

## 2019 Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF'S) Spotlights and Announcements

### December 20, 2019

A new DRAFT version of the 2020 MDS item sets (v1.18.0) was posted. This version is scheduled to become effective October 1, 2020. Please note that Section G has been removed from all Federal item sets. The files are located in the Downloads section of the [MDS 3.0 Technical Information](#) webpage.

The zip file is: MDS\_3.0\_Item\_Sets\_v1.18.0\_(DRAFT)\_for\_October\_1\_2020\_Release

The MDS 3.0 Item Set Change History for October 2020 report will post to this webpage shortly.

### December 17, 2019

#### Updated Disclaimers for New SPADEs

The following disclaimers should be used to appropriately cite four new SPADEs finalized in the FY2020 SNF Final Rule:

- A1250. Transportation  
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- C1310. Signs and Symptoms of Delirium  
*Adapted from: Inouye SK, et al. Ann Intern Med. 1990; 113: 941-948. Confusion Assessment Method. Copyright 2003, Hospital Elder Life Program, LLC. Not to be reproduced without permission.*
- D0150. Resident Mood Interview (PHQ-2 to 9)  
*Copyright © Pfizer Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduced with permission.*
- B1300. Health Literacy  
*The Single Item Literacy Screener is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License.*

Data elements are permitted for use in an electronic medical record (EMR) with the proper disclaimers included as they appear in the patient assessment instrument (and above). All data elements should be coded in the format as it appears in the patient assessment instrument, and should be collected only for data submission to CMS. **October 31, 2019**

#### Data Submission Deadline Extended

The submission deadline for the Skilled Nursing (SNF) Facility Quality Reporting Program (QRP) MDS assessment data submitted for April 1 – June 30 (Q2) of calendar year (CY) 2019 has been extended to November 18, 2019. **All data must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. on November 18, 2019.**

**October 24, 2019**

**Nursing Home (NH) Compare Quarterly Refresh with Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Data**

The October 2019 quarterly NH Compare Refresh, including updated quality measure results based on SNF QRP data submitted to CMS, is now available.

For more information, please visit the [CMS SNF QRP Public Reporting Website](#).

**October 22, 2019**

The submission deadline for the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) is approaching. MDS assessment data for April 1 – June 30 (Q2) of calendar year (CY) 2019 are due with this submission deadline.

**All data must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. on November 15, 2019.**

It is recommended that the applicable CMS CASPER reports are run prior to each quarterly reporting deadline to ensure that all required data were submitted. We encourage you to verify all facility information prior to submission, including CCN and facility name.

View the list of measures required for the November 15, 2019 deadline on the [SNF Quality Reporting Program Data Submission Deadlines](#) webpage.

For more information, visit the [QTSO Nursing Home \(MDS\) Reference & Manuals webpage](#).

Swingtech sends informational messages to SNFs that are not meeting APU thresholds on a quarterly basis ahead of each submission deadline. If you need to add or change the email addresses to which these messages are sent, please email [QRPHelp@swingtech.com](mailto:QRPHelp@swingtech.com) and be sure to include your facility name and CMS Certification Number (CCN) along with any requested email updates.

**October 17, 2019**

**Video Tutorial Available to Assist with Proper Coding of GG0130A. Eating**

Accessible from the following webpages:

- [Home Health QRP Training webpage](#)
- [Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility QRP Training webpage](#)
- [Long-Term Care Hospital QRP Training webpage](#)
- [Skilled Nursing Facility QRP webpage](#)

**October 11, 2019**

**Now Available**

A new Question and Answer (Q+A) document is now available in the "Downloads" section of the [SNF Quality Reporting Program FAQs](#) webpage. The Q+A document reflects frequently asked questions that were received by the SNF QRP Help Desk during the second quarter (Apr - Jun) of 2019.

