

## Next Steps in Auto-HPSA Update Process

Updated 9/3/2019

### Timeline:

- In late August 2019, HRSA:
  - Officially updated all data in its IT system to reflect the data included in Update Preview #9. (This was called the “national update.”)
  - Opened a new on-line HPSA portal, where health centers and PCOs will be able to submit new data and request recores directly from HRSA.
  - Extended the “lock date” for the new auto-HPSA scores from January 1, 2020 to February 1, 2020 (and extended related deadlines as well.)

***Even though the National update has occurred, there are still opportunities for health centers to further refine their auto-HPSA scores before they are “locked” on February 1, 2020.***

- With one exception (discussed below), new data and rescore requests must be submitted through the HPSA portal by Oct. 31 to be guaranteed to be factored into the Feb. 1, 2020 scores.
  - While HRSA will try to process all requests received after October 31 in time to be reflected in the February 1 scores, they cannot ensure that they will be able to do so.

### Recommended actions for health centers to take by October 1, 2019

- **Learn how to use the [new HPSA portal](#)** that can be used to submit data and requests.
  - HRSA has a [recorded webinar about the HPSA portal](#); also see the FAQs linked below.
- **Alert your PCO if any of your own staff are listed as your Nearest Source of Care (NSC).**
  - PCOs (but not health centers) will be able to correct the NSCs immediately following the national update via the HPSA portal. Alerting them in advance will help the PCO complete this change by the October 31 deadline.
  - **NOTE:** The NSCs are identified in the Update Preview report PDF, not the Excel file. (The Excel file lists all providers being counted toward the population-to-provider ratio, and therefore should include all eligible providers working at your health center.)
- **Ask your PCO if they plan to submit fluoridation, alcohol misuse, and/or substance misuse data on your behalf.**
  - This data could potentially add one or two points to your dental and mental health scores.
  - If appropriate, work with the PCO to acquire the necessary data.
  - Either the PCO or the health center can submit this data via the HPSA portal it is open.
- **Decide if you want your auto-HPSA scores to be recalculated based on your 2018 UDS data** and, if so, submit a rescore request through the HPSA portal.
  - The national update was based on 2017 UDS data. Unless you request a rescore, this 2017 UDS data will be used in the February 1, 2019 scores.
  - It may be advantageous to request a rescore if the percentage of your patients with incomes below the Federal Poverty Line or your service area has significantly increased since 2017.
  - Unlike new data, all recore requests thar are submitted by mid-January 2020 are guaranteed to be factored into the February 1, 2020 scores.

**For more information, see the HRSA FAQs on the [NACHC Shortage Designation webpage](#).**