

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES

NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST

RELEASE DATE: JULY 28, 2020

**PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO RENEW THE QUALITY &
ACCOUNTABILITY SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT PROGRAM AND REVISE
QUALITY MEASURES FOR THE AUGUST 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021
PERIOD**

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) 20-0021 to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to renew the QASP Program and to revise the quality measures for the QASP methodology, effective August 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021.

Assembly Bill (AB) 81 (Chapter 13, Statutes of 2020) amends and renews, in relevant part, the QASP Program until December 31, 2022, as the program was due to expire in August 2020 pursuant to state law. AB 81 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 annually review and revise the quality measures. The quality measures for the applicable period are as follows:

1. Physical Restraints: Long Stay - Monitor-only, not scored
2. Facility-Acquired Pressure Ulcer Incidence: Long Stay
3. Influenza Vaccination: Short Stay
4. Pneumococcal Vaccination: Short Stay
5. Urinary Tract Infection: Long Stay
6. Control of Bowel/Bladder: Long Stay
7. Self-Report Pain: Short Stay
8. Self-Report Pain: Long Stay
9. Need for Help with Activities of Daily Living: Long Stay
10. California-specific Received an Antipsychotic Medication: Long Stay
11. 30-Day SNF Rehospitalization
12. Staff Retention

SPA 20-0021 has a proposed effective date of August 1, 2020, and a proposed end date of December 31, 2021. Upon federal approval of this SPA, DHCS will make primary award payments no later than April 30, 2021.

The pool of funds available for the August 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021 QASP payments is estimated to be \$81 million total funds, of which a specified portion will be reserved for delayed award payments.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS

Upon submission to CMS, a copy of SPA 20-0021 will be published at the following internet address:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/PendingStatePlanAmendments.aspx>
[X](#)

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 20-0021 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
P.O. Box 997413, MS 4600
Sacramento, California 95899-7417

Comments may also be emailed to Publicinput@dhcs.ca.gov. Please indicate SPA 20-0021 in the subject line or message.

A copy of submitted public comments related to SPA 20-0021 may be requested in writing to the mailing address or e-mail inbox identified above.