



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

April 13, 2016

Dear Nursing Home Administrator:

The New York State Department of Health, Office of Quality and Patient Safety, is pleased to announce details of the methodology for the upcoming 2016 Nursing Home Quality Initiative (NHQI).

The 2016 methodology contains one change from the previous year. The CMS Five-Star Quality Rating for Staffing has been replaced with the Rate of Staffing Hours per Day. The Rate of Staffing Hours per Day was released to nursing homes for benchmarking purposes in the 2015 NHQI. This is a NYS DOH measure that calculates a case-mix adjusted rate of staffing hours per day using nursing home cost report and Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0 data. This measure will be awarded points based on the quintile method.

The Percent of Staff Turnover measure was also released to nursing homes for benchmarking purposes in the 2015 NHQI. This measure is **not** included in the 2016 NHQI. The accuracy of the cost report data is not sufficient to calculate this measure. Nursing homes are encouraged to review their data reported on Schedule P – Staff Turnover and Schedule O – Quality, of the cost report. Specifically, on Schedule P, the section for non-contract staff should include both per diem and non-per diem staff. Schedule O should include only per diem staff. The Department will continue to assess the improvement of the data on these schedules.

As a reminder, the 2015 RHCF-4 and RHCF-2 cost report and independent accountant and operator certifications must be filed with the Department no later than Friday, July 15, 2016, for calendar year filers, and Monday, October 31, 2016 for fiscal year filers.

The staffing measure change, along with the timeline for the 2016 NHQI, is detailed in the attached methodology. If you have any questions, please contact us at (518) 486-9012, or NHQP@health.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

Raina Josberger
Bureau of Quality Measurement of Special
Populations
Office of Quality and Patient Safety
New York State Department of Health

Attachment

cc: Mr. Roohan
Mr. Kissinger
Mr. Simmons
Ms. Bean