

DATE: December 18, 2024
TO: ALL SNF WQIP PARTICIPANTS
SUBJECT: Second 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 Program Year (PY) 1 (2023) performance.

Following communication on the data issue and that Health Services Advisory Group, Inc. (HSAG) was to calculate facility-specific performance on these measures (reference [WQIP-PL 24-003 Claims-Based Clinical Metrics Update](#)), DHCS and HSAG were still unable to calculate facility-specific rates for SNF WQIP for PY 1 (2023) due to further data issues and timeline constraints.

DHCS and HSAG will reallocate the percent of the total score for the Claims-Based Clinical Metrics Measurement Area to the Minimum Data Set (MDS) Clinical Metric Measurement Area or the Workforce Metrics Domain. This change is not expected to further delay the CY 2023 WQIP final payments to SNFs.

This PL SNF WQIP PL 24-009 Claims-Based Clinical Metrics Update Version 2.0 supersedes [WQIP-PL 24-003 Claims-Based Clinical Metrics Update](#), which is published to the [SNF WQIP webpage](#).

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, managed care health plans (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 MCP.

As previously communicated, multiple MCPs were unable to calculate the Claims-Based Clinical Metrics due to lack of data or biased rates for the MCAS LTC metrics (see page 9 of [MCAS](#)



[measures for measurement year 2023](#)). Thus, DHCS and its contractor, HSAG, were scheduled to calculate these measures as described in the [PY1 SNF WQIP Technical Program Guide](#). Subsequently, DHCS and HSAG were still unable to centrally calculate facility-specific rates for SNF WQIP for PY 1 (2023) due to additional data issues and timeline constraints.

POLICY

DHCS and HSAG will reallocate the percent of the total score for the Claims-Based Clinical Metrics Measurement Area to the MDS Clinical Metric Measurement Area, as outlined in the PY 1 (2023) [SNF WQIP Technical Program Guide](#) on page 56. Therefore, the MDS Clinical Metrics Measurement Area will have a weight of 40% instead of 20%. This is illustrated in Scenarios 1 and 2 in the table below.

If none of the MDS measures are reportable, due to insufficient denominators, the percent of the total score for the entire Clinical Metrics Domain (i.e., 40%) will be reallocated to the Workforce Metrics Domain. In this scenario, the Workforce Metrics Domain would have a total weight of 90% instead of 50%. The additional 40% will be proportionately redistributed between the Acuity-Adjusted Staffing Hour Metrics Measurement Area (worth 70% of the total Workforce Metrics Domain score) and the Staffing Turnover Metric Measurement Area (worth 30% of the total Workforce Metrics Domain score), resulting in weights of 63% and 27% of the total score, respectively. This is illustrated in Scenario 3 in the table below. Please note, if the Staffing Turnover Metric Measurement Area is unreportable, the full 90% will be allocated to the Acuity-Adjusted Staffing Hour Metrics Measurement Area.

The table below provides an illustration of different reallocation scenarios:

*Redistribution of scoring percentages into the Workforce Metrics Domains does not change the proportional scoring of each measurement area within the domains (e.g., the Acuity Adjusted Staffing metrics are tied to 70% of the Workforce Metrics Domain, and this will not change after redistribution).

**In this scenario, if the MDS Clinical Metrics Measurement Area and the Workforce Metrics Domain are both unreportable then the SNF will receive zero points from those measurement areas/domains and can only receive payment on the MDS Racial and Ethnic Data Completeness and Medi-Cal Disproportionate Share Metric Measurement Areas (based on the methodology listed in the WQIP Technical Program Guide for those measures).

	Which measurement areas/domains are reportable per the Technical Program Guide?		What percentage of the total WQIP score is tied to each measurement area?		
	MDS Clinical	Workforce Metrics	MDS Clinical	Acuity Adjusted Staffing	Staffing Turnover
Scenario 1	Reportable		40% (20% from MDS Clinical + 20% from Claims-	50% (score will be zero due to unreportable rates)	0% (15% is reallocated to Acuity Adjusted

	Which measurement areas/domains are reportable per the Technical Program Guide?		What percentage of the total WQIP score is tied to each measurement area?		
	MDS Clinical	Workforce Metrics	MDS Clinical	Acuity Adjusted Staffing	Staffing Turnover
			Based Clinical Metrics)		Staffing if unreportable)
Scenario 2	Reportable	Reportable	40% (20% from MDS Clinical + 20% from Claims-Based Clinical Metrics)	35%	15%
Scenario 3*		Reportable	0%	63% (35% from Acuity Adjusted Staffing + 14% from MDS Clinical + 14% from Claims-Based Clinical Metrics)	27% (15% from Staffing Turnover + 6% from MDS Clinical + 6% from Claims-Based Clinical Metrics)
Scenario 4**			0%	90% (score will be zero due to unreportable rates)	0%

As previously communicated, the timeline for the Final Payment WQIP Report will be published in December 2024.

Feedback on this methodology was due via email to the SNF WQIP Inbox SNFWQIP@DHCS.ca.gov no later than December 11, 2024.

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