

December 12, 2013

Dear Nursing Home Administrator:

The New York State Department of Health (Department) released the results of the 2013 Nursing Home Quality Pool (NHQP) last month; however, four issues were discovered with the results that needed to be addressed. The changes required have been made and the 2013 NHQP results have been revised. The revised results have been posted to the Health Commerce System (HCS). These revised results may differ from the original scores you received. The four issues and any changes made to the methodology are as follows:

1. The calculation for the level of temporary contract/agency staff measure was modified to exclude contract hours purchased for a cost center other than the nursing facility using the following methods:
 - For facilities with levels of temporary contract/agency staff of more than 10%, the Department reviewed the cost center information on Schedule O of the cost reports. If the Department was able to determine the number of hours associated solely with