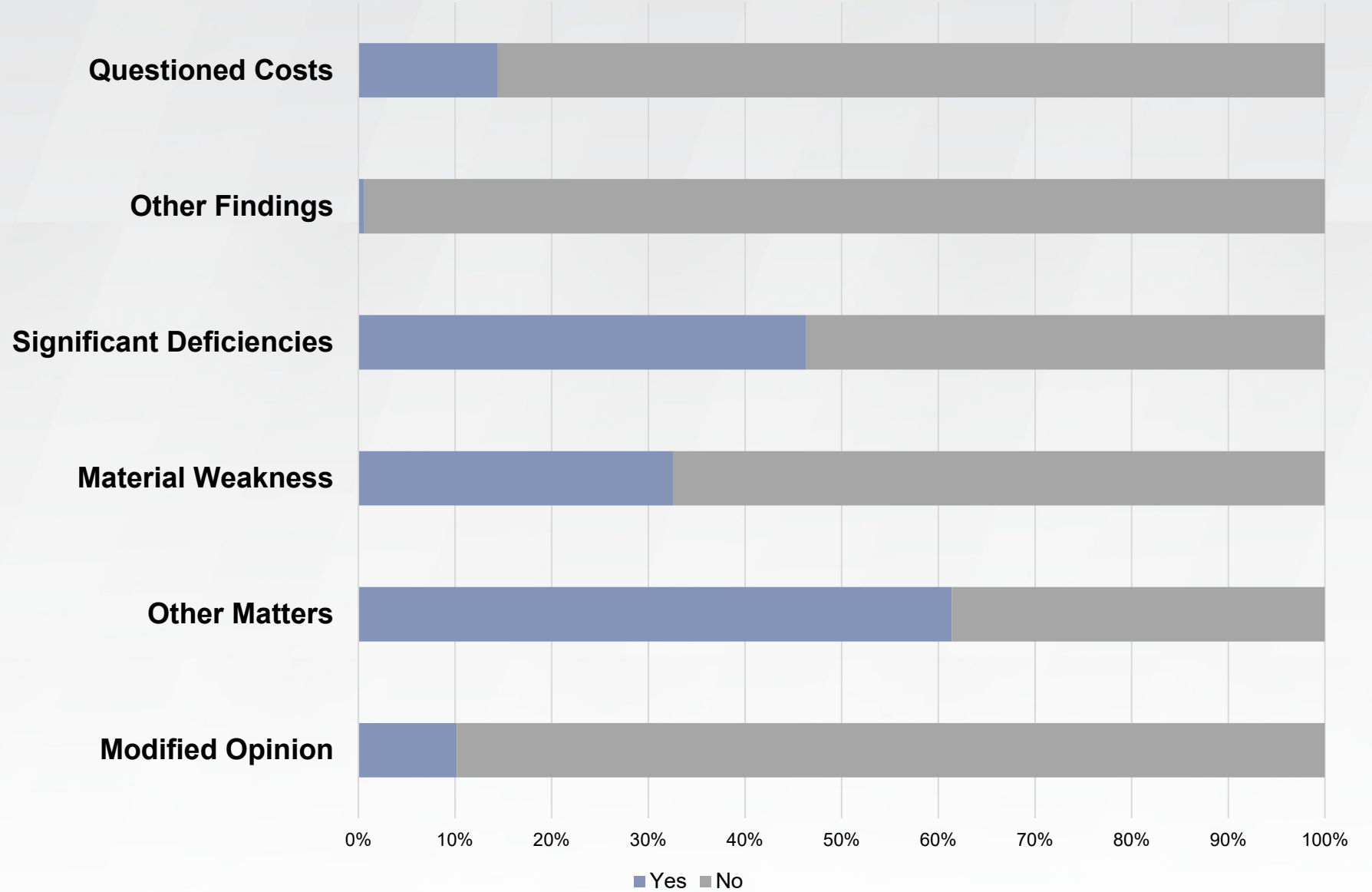
Period	Payment Received Period	Period of Availability Eligibility for Eligible Expenses	Period of Availability for Lost Revenues	Reporting Time Period
1	April 10, 2020 to June 30, 2020	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021	July 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021
2	July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020	January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021	January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021	January 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022
3	January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022	July 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022
4	July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021	January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2022	January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2022	January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023
5	January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023	July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023
6	July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022	January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2023	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023	January 1, 2024 to March 31, 2024
7	January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2024	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023	July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024
8	July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023	January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2024	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023	January 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025
9	January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2025	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023	July 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025

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# PRF Continues to Be a High-Risk Program

- Findings higher than post-pandemic
- Type A or Type B?

## Types of Findings



# HRSA Audit Period

Period	Payment Received Period	Period of Eligibility for Eligible Expenses	Period of Availability for Lost Revenues	Reporting Time Period	HRSA Audit Period
1	April 10, 2020 to June 30, 2020	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021	July 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021	Up to September 30, 2024
2	July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020	January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021	January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021	January 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022	Up to March 31, 2025
3	January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022	July 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022	Up to September 30, 2025
4	July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021	January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2022	January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2022	January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023	Up to March 31, 2026
5	January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023	July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023	Up to September 30, 2026
6	July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022	January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2023	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023	January 1, 2024 to March 31, 2024	Up to March 31, 2027
7	January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2024	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023	July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024	Up to September 30, 2027
8	July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023	January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2024	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023	January 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025	Up to March 31, 2028
9	January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2025	January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023	July 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025	Up to September 30, 2028



# Office of Inspector General (OIG) Audit Activity

OIG's right to audit  
HHS Provider Relief  
Funding

30 hospitals/health  
systems selected in  
fall 2022

30 home care/  
hospice organizations  
selected in spring  
2023

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## Panel: May 11 & Beyond



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## Top 10 Takeaways



# TOP 10 TAKEAWAYS

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- 1 The healthcare industry has changed as a result of the PHE
- 2 Flexibilities available during the PHE will diminish
- 3 Lessons learned during the PHE will continue to drive future health reform
- 4 Access to Federal Health Care Programs Resources could be impacted (Medicaid & Medicare Eligibility Verification)
- 5 Telehealth services will continue to evolve & become even more prevalent in the industry
- 6 Infection Control Procedures have permanently changed
- 7 Providers must think differently about strategic planning & related target operating models to enable longer term enterprise vision while providing value to their communities
- 8 The end of the PHE will have real financial, operational, & compliance impacts for healthcare organizations
- 9 PRF funding is the gift that keeps on giving! Now there are nine defined periods of availability & reporting
- 10 Audit Alert: "Preparation is the key to success," Alexander Graham Bell



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