2018 SNF Quality Reporting Program Spotlights and Announcements

What's new with Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs)

Visit the [SNF QRP Reconsideration and Exception & Extension](#) **webpage for Natural Disaster Protocols**

Updates

December 06, 2018

A table providing the data collection time frames and final submission deadlines for the FY 2021 SNF QRP is available in the Downloads section of the [SNF QRP Data Submission Deadlines](#) webpage.

December 06, 2018

Disaster Information Now Available on the Reconsiderations and Exceptions & Extensions Page

For all disaster related information moving forward, please visit the [Reconsiderations and Exceptions & Extensions](#) web page for your Quality Reporting Program. Memos will be posted in the downloads section of this page with additional information for each specific disaster impacting the Quality Reporting Programs.

November 06, 2018

The **Fact Sheet on Transitions for New Quality Measures and Data Elements Effective October 1, 2018** is now available for download on the [SNF-Quality-Reporting-Program-FAQs](#) webpage. This Fact Sheet contains information about the completion of MDS 3.0 Assessments and APU information for data elements and new measures effective October 1, 2018 for the Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting Program (SNF QRP).

November 1, 2018

SNF Provider Preview Reports- Now Available

Skilled Nursing Facility Provider Preview Reports have been updated and are now available. Providers have until November 30, 2018 to review their performance data on quality measures based on Quarter 2 -2017 to

Quarter 1 - 2018 data, prior to the January 2019 Nursing Home Compare site refresh, during which this data will be publicly displayed.

For more information please visit:

* [SNF Quality Public Reporting](#) webpage and [Preview Report Access Instructions](#)

October 29, 2018

For all QRP web pages that reference qtso.com please update to new web address to [qtso.cms.gov](#)

October 11, 2018

SNF QRP Annual Payment Update Warning Edits

Section 1888(e)(6)(B)(i)(II) of the Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation Act of 2014 (IMPACT Act of 2014) amended the Social Security Act requiring that SNFs submit data, including data on quality measures. SNFs that fail to submit such data are subject to a 2 percentage point reduction to their Annual Payment Update. In turn, CMS established a data completion threshold for such data reporting. SNFs must report 100 percent of the data elements necessary to calculate the SNF QRP measures, as well as standardized patient assessment data elements, on at least 80 percent of the Minimum Data Set (MDS) assessments they submit for the program year involved. SNFs that do not meet this requirement are subject to a two percent reduction in their Annual Payment Update.

To assist SNFs, CMS is excited to announce new Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Annual Payment Update (APU) warning edits are being incorporated into the MDS technical submission specifications. These warning edits appear as both pop-up messages in jRAVEN, the free CMS software that allows SNFs to submit MDS data to CMS in the proper format, and also on the MDS 3.0 Final Validation Report (FVR). The edits will appear when required standardized patient assessment data elements and data elements required for quality measure calculation for the purposes of the SNF QRP are dashed. These warning edit will display on FVR as error identification numbers:-3897, -3907 or -3908. Warning edits do not prevent MDS 3.0 assessment from being accepted by the Assessment Submission and Processing (ASAP) system.

A staggered release of the items associated to the APU warning edits is planned, at the completion of this process all APU required data elements will trigger a warning edit. The first release of warning edits was implemented on September 9th, 2018. Future releases of warning edits will be announced here. For more details on warning edits please refer to [MDS 3.0 Providers User's Guide](#), Section 5- Error Messages.

October 24, 2018

Attention SNF Providers: Inaugural Release of SNF QRP Data on NH Compare

In accordance with Section 1899B(g)(1) of the Social Security Act, which requires CMS to provide for the public reporting of SNF provider performance on the quality measures, CMS is announcing the inaugural release of the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) quality data on Nursing Home (NH) Compare.

Nursing Home Compare allows you to find and compare SNFs that are certified by Medicare and nursing homes that are certified by Medicaid. This website contains quality of resident care and staffing information for more than 15,000 nursing homes around the country, and will now additionally include SNF QRP quality data that can be used to compare SNF providers by their performance on important indicators of quality, such as the percentage of patients with new or worsening pressure ulcers, or the percentage of patients that experienced a fall and sustained a major injury. For additional information, including a list of the new measures, we refer you to the SNF Quality Reporting Public Reporting webpage.

October 24, 2018

We are reaching out to remind you of the upcoming submission deadline for the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP). MDS assessment data for April 1 – June 30 (Q2) 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 November 15, 2018.

