

SNF WQIP PL 25-001

SUPERSEDES PL 24-006

**DATE:** January 30, 2025

**TO:** ALL SNF WQIP PARTICIPANTS

**SUBJECT:** Second SNF WQIP Weight Loss Measure for PY2 (2024)

**PURPOSE:**

This policy letter (PL) outlines how points will be allocated for the *Percent of Residents Who Lose Too Much Weight, Long Stay (LTMW)* measure in Program Year 2 (PY2, 2024) in the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Workforce and Quality Incentive Program (WQIP).

**This PL SNF WQIP PL 25-001 Second SNF WQIP Weight Loss Measure for PY2 (2024) supersedes SNF WQIP PL 24-006 [SNF WQIP Weight loss Measure for PY2 \(2024\)](#), which is published to the [SNF WQIP webpage](#).**

**BACKGROUND:**

SNF WQIP used the *Percent of High-Risk Residents with Pressure Ulcers* measure in PY1 (2023), but Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) retired the measure as of October 1, 2023. That change occurred partway through the PY2 measurement period for Minimum Data Set (MDS) measures (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024). Due to this change, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) replaced the *Percent of High-Risk Residents with Pressure Ulcers* measure with the *LTMW* measure for PY2.

The [SNF WQIP PL 24-006 Weight Loss Measure for PY2 \(2024\)](#) was released to SNF stakeholders on September 23, 2024, and published on the [SNF WQIP webpage](#). This PL provided the updated and shortened measurement period for the *LTMW* measure. Performance during the shorter measurement period continued to have the same weight in the overall WQIP score.

DHCS provided an opportunity for stakeholder feedback regarding the *LTMW* measure on January 31, 2024. DHCS had updated the measurement period to start as of 30 days

after notice was sent to SNF stakeholders. The updated measurement period for the *LTMW* measure then began on March 1, 2024.

- **Previous measurement period** for the *LTMW* measure
  - July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
- **New measurement period** for the *LTMW* measure
  - March 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024

DHCS and its contractor, Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG), completed an analysis of the SNF WQIP facilities' performance and found that a substantial number of SNFs faced non-reportable or missing *LTMW* rates due to the shortened measurement period. This change resulted in varied outcomes for facilities, with some seeing improved scores while others would see decreased scores. Additionally, the shortened measurement period listed above was updated to align with Quarter 2, 2024 (April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024) to match the quarterly reporting used for MDS measures.

#### **POLICY:**

To prevent penalizing facilities due to a shorter measurement period, DHCS will adjust how points are awarded for the *LTMW* measure. **Facilities will receive the higher score of the following two options:** one based on the shortened *LTMW* measurement period (April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024) and the other based on the full PY2 measurement period (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024).

For example, if a facility's original score for the *LTMW* measure for the full PY2 measurement period was 6 points, but their score for the shortened *LTMW* measurement period was 2 points, they would receive the higher of the two scores, which would be 6 points.

***Table 1: LTMW Better of Two Scores Methodology Examples***

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Score based on shortened measurement period (April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024)</b>	<b>Full PY2 measurement period score (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)</b>	<b>Final score for PY2 Interim payment</b>
Example Facility 1	2	6	6
Example Facility 2	4	1	4
Example Facility 3	*	3	3
Example Facility 4	5	5	5

*\*indicates a non-reportable rate due to a small denominator*

This PL provides an update from what is outlined in the [SNF WQIP PL 24-006 Weight Loss Measure for PY2 \(2024\)](#) for the *LTMW* measure to: (1) adjust the shortened measurement period to begin on April 1, 2024, and (2) adjust the scoring of the *LTMW* measure to use the better of score between the shortened measurement period score and the full PY2 measurement period score.

**Feedback on this methodology was due via email to the SNF WQIP Inbox [SNFWQIP@DHCS.ca.gov](mailto:SNFWQIP@DHCS.ca.gov) no later than January 24, 2025.**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY JEFFREY NORRIS, MD

Value-Based Payment Branch Chief  
Quality and Population Health Management (QPHM)  
Department of Healthcare Services