Changes to Nursing Home Compare and Five-Star Rating System

Staffing Measures and Ratings

In QSO Memo 20-34, CMS announced they are ending the blanket emergency waiver of 42 CFR 483.70(q), and all nursing homes are required to resume submission of staffing data through the Payroll-Based Journal (PBJ) system as required by the regulation. Facilities must submit staffing data for Calendar Quarter 2 (April – June) 2020 through the PBJ system by August 14, 2020.

Due to the emergency waiver, CMS will not be able to update the PBJ staffing measures on Nursing Home Compare and the staffing domain star ratings at the next regularly scheduled update in July 2020. Therefore, on July 29, 2020, staffing measures and ratings will be held constant, and based on data submitted for Calendar Quarter 4 (October – December) 2019. The staffing measures and star ratings will be updated in October 2020 based on data submitted by August 14, 2020.

Quality Measures

CMS waived requirements at 42 CFR 483.20 related to the timelines for completing and submitting resident assessment (minimum data set (MDS)) information. This emergency waiver is now being lifted and facilities are required to submit all MDS assessments timely and according to the requirements in the RAI Manual.

According to the memorandum, CMS is not holding quality measure ratings constant, as a facility’s quality measure rating can still be updated by a quality measure with underlying data that is earlier than December 31, 2019.

Health Inspections and Ratings
CMS will restart the inspection ratings as soon as possible, and will communicate any changes to stakeholder in advance of updating the Nursing Home Compare website.

Questions about these changes should be directed to BetterCare@cms.hhs.gov

The CMS memorandum can be found here.

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
Wanda Roberts, State Automation Coordinator
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