

DATE: January 30, 2025

TO: ALL SNF WQIP PARTICIPANTS

SUBJECT: Floor for SNF WQIP Improvement Points in PY 3 (2025)

PURPOSE:

DHCS will implement an achievement floor for facilities to be eligible to earn improvement points for MDS measures to minimize the chance that a facility receives an incentive under the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Workforce and Quality Incentive Program (WQIP) and a sanction under the Accountability Sanctions Program (ASP) on the same Minimum Data Set (MDS) measure.

BACKGROUND:

DHCS previously communicated that it intends to introduce an achievement floor for facilities to be eligible to earn improvement points for MDS clinical measures in numerous SNF stakeholder webinars.

POLICY:

DHCS is implementing an achievement floor for improvement points for MDS measures for the SNF WQIP. This change will be effective starting in Program Year (PY) 3 (2025). Please note that implementing an achievement floor for improvement points does not affect achievement-based points in SNF WQIP. Achievement-based points are scored differently than improvement points.

WQIP will utilize ASP national benchmarks established for MY 2025 (CY 2025) as the achievement floor, with the highest thresholds for each measure (i.e., 15th percentile benchmark rate for the measure *Percent of Residents Experiencing One or More Falls with Major Injury*, and 10th percentile benchmark rates for the measures *Percent of Residents Who Lose Too Much Weight* and *Percent of Residents Who Received an Antipsychotic Medication*). To be eligible for a WQIP improvement score for a measure, a facility's current year (PY 3) rate will need to achieve a rate that is equal to or better than the established floor for that measure, and the facility's improvement between their prior year rate and their current year rate must meet or exceed the WQIP improvement

thresholds. For each measure that a facility exceeds the WQIP improvement thresholds but has a current year rate below the established floor, the facility will not be eligible to receive improvement points for that measure (see the [PY 2 Technical Program Guide](#) for more information on the calculation of improvement scores). The MY 2025 ASP benchmarks will be outlined in the final ASP MY 2025 Policy Letter, which is scheduled for publication before January 1, 2025

Feedback on this methodology was due via email to the SNF WQIP Inbox SNFWQIP@DHCS.ca.gov no later than January 3, 2025.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY JEFFREY NORRIS, MD

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