

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES

NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

RELEASE DATE: JULY 8, 2019

PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO CONTINUE THE QUALITY & ACCOUNTABILITY SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT PROGRAM AND REVISE THE QUALITY MEASURES FOR THE 2019-20 RATE YEAR

This notice provides information of public interest with respect to the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality and Accountability Supplemental Payment (QASP) Program. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) proposes to submit State Plan Amendment (SPA) 19-0043 to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, to continue the supplemental payment program and to revise the quality measures for the QASP Program methodology for the 2019-20 Rate Year (RY), August 1, 2019 through July 31, 2020.

Assembly Bill (AB) 119 (Chapter 17, Statutes of 2015) extends the AB 1629 (Chapter 875, Statutes of 2004) facility-specific rate-setting methodology, SNF Quality Assurance Fee, and QASP Program until July 31, 2020. AB 119 also requires DHCS, in coordination with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), to develop quality measures for the QASP Program. In consultation with stakeholders, DHCS and CDPH review and revise the quality measures yearly. The quality measures for RY 2019-20 are as follows:

1. Immunizations Measurement Area
2. Urinary Tract Infection Measurement Area
3. Control of Bowel or Bladder Measurement Area
4. Self-Reported Moderate to Severe Pain Measurement Area
5. Activities of Daily Living Measurement Area
6. California-specific Antipsychotic Medication Measurement Area
7. 30-day SNF Rehospitalization Measurement Area
8. Staff Retention Measurement Area

Upon federal approval of the SPA, DHCS will provide a supplemental payment award to each eligible SNF based on the July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 performance period. The primary award payment will be made no later than April 30, 2020.

The pool of funds available for the RY 2019-20 QASP payments is estimated to be \$88 million, of which a specified portion will be reserved for delayed award payments. Based on this estimate, there is no expected increase or decrease in annual aggregate expenditures.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of SPA 19-0043 will be published at the following internet address:

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http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/Pending_2019.aspx

If you would like to view the SPA in person once it becomes available, please visit your local county welfare department. You may also request a copy of SPA 19-0043 using the mailing address or e-mail address below.

Written comments may be sent to the following address:

Department of Health Care Services
Fee-For-Service Rates Development Division
Attn: Connie Florez
1501 Capitol Avenue, MS 4600
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to Publicinput@dhcs.ca.gov. Please indicate SPA 19-0043 in the subject line or message.

A copy of submitted public comments related to SPA 19-0043 may be requested in writing to the mailing address or e-mail inbox identified above.