It is recommended that the applicable CMS CASPER validation 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, 2018 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 deadlines. If you need to add or change the email addresses to which these messages are sent, please email QRPHelp@cormac-corp.com and be sure to include your facility name and CMS Certification Number (CCN) along with any requested email updates.

October 12, 20108

Post-Training Materials Available: September 12 SNF Follow-Up Webinar on Section GG (New Items) and Section I

Post-training materials from the **SNF Follow-Up Webinar on Section GG (New Items) and Section I** held on September 12, 2018, are now available in the Downloads section of the **SNF Quality Reporting Training** webpage.

October 11, 2018

Hurricane Florence - Disaster Exceptions/Exemptions for Medicare Certified Providers Affected by Severe Storms and Flooding

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is granting exceptions under certain Medicare quality reporting and value-based purchasing programs located in areas affected by Hurricane Florence. These healthcare providers and suppliers will be granted exceptions without having to submit a request if they are located in one of the counties listed in the memo posted on October 11, 2018, all of which have been designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a major disaster county. Please check this site for the most up to date list of affected counties.

For SNF's outside the FEMA-designated counties affected by Hurricane Florence, please follow the directions related to requesting an exemption or extension, as listed on the SNF Quality Reporting Reconsideration and Exception & Extension

October 02, 2018

SNF QRP Outreach Available

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

September 24, 2018

July 31/August 1 QRP Provider Training Q+A is Available

The question and answer (Q+A) for the **July 31/August 1, 2018, Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Training** is now available. See the SNF Quality Reporting Training webpage for details.

September 20, 2018

Post-Training Materials for August 27 SNF Follow-Up Webinar on Section N Are Now Available

Post-training materials from the **SNF Follow-Up Webinar on Section N** held on August 27, 2018, are now available in the Downloads section of the **SNF Quality Reporting Training** webpage.

September 13, 2018

July 31/August 1, 2018 SNF QRP Post-Training Materials Are Now Available

Post-training materials from the **July/August 2018 Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Provider Training** held in Baltimore, MD, on July 31 and August 1, 2018, are now available in the Downloads section of the **SNF Quality Reporting Training** webpage.

September 12, 2018

SNF Quality Reporting Program Measure Calculations and Reporting User's Manual V2.0

The SNF Quality Reporting Program Measure Calculations and Reporting User's Manual V2.0 has been added to the Downloads section of the SNF Quality Reporting Measures Information page. This version of the MDS-based User's Manual is effective on October 1, 2018 and provides detailed information for each quality measure, including quality measure definitions, inclusion and exclusion criteria, and measure calculation specifications. A Change Table has been added to highlight the changes from SNF Quality Reporting Program Measure Calculations and Reporting User's Manual V1.0 to V2.0. Additionally, we have included a Risk Adjustment Appendix File for the SNF Quality Reporting Program Measure Calculations and Reporting User's Manual V2.0, which contains the risk-adjustment values used to calculate the risk-adjusted quality measures. The Change Table and Risk Adjustment Appendix File are also available for download on the SNF Quality Reporting Measures Information webpage.

September 11, 2018

Pre-Training Materials for the SNF Follow-Up Webinar on Section GG (New Items)/Section I Are Now Available—September 12, 2018

The training materials for the upcoming Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Section GG (New Items)/Section I Follow-Up Webinar scheduled for Wednesday, September 12, 2018, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. EDT are now available under the Downloads section of the SNF Quality Reporting Training webpage.

August 24, 2018

August 27 SNF Follow-Up Webinar on Section N Pre-Training Materials Are Now Available

The training materials for the upcoming Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Follow-Up Webinar on Section N, scheduled for Monday, August 27, 2018, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. EDT are now available under the Downloads section of the SNF Quality Reporting Training webpage.

August 22, 2018

REGISTRATION OPEN – Upcoming SNF QRP Webinars (August 27 and September 12, 2018) Related to Changes Associated with Coding Sections GG, I, and N of the MDS

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be hosting two webinars for providers of Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF). The intent of the webinars is to provide information about proper coding of the following sections of the Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0 Version 1.16.0 related to the SNF Quality Reporting Program (QRP): Section GG, Section I, and Section N. Updated reporting requirements for the MDS will become effective on October 1, 2018. See the SNF Quality Reporting Training web pages for details.

July 26, 2018

July 31/August 1 SNF QRP Pre-Training Materials Are Now Available

The training materials for the upcoming Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Provider Training in Baltimore, MD, on Tuesday, July 31, and Wednesday, August 1, are now available under the Downloads section of the SNF Quality Reporting Training webpage. The training will start at 8:30 a.m. EDT and end at 5:00 p.m. EDT on July 31, and start at 8:00 a.m. EDT (this is a new time) and end at 3:00 p.m. EDT on August 1.

