

DATE: March 6, 2026
TO: ALL SNF WQIP PARTICIPANTS
SUBJECT: PL 26-001 SNF WQIP Interim Payment Report for CY 2025

PURPOSE:

This Policy Letter (PL) provides an update to the Calendar Year (CY) 2025 Interim Payment Report for the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Workforce and Quality Incentive Program (WQIP).

BACKGROUND:

DHCS and its contractor, HSAG, use Minimum Data Set (MDS) data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for SNF WQIP. In late 2024, CMS removed HSAG's access to MDS data. DHCS and HSAG immediately began the process to obtain access to the MDS data via an alternative method, and these efforts are ongoing.

Without MDS data, the CY 2025 Interim Payment Report will be limited to the first measurement period (i.e., Quarter 1-Quarter 3) of the Acuity-Adjusted Staffing Metrics Measurement Area from CMS's January 2026 Care Compare Refresh.

POLICY:

The SNF WQIP CY 2025 Interim Payment Report will be limited to the first measurement period (i.e., Quarter 1-Quarter 3) of the Acuity-Adjusted Staffing Metrics Measurement Area. This measurement area will account for 30% of the total possible points for CY 2025. All other measurement areas will remain unscored and will not contribute to the CY 2025 Interim Payment Report scores.

The CY 2025 Final Payment Report will be recalculated once all data (including the remaining Workforce Metrics, Clinical Metrics, and the Equity Metric) are available. Any differences between the Interim and Final Payment Reports will be reconciled upon publication of the Final Payment Report. Please see the table below and refer to the [SNF WQIP CY 2025 Technical Assistance Guide](#) for further program details.



Table 1—Points and Weighting by Measurement Area for CY 2025

Domain	Measurement Area	Number of Metrics	Possible Points per Metric	Possible Points for Measurement Area	Percent of Total Score
Workforce Metrics	Acuity-Adjusted Staffing Hour Metrics (January 1, 2025–September 30, 2025)	5	6	30	30%
	Acuity-Adjusted Staffing Hour Metrics (October 1, 2025–December 31, 2025)	5	6	30	10%
	Staffing Turnover Metric	1	6	6	15%
Clinical Metrics	MDS Clinical Metrics	3	5 or 6	17	19%
	Claims-Based Clinical Metrics	3	6	18	19%
Equity Metric	Medi-Cal Disproportionate Share Metric	1	5	5	7%
Total		13	NA	NA	100%

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