Seven Essential Elements of CMS Updates

This information only applies to Medicare/Medicaid certified Nursing Homes.

CMS Memorandum QSO-20-28-NH Summary:

- The health inspection domain on Nursing Home Compare (NHC) will be held constant starting with the April 29, 2020, update. Inspections conducted on or after March 4, 2020, will be posted publically, but will not be used in the calculations of the Five-Star Rating System.

- The surveys will be posted through a link on the front page of the Nursing Home Compare website in the upcoming months (as the survey data is finalized and uploaded).

- CMS previously provided waivers related to relaxing the submission timing of MDS (Minimum Data set) and PBJ (Payroll-Based Journal) data. These waivers will not impact the upcoming April update to the quality measures and staffing domains because the data for these domains occurred prior to the COVID-19 crisis. CMS will continue to monitor the situation and will make adjustments as needed for future updates.

- CMS will release information that shows the average number of staff each nursing home has onsite, each day (nursing staff and total staff), and aggregated by state and nationally. The information is based on data submitted for 2019 Calendar quarter 4 and may not reflect the actual conditions in facilities at the point in time used. However, the data may be used to help state agencies know where, and how much, personal protective equipment (PPE) and testing should be directed within their state.
• Information on nursing home census is already available on the Nursing Home Compare website. However, this is the first time information about the number of individual staff each facility has, has been made available and can be found here.

• CMS provided FAQs and clarification related to recent guidance issued.

• FAQ number 3, outlines a new application process for the use of CMP funds for communicative devices. However, CMS requires that states maintain an adequate amount of CMP funds to be used in emergency situations, such as emergency evacuations. The OSDH is evaluating our ability to fund applications and will post details later.

Do you have MDS or OASIS questions?
Contact the QIES Help Desk at (405) 271-5278
MDShelp@health.ok.gov or OASIShelp@health.ok.gov

Your Oklahoma QIES Help Desk team -

Diane Henry, State RAI Coordinator
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