

January 31, 2024

THIS LETTER ORIGINALLY SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY TO THE SNF DISTRIBUTION LIST AND CAHF

To Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Workforce & Quality Incentive Program (WQIP) Stakeholders:

As we move into Program Year (PY) 2 for the WQIP, we want to thank you all for your continued engagement and flexibility in 2023. The never-ending hard work and efforts of Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) are essential to providing high-quality and equitable care to Californians. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) acknowledges the difficult challenges that SNFs face, the compassionate care that SNF staff members provide to their patients, and the hard work that is put forth every day.

We are reaching out to update stakeholders regarding final changes that were included in the WQIP PY2 (2024) preprint that was submitted to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in December 2023. AB 186 Nursing Facility Financing Reform webinars will resume in February 2024 and updates on this matter are forthcoming. See below for a list of changes to WQIP PY2 (2024).

- CMS retired the *High-Risk Residents with Pressure Ulcers, Long Stay* (NQF #0678) measure as of October 1, 2023. Due to this change, DHCS has replaced with the MDS measure *Percent of Residents Who Lose Too Much Weight, Long Stay* (CBE ID 0689).
- DHCS is working to post the most recent quarterly, unblinded facility-specific WQIP report to the Open Data Portal. DHCS anticipates publishing the data in Q1 2024 and on a quarterly basis thereafter. Once data is published, stakeholders will be notified via email and on the AB186 website [Nursing Facility Financing Reform AB 186 \(ca.gov\)](https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/AB186).
- The MDS antipsychotic measure is unchanged from PY1 (2023) in PY2 (2024).
- The measurement period table was updated to reflect a full year for PY2 (2024), since PY1 (2023) was a partial year for certain measures.
- DHCS determined that MCPs and DHCS are not able to operationalize risk-adjustment of the claims-based measures. Because of this, DHCS has removed the risk-adjustment and modified the continuous enrollment requirements to allow the MCPs to calculate claims-based measures. This will be reflected in the final PY1 Technical Manual (which will be posted soon) and the forthcoming PY2 Technical Manual.

DHCS is actively working with staff to update the WQIP PY2 (2024) Technical Program Guide with changes described in this email. Once completed, we will post the updated draft guide to the [SNF WQIP website](#).

Separate from WQIP, the Accountability and Sanctions Program (ASP) released a public [policy letter](#) in December 2023.

Please send us an email (snfwqip@dhcs.ca.gov) if you have questions or concerns about WQIP. For questions about ASP, please email at snfasp@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

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