

DATE: August 7, 2026

TO: FREESTANDING SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES

SNF ASP POLICY LETTER 26-001

SUBJECT: Clarification on the Methodology for Determining Performance on the *Percent of Residents Who Received an Antipsychotic Medication, Long Stay* measure for the Skilled Nursing Facility Accountability Sanctions Program (SNF ASP)

PURPOSE:

This Policy Letter (PL) provides clarification on the *Percent of Residents Who Received an Antipsychotic Medication, Long Stay* measure for Measurement Year (MY) 2024, MY 2025 and MY 2026.

BACKGROUND:

SNF ASP uses the *Percent of Residents Who Received an Antipsychotic Medication, Long Stay* measure in MY 2024, MY 2025 and MY 2026.

In December 2025, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published [Version 18 of the MDS 3.0 Quality Measures User's Manual](#), which includes updated specifications for the *Percent of Residents Who Received an Antipsychotic Medication, Long Stay* measure. The update incorporates claims and encounter data in addition to MDS data. This change went into effect on January 1, 2026. The re-specified measure is available on the MDS 3.0 Facility-Level and Resident-Level Quality Measure (QM) Report (iQIES) beginning with Q2 2024 data.

POLICY:

MY 2024 will not be affected by the measure specification change, as the update takes effect after the MY 2024 measurement period concludes.

For MY 2025 and MY 2026, to maintain consistent benchmarking, DHCS will continue to use [Version 16 of the MDS 3.0 Quality Measures User's Manual](#) for the *Percent of Residents Who Received an Antipsychotic Medication, Long Stay* measure. The benchmarks for this measure will remain unchanged, as outlined in SNF ASP MY 2025 [Policy Letter 25-003](#) and MY 2026 [Policy Letter 25-004](#).

Please also note that although CMS published [Version 17 of the MDS 3.0 Quality Measures User's Manual](#) in September 2025, the measure specifications for all measures used in the SNF ASP remain the same as those in Version 16.

If you have any questions regarding this Policy Letter, please contact us at SNFASP@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Shaun Garcia

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