

**DATE:** September 5, 2024  
**TO:** ALL SNF WQIP PARTICIPANTS  
**SUBJECT:** Claims-Based Clinical Metrics Update

**PURPOSE:**

This Policy Letter (PL) outlines updated Claims-Based Clinical Metrics methodology for the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Workforce & Quality Incentive Program (WQIP) for PY 1 (2023) performance. Due to the lack of data or biased rates from multiple managed care plans (MCPs), the Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) and its contractor, Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) will calculate facility-specific rates for the claims-based clinical metrics for SNF WQIP for PY 1 (2023). This change is expected to delay the CY2023 WQIP final payments to SNFs.

**BACKGROUND:**

All three Managed Care Accountability Sets (MCAS) Long-Term Care (LTC) [measures](#) are used at a facility-level in SNF WQIP and are tied to payment. The LTC metrics are the basis for the facility specific "claims-based clinical metrics" in the SNF WQIP (see the [PY 1 Technical Program Guide](#) for more information on these measures).

Prior to this PL, MCPs were to calculate facility-level performance for each facility eligible for WQIP. Then HSAG would calculate a single facility-level rate for each metric by summing the numerators and denominators reported by each Managed Care Plan (MCP). In SNF WQIP, we call these "claims-based clinical metrics".

DHCS and HSAG have determined that multiple Medi-Cal MCPs were unable to report on or had biased rates for the MCAS LTC metrics (see page 9 of [MCAS measures for measurement year 2023](#)).

**POLICY**

HSAG will calculate facility-specific rates for the claims-based clinical metrics for SNF WQIP for PY 1 (2023). Due to the timing of data availability, this change will push back the timeline for the Final Payment WQIP Report to December 2024. This change will delay final payments to SNFs..

A copy of this Policy Letter is posted on the SNF WQIP website at <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Pages/SNF-WQIP.aspx>. If you have any questions regarding this policy letter, please contact [SNFWQIP@DHCS.ca.gov](mailto:SNFWQIP@DHCS.ca.gov).

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY JEFFREY NORRIS, MD

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