**October 11, 2019**

**Disclaimers for New SPADEs**

The following disclaimers should be used to appropriately cite four new SPADEs finalized in the FY2020 SNF Final Rule:

- A1250. Transportation  
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- C1310. Signs and Symptoms of Delirium  
Adapted from: Inouye SK, et al. *Ann Intern Med.* 1990; 113: 941-948. *Confusion Assessment Method.* Copyright 2003, Hospital Elder Life Program, LLC. Not to be reproduced without permission.
- D0150. Resident Mood Interview (PHQ-2 to 9)  
Copyright © Pfizer Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduced with permission.
- B1300. Health Literacy  
*The Single Item Literacy Screener is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License.*

**September 18, 2019**

**MDS 3.0 RAI Manual v1.17.1 Now Available**

The MDS 3.0 RAI Manual v1.17.1, effective October 1, 2019, is now available in the Related Links section on the [MDS 3.0 RAI Manual webpage](#).

This version of the MDS 3.0 RAI Manual incorporates clarifications to existing coding and transmission policy; it also addresses clarifications and scenarios concerning complex areas. Since the preliminary release of the manual on May 20, 2019, changes have been made to clarify which assessments swing bed providers must complete; the definition of the "interruption window" for interrupted Part A-covered stays; the coding of item I0200B; and changes related to group therapy policies, as well as other corrections. Please see the document titled "MDS 3.0 RAI Manual v1.17.1 Replacement Manual Pages and Change Tables\_October 2019" posted in the Related Links section on the [MDS 3.0 RAI Manual webpage](#).

**September 24, 2019**

**August 13 and 14, 2019, SNF QRP Post-Training Materials Are Now Available**

Available on the [SNF Quality Reporting Training](#) webpage.

**September 04, 2019**

The Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting Program Measure Calculations and Reporting User's Manual Version 3.0 has been posted. The Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting Program Measure Calculations and Reporting User's Manual Version 3.0 contains detailed specifications for the assessment- and claims-

based quality measures reported under the SNF QRP. The manual can be found in the Downloads section of this page and the Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting Program Measure Calculations and Reporting User's Manual Version 2.0 has been moved to the [Quality Measures Archive](#) page.

Three files related to the Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting Program Measure Calculations and Reporting User's Manual Version 3.0 have been posted:

1. **Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting Program Measure Calculations and Reporting User's Manual Version 3.0** contains detailed specification for the SNF QRP assessment- and claims-based quality measures. Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting Program Measure Calculations and Reporting User's Manual Version 3.0 is available under the Downloads section of this page.
2. **Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting Program Measure Calculations and Reporting User's Manual Version 3.0 Change Table** calls attention to the edits made between v2.0 and v3.0 of the manual. The edits include updates to SNF stay definitions, measure descriptions and specifications, and the addition of new sections.
3. **Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting Program Measure Calculations and Reporting User's Manual Version 3.0 Risk Adjustment Appendix File** contains current and historical intercept values, coefficient values, and the risk-adjustment schedule for each risk-adjusted quality measure reported under the SNF QRP.

#### **August 29, 2019**

SNF QRP Help Desk Q+A Document for Quarter 1 2019 Now Available

A new Question and Answer (Q+A) document is now available in the "Downloads" section of the [SNF Quality Reporting Program FAQs](#) webpage. The Q+A document reflects frequently asked questions that were received by the SNF QRP Help Desk during the first quarter (Jan - Mar) of 2019.

#### **August 15, 2019**

##### **SNF Provider Preview Reports- Now Available**

Skilled Nursing Facility Provider Preview Reports have been updated and are now available. Providers have until **September 16, 2019** to review their performance data prior to the **October 2019** Nursing Home Compare site refresh, during which this data will be publicly displayed.

##### **For more information:**

- [CMS SNF Quality Public Reporting webpage](#), [NH Compare website](#), and [Preview Report Access Instructions \(PDF\)](#)

##### **August 13 and 14 SNF QRP Pre-Training Materials Are Now Available**

Available on the [SNF Quality Reporting Training](#) webpage.

#### **August 02, 2019**

The submission deadline for the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) is approaching. MDS assessment data for January 1 – March 31 (Q1) of calendar year (CY) 2019 are due with this submission deadline.

**All data must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on August 15, 2019.**

It is recommended that the applicable CMS CASPER reports are run prior to each quarterly reporting deadline to ensure that all required data were submitted. We encourage you to verify all facility information prior to submission, including CCN and facility name.

View the list of measures required for the August 15, 2019 deadline on the [SNF Quality Reporting Program Data Submission Deadlines](#) webpage.

For more information, visit the [QTSO Nursing Home \(MDS\) Reference & Manuals](#) webpage.

