

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES  
NOTICE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST**

**PROPOSED STATE PLAN AMENDMENT TO ADD A NEW QUALITY MEASURE TO THE QUALITY &  
ACCOUNTABILITY SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT PROGRAM FOR 2018 AWARD PERIOD**

This notice provides information of public interest with respect to the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality and Accountability Supplemental Payment (QASP) Program. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) proposes to submit State Plan Amendment (SPA) 17-024 to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, to continue the supplemental payment program for the 2017-18 rate-year (August 1, 2017, through July 31, 2018) and to add a new quality measure to the QASP Program methodology.

Assembly Bill (AB) 119 (Chapter 17, Statutes of 2015) extends the AB 1629 (Chapter 875, Statutes of 2004) facility-specific rate-setting methodology, Quality Assurance Fee (QAF), and QASP Program until July 31, 2020. AB 119 also requires for DHCS, in coordination with the California Department of Public Health, to develop quality measures for the QASP Program.

DHCS proposes to add a "30 Day All-Cause Readmission" measure to the QASP methodology. This measure is a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) all-cause, risk-adjusted re-hospitalization measure. This measure evaluates the rate at which all patients who enter SNFs from acute hospitals (not including emergency departments) are subsequently readmitted to hospitals during the SNF stay. The measure would include hospital readmissions for any reason, including inpatient and observation status admissions, that occur within 30 days from the date the patient entered the SNF.

Upon federal approval of the SPA, DHCS will provide a supplemental payment award to each eligible SNF based on the July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 performance period. Award payments will be made by no later than April 30, 2018.

The total pool of funds available for the 2018 QASP Program payments will be approximately \$90 million, but the proposed new measure will not have any impact on aggregate expenditures.

**PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS**

A copy of SPA 17-024 will be published at:

[http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/Pending\\_2017.aspx](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/laws/Pages/Pending_2017.aspx) once the SPA is available. If you would like to view the SPA in person once it becomes available, please visit your local county welfare department. You may also request a copy of the SPA from the mailing address or e-mail address below.

Any written comments regarding SPA 17-024 may be sent to: Department of Health Care Services, Fee-For-Service Rates Development Division, 1501 Capitol Avenue, MS 4600, Sacramento, California 95899-7417, or may be e-mailed to [Publicinput@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Publicinput@dhcs.ca.gov). Please indicate SPA 17-024 in the subject line or message.

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A copy of submitted public comments related to SPA 17-028 may be requested in writing to the mailing address or e-mail inbox identified above.

**Release date: July 31, 2017**