July 11, 2018

The **SNF QRP Reporting Requirements for FY2020 Reporting 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 2020 program year, which reflects data collected from 1/1/18–12/31/18.

July 06, 2018

SNF Quality Reporting Program: Non-Compliance Letters

CMS is providing notifications to facilities that were determined to be out of compliance with Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) requirements for CY 2017, which will affect their FY 2019 Annual Payment Update (APU). Non-compliance notifications are in the process of being mailed by the Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) and will be placed into facilities' CASPER folders in QIES on July 9, 2018. Facilities that receive a letter of non-compliance may submit a request for reconsideration to CMS **via email no later than 11:59pm PST, August 7, 2018**. 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](#).

June 07, 2018

SNF QRP Provider In-Person Training Event, July 31 and August 1, 2018 – Agenda Available

The agenda for the upcoming Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Provider Training in Baltimore, MD, on Tuesday, July 31, and Wednesday, August 1, is now available under the Downloads section of the [SNF Quality Reporting Training](#) webpage. The training will start at 8:30 a.m. EDT and end at 4:30 p.m. EDT on July 31, and start at 8:30 a.m. EDT and end at 3:00 p.m. EDT on August 1. [Click here to register for this event.](#)

June 1, 2018

SNF Provider Preview Reports- Now Available

Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Provider Preview Reports have been updated and are now available. Providers have until July 1, 2018 to review their performance data prior to public display on the [Nursing Home Compare](#) site. Corrections to the underlying data will not be permitted during this time. However, providers can request a CMS review during the preview period if they believe their data scores displayed are inaccurate.

The SNF Provider Preview Report includes performance data on the following quality measures based on the subsequent Quarterly data:

1. Quarter 1 – 2017 to Quarter 4 – 2017 data

    o   Application of Percent of Residents Experiencing One or More Falls with Major Injury (Long Stay) (#0674)

    o   Percent of Residents or Patients with Pressure Ulcers That Are New or Worsened (Short Stay) (NQF #0678)

    o   Application of Percent of Long-Term Care Hospital Patients with an Admission and Discharge Functional Assessment and a Care Plan That Addresses Function (#2631)

2. Quarter 4 – 2016 to Quarter 3 – 2017 data

    o   Medicare Spending Per Beneficiary – Post-Acute Care (PAC) Skilled Nursing Facility Measure

    o   Discharge to Community- Post Acute Care (PAC) Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP)

3. Quarter 4 – 2015 to Quarter 3 – 2017 data

o   Potentially Preventable 30-Days Post-Discharge Readmission Measure for Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP).

May 22, 2018

The SNF QRP Table for Reporting Assessment-Based Measures for the FY 2020 SNF QRP APU is now available for download on the 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 2020 SNF QRP determination.

May 18, 2018

REGISTRATION OPEN – SNF QRP Provider In-Person Training Event, July 31 and August 1, 2018

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 July 31 and August 1, 2018, in Baltimore, MD. See the SNF Quality Reporting Training webpage for details.

May 01, 2018

SNF QRP Help Desk Q+A Document for the Fourth Quarter of 2017 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 (October - December) of 2017.

April 20, 2018

We are reaching out to remind you of the upcoming submission deadline for the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP). MDS assessment data January-December (Q1-Q4) of calendar year (CY) 2017 are due with this submission deadline.

All data must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on May 15, 2018.

It is recommended that the applicable CMS CASPER validation 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, 2018 deadline on the [SNF Quality Reporting Program Data Submission Deadlines](#) webpage.

For providers affected by hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, or Nate, or California wildfires: Information on the exceptions can be found on the [SNF Quality Reporting Reconsideration and Exception & Extension](#) webpage.

For more information, download [MDS 3.0 Submission, Submission Status, and Final Validation Reports](#)

[Helpful Hints](#).

April 19, 2018

SNF Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Quality Measure (QM) Reports Available

Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) providers were notified by CMS April 13, 2018, that the SNF QRP reports (SNF QRP Facility- and Resident-Level Quality Measure and SNF Review and Correct) would be unavailable in the CASPER Reporting application while corrections were being made. Duplicate stays were mistakenly being included in the calculations for all three reports when a correction record for a previously accepted record was accepted into the Assessment Submission and Processing (ASAP) system. Additionally, invalid Admission Dates were displaying on the SNF QRP Resident-Level Quality Measure report for the duplicated row.

