



GREATER NEW YORK HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ASSOCIATION

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Memo 21-01

To: Administrator, DNS, Medical Director, Infection Preventionist and QA Committee

From: Mary Gracey-White RN, Director of Regulatory Compliance

Date: January 5, 2021

Re: Updates to Five Star Ratings

As you may be aware CMS has issued Memorandum 21-06 Updates to Five Star Ratings. As per CMS additional information will be available on January 15, 2021 when the updated Five Star Technical Users Guide is released. Outlined below are the highlights from the Memo:

1. FIVE STAR RATING Calculations on all Domains will resume on JANUARY 27, 2021.

HEALTH INSPECTION DOMAIN:

- State Survey Agencies resumed all surveys.
- All states have conducted focused infection control surveys in all nursing homes in their state.
- **Findings from the Focused Infection Control Inspections will be used to calculate each nursing home's inspection rating. These findings will be included the same way findings from Complaint Inspections are used in the Five Star Quality Rating System.**

NURSE STAFFING DOMAIN:

- As you are aware CMS resumed updating the Staffing Rating domain of the Five Star Quality Rating System in October 2020 (Waiver for PBJ reporting ended on June 25, 2020). Staffing data will continue to be collected as required, and staffing ratings will continue to be updated quarterly, as scheduled

QUALITY MEASURES

- Upon analysis of current data that is available for calculations, CMS determined that there are no issues in updating MDS-based and Claims-based Quality measures. Therefore, Quality Measures posted on the Nursing Home Compare website and used in the Five Star Quality Rating System will be updated on January 27, 2021.
- To update the quality measures, CMS will use data based on the data collection period ending June 30, 2020. This means that CMS is picking up with the previously established schedule.
- MDS-BASED QM'S: Will utilize MDS Data from Q3 2019; Q4 2019; Q1 2020; and Q2 2020.
- CLAIMS-BASED QM'S: Updated in October and April except for the QRP Successful to Discharge to Community Measure (has a different look back period)
- Updates do not apply to quality measures that are part of the Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting Program (SNF QRP).
 - **The (2) QRP Measures used for 5-Star QM Rating were updated in October 2020:** Rate of Successful Return to Home/Community from a SNF and % of SNF Residents with Pressure Ulcers/Injuries that are new or worsened.

2. Care Compare Website:

- As of December 1, 2020, the Nursing Home Compare website, and the data.medicare.gov website are no longer available, and users will be redirected to the new website. Care Compare, a streamlined redesign of eight existing CMS healthcare Compare tools.