CORMAC sends informational messages to SNFs that are not meeting APU thresholds on a quarterly basis ahead of each submission deadline. If you need to add or change the email addresses to which these messages are sent, please email [QRPHelp@cormac-corp.com](mailto:QRPHelp@cormac-corp.com) and be sure to include your facility name and CMS Certification Number (CCN) along with any requested email updates.

#### **JULY 31, 2019**

Specifications for the quality measures and standardized patient assessment data elements for the SNF QRP finalized through the FY 2020 SNF PPS Final Rule are now posted. The specifications document provides detailed information on the new and updated measures: Transfer of Health Information to Provider–Post-Acute Care (PAC), Transfer of Health Information to Patient–Post-Acute Care (PAC), and Discharge to Community–Post-Acute Care SNF QRP. The standardized patient assessment data elements and evidence of support for these data elements are also detailed in the specifications document. The specifications can be found in the Downloads section of the [IMPACT Act Downloads and Videos](#) webpage.

In addition, the new and modified sections of the MDS, along with a change table, effective October 1, 2020 for the measures and standardized patient assessment data elements finalized for the SNF QRP in the FY 2020 SNF PPS Final Rule can be found in the section of the [IMPACT Act Downloads and Videos](#) webpage.

The FY 2020 SNF PPS Final Rule is available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/>.

#### **JULY 25, 2019**

##### **Important Reminder on Reconsideration Requests**

Facilities that will be submitting reconsideration requests to CMS for the FY 2020 Annual Payment Update (APU) for the SNF Quality Reporting Program (QRP) are reminded that **any documentation submitted for review that includes protected health information (PHI) will not be accepted, nor reviewed for reconsideration**. Please redact any PHI prior to sending by completely removing all PHI from supporting documentation. If any of the documents included in a reconsideration request contain PHI, the entire request will be rejected and your reconsideration will not be reviewed. Facilities are encouraged to carefully review all supporting materials to ensure all PHI has been removed.

For more information visit the [SNF Quality Reporting Reconsideration and Exception & Extension](#) webpage.

#### **July 24, 2019**

##### **May 7 and 8, 2019, SNF QRP Post-Training Materials Are Now Available**

Available on the [SNF Quality Reporting Training](#) webpage.

#### **JULY 16, 2019**

##### **SNF Quality Reporting Program: Non-Compliance Letters**

CMS is providing notifications to facilities that were determined to be out of compliance with the quality reporting requirements for the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP), which will affect their FY 2020 Annual Payment Update (APU). Non-compliance notifications are in the process of being sent by the Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) and will be placed into facilities' CASPER folders in QIES on July 16, 2019. Facilities that receive a letter of non-compliance may submit a request for reconsideration to CMS via email no later than 11:59 pm PST, August 15, 2019. If you receive a notice of non-compliance and would like to request a reconsideration, see the instructions in your notification letter and on the [SNF Quality Reporting Reconsideration and Exception & Extension webpage](#).

**July 03, 2019**

**REGISTRATION OPEN** – SNF QRP Provider In-Person Training Event, August 13 and 14, 2019 The

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be hosting a 2-day Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) in-person 'Train the Trainer' event for providers on August 13 and 14, 2019, in Baltimore, MD. See the [SNF Quality Reporting Training](#) webpage for details.

**June 26, 2019**

**NEW TRAINING EVENT — Updated Section GG Web-based Training Course**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is offering a web-based training course on how to properly code of Section GG. This 45-minute course is intended for providers in the following care settings: Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs), Long-Term Care Hospitals (LTCHs), Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRFs), and Home Health Agencies (HHAs); and is designed to be used on demand anywhere you can access a browser. The course is divided into the following four lessons and includes interactive exercises that allow you to test your knowledge in real life scenarios:

- Lesson 1: Importance of Section GG for Post-Acute Care
- Lesson 2: Section GG Assessment and Coding Principles
- Lesson 3: Coding GG0130.Self-Care Items
- Lesson 4: Coding GG0170.Mobility Items

[Click here to access the training.](#)

If you have technical questions or feedback regarding the training, please email the [PAC Training mailbox](#). Content-related questions should be submitted to the Quality Reporting Program Help Desk for your care setting.