The three measures affected by the issue are as follows:

- Percent of Residents or Patients with Pressure Ulcers That Are New or Worsened (Short Stay) NQF #0678
- Application of Percent of Residents Experiencing One or More Falls with Major Injury (Long Stay) NQF #0674
- Application of Percent of Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH) Patients with an Admission and Discharge Functional Assessment and a Care Plan that Addresses Function NQF #2631

Please be advised that this issue has been resolved and the SNF QRP Facility- and Resident-Level Quality Measure and SNF Review and Correct reports are once again available in the SNF Quality Reporting Program report category in the CASPER Reporting application.

A link to the CASPER Reporting application is available on the "Welcome to the CMS QIES Systems for Providers" webpage. Data for the above measures have been recalculated to exclude the duplicated records and the correct Admission Date is displaying on the SNF QRP Resident-Level Quality Measure reports.

If you have questions concerning this information, please contact the QTSO Help Desk at help@qtso.com or 1 (800) 339-9313.

February 23, 2018

Hurricane Nate - Disaster Exceptions/Exemptions for Medicare Certified Providers Affected by Severe Storms and Flooding

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is granting exceptions under certain Medicare quality reporting and value-based purchasing programs to acute care hospitals, inpatient psychiatric facilities, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, long-term care hospitals, renal dialysis facilities, ambulatory surgical centers as well as Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) eligible clinicians located in areas affected by Hurricane Nate. These healthcare providers and suppliers will be granted exceptions without having to submit a request if they are located in one of the counties listed in the memo posted on February 8, 2018, all of which have been designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a major disaster county.

The scope and duration of the exception under each Medicare quality reporting program is described in the memo as well, however, all of the exceptions are being granted to assist these providers while they direct their resources toward caring for their patients and repairing structural damages to facilities.

If FEMA expands the current disaster declaration to include additional counties, CMS will update this memo to expand the list of providers eligible to receive an exception without submitting a request.

In addition, CMS will continue to monitor the situation and adjust exempted reporting periods and submission deadlines accordingly.

Additional details and materials are available on the CMS Hurricanes webpage. Please check back frequently for updates.

February 22, 2018

California Wildfires - Disaster Exceptions/Exemptions for Medicare Certified Providers Affected by Severe Storms and Flooding

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is granting exceptions under certain Medicare quality reporting and value-based purchasing programs to acute care hospitals, inpatient psychiatric facilities, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, long-term care hospitals, renal dialysis facilities, ambulatory surgical centers as well as Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) eligible clinicians located in areas affected by the California wildfires (FEMA DR-4353). These healthcare providers and suppliers will be granted exceptions without having to submit a request if they are located in one of the California counties listed in the memo posted on February 8, 2018, all of which have been designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a major disaster county.

The scope and duration of the exception under each Medicare quality reporting program is described in the memo as well, however, all of the exceptions are being granted to assist these providers while they direct their resources toward caring for their patients and repairing structural damages to facilities.

If FEMA expands the current disaster declaration to include additional counties, CMS will update this memo to expand the list of providers eligible to receive an exception without submitting a request.

In addition, CMS will continue to monitor the situation and adjust exempted reporting periods and submission deadlines accordingly.

Additional details and materials are available on the CMS Wildfires webpage. Please check back frequently for updates.

February 01, 2018

SNF QRP Quality Measure (QM) and Review and Correct Report Data Issues

A calculation error has been identified for the three assessment-based quality measures reported on the SNF QRP Facility- and Resident-Level QM report and the SNF QRP Review and Correct reports (NQF #0678, NQF #0674, and NQF #2631). Duplicate stays and invalid admission dates can appear on these reports. View the PDF on the SNF Quality Reporting Program Data Submission Deadlines webpage for more information.

January 19, 2018

CMS has extended the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) deadlines for calendar year (CY) 2017. Minimum Data Set (MDS) assessment data for January-December (Q1-Q4) of CY 2017 are due May 15, 2018. However, providers are encouraged to verify their MDS submissions on at least a quarterly basis.

It is recommended that the applicable CMS CASPER validation 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, 2018 deadline on the SNF Quality Reporting Program Data Submission Deadlines webpage.

For providers affected by hurricanes Harvey, Irma, or Maria or California wildfires: Information on the exceptions can be found on the SNF Quality Reporting Reconsideration and Exception & Extension webpage.

For more information, download MDS 3.0 Submission, Submission Status, and Final Validation Reports

Helpful Hints.

January 12, 2018

SNF QRP Help Desk Q+A Document for the Third Quarter of 2017 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 third quarter (July - September) of 2017.