**June 12, 2019**

The 2019 Data Collection Periods for SNF Compare are now available in the downloads section of the [SNF Quality Reporting Program Public Reporting webpage](#).

**June 07, 2019**

The **SNF QRP Table for Reporting Assessment-Based Measures for the FY 2021 SNF QRP APU** is now available for download on the [Skilled Nursing Facility \(SNF\) Quality Reporting Program Measures and Technical Information](#) webpage. This table indicates the MDS data elements that are used in determining the APU minimum submission threshold for the FY 2021 SNF QRP determination.

**June 07, 2019**

**Video Tutorials Available to Assist with Coding Specific Section GG Items**

Accessible from the following webpages:

- [Home Health QRP Training webpage](#)
- [Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility QRP Training webpage](#)
- [Long-Term Care Hospital QRP Training webpage](#)
- [Skilled Nursing Facility QRP webpage](#)

**May 31, 2019**

**Update of the Discharge to Community Measure for the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP)**

Beginning fall 2019, CMS will publicly display on Nursing Home Compare the updated measure results for the Discharge to Community Measure adopted for the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP), using updated methodology related to the assignment of categorical ratings to each provider based on their performance on this measure (better than, same as, or worse than the national average). For additional information, please visit the [SNF Quality Reporting Program Public Reporting webpage](#).

**May 30, 2019**

**Publication of Potentially Preventable Readmission Measures for the Post-Acute Care Quality Reporting Programs (QRPs)**

Beginning fall 2019, CMS will publicly display measure results on Nursing Home Compare for the Potentially Preventable 30-Day Post-Discharge Readmissions Measure adopted for the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP). For additional information, please visit the [SNF Quality Reporting Program Public Reporting webpage](#).

**May 14, 2019**

The PDF file labeled "MDS 3.0 RAI Manual v1.17 October 1, 2019" is now available in the Related Links section of the MDS 3.0 RAI Manual Page: [/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/MDS30RAIManual](#)

Please note this early, preliminary release is being provided in response to stakeholder feedback. The MDS 3.0 RAI Manual v1.17 contains many updates, including information related to the Patient Driven Payment Model. Please check back shortly prior to October 1, 2019, for a final posting that may contain additional updates.

**May 02, 2019**

**May 7 and 8 SNF QRP Pre-Training Materials Are Now Available**

Available on the [SNF Quality Reporting Training](#) webpage.

## May 02, 2019

The data collection time frames and final submission deadlines documents for the FY 2020 SNF QRP and FY 2021 SNF QRP have been updated to reflect the Quarter 3 data submission deadline extension (February 15, 2019 to February 21, 2019). The updated documents are available in the Downloads section of the [SNF QRP Data Submission Deadlines](#) webpage.

## May 01, 2019

### SNF Provider Preview Reports- Now Available

Skilled Nursing Facility Provider Preview Reports have been updated and are now available. Providers have until **May 30, 2019** to review their performance data prior to the **July 2019** Nursing Home Compare site refresh, during which this data will be publicly displayed.

#### For more information:

- [CMS SNF Quality Public Reporting webpage](#), [NH Compare website](#), and [Preview Report Access Instructions \(PDF\)](#)

## April 30, 2019

### Policy Change for Assessment Submission Timeframe

The current CMS policy for submission of patient assessment records allows providers to submit records for up to 36 months from the assessment target date. Effective October 1, 2019, the CMS policy for patient assessment submission will be changed to 24 months from the assessment target date. The policy change applies to new, modified, and inactivated records.

## April 25, 2019

The submission deadline for the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) is approaching. MDS assessment data for October 1 – December 31 (Q4) of calendar year (CY) 2018 are due with this submission deadline.

### All data must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on May 15, 2019.

It is recommended that the applicable CMS CASPER reports are run prior to each quarterly reporting deadline to ensure that all required data were submitted. We encourage you to verify all facility information prior to submission, including CCN and facility name.

View the list of measures required for the May 15, 2019 deadline on the [SNF Quality Reporting Program Data Submission Deadlines](#) webpage.

For more information, visit the [QTSO Nursing Home \(MDS\) Reference & Manuals webpage](#).

CORMAC sends informational messages to SNFs that are not meeting APU thresholds on a quarterly basis ahead of each submission deadline. If you need to add or change the email addresses to which these messages are sent, please email [QRPHelp@cormac-corp.com](mailto:QRPHelp@cormac-corp.com) and be sure to include your facility name and CMS Certification Number (CCN) along with any requested email updates.

## April 24, 2019

## **Nursing Home (NH) Compare Quarterly Refresh with Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Data**

The April 2019 quarterly NH Compare Refresh, including updated quality measure results based on SNF QRP data submitted to CMS, is now available.

For more information, please visit the [CMS SNF QRP Public Reporting Website](#).

### **April 19, 2019**

Specifications for the quality measures and standardized patient assessment data elements for the SNF QRP, IRF QRP, and LTCH QRP as proposed in the FY 2020 SNF PPS Proposed Rule, FY 2020 IRF PPS Proposed Rule, and FY 2020 IPPS/LTCH PPS Proposed Rule respectively are now posted.

In addition, the new and modified sections of the MDS, IRF-PAI, and LTCH CARE Data Set, along with a change table, effective October 1, 2020 for the measures and standardized patient assessment data elements proposed for the SNF QRP, IRF QRP, and LTCH QRP in the FY 2020 SNF PPS Proposed Rule, FY 2020 IRF PPS Proposed Rule, and FY 2020 IPPS/LTCH PPS Proposed Rule respectively can be found on the IMPACT Act Downloads and Videos webpage at [/medicare/quality-initiatives-patient-assessment-instruments/post-acute-care-quality-initiatives/impact-act-of-2014/impact-act-downloads-and-videos](#)

The Proposed Rules are available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/>.

### **April 09, 2019**

#### **SNF QRP Requirements for the Fiscal Year 2021 Program Year Now Available**

The **SNF QRP Requirements for the Fiscal Year 2021 Program Year Fact Sheet** is now available for download on the [SNF Quality Reporting Program Data Submission Deadlines](#) webpage. This Fact Sheet contains information about requirements for the SNF QRP for the FY 2021 program year, which reflects data collected from 1/1/19–12/31/19.

### **April 05, 2019**

#### **SNF QRP Help Desk Q+A Document for Quarter 4 2018 Now Available**

A new Question and Answer (Q+A) document is now available in the "Downloads" section of the [SNF Quality Reporting Program FAQs](#) webpage. The Q+A document reflects frequently asked questions that were received by the SNF QRP Help Desk during the fourth quarter (Oct - Dec) of 2018.

### **April 05, 2019**

#### **SNF QRP Review and Correct Reports Now Available**

The enhanced Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) review and correct reports are now available, on demand in the Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reporting (CASPER) application. In addition to enhanced sorting functionality, this report now includes patient level data and automated CSV file creation functionality that contains patient level results. Providers can access these reports by selecting the CASPER Reporting link on the "Welcome to the CMS QIES Systems for Providers" webpage.

NOTE: You must log into the CMS Network using your CMSNet user ID and password in order to access the "Welcome to the CMS QIES Systems for Providers" webpage.

In addition to the sorting enhancements and inclusion of resident level data, these reports:

- Contain quality measure information at the facility level
- Allow providers to obtain aggregate performance for the past four quarters (when data is available)
- Include data submitted prior to the applicable quarterly data submission deadlines
- Display whether the data correction period for a given CY quarter is “open” or “closed”.

**March 04, 2019**

**TEP on Maintenance of Four Nursing Home Quality Measures Publicly Reported on Nursing Home Compare and Used in the Five-Star Quality Rating System: Nominations due March 28, 2019**

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Nominations are due **March 28, 2019** for a Technical Expert Panel (TEP) to comment on the implementation, application, utility, and value of four nursing home quality measures currently reported on Nursing Home Compare and used in the Five-Star Quality Rating System:

- Percent of Residents Who Self-Report Moderate to Severe Pain (Short Stay) (NQF #0676)
- Percent of Residents Who Self-Report Moderate to Severe Pain (Long Stay) (NQF #0677)
- Percent of Residents with a Urinary Tract Infection (Long Stay) (NQF #0685)
- Percent of Residents Who Have/Had a Catheter Inserted and Left in Their Bladder (Long Stay) (NQF #0686)

Visit the [Technical Expert Panels webpage](#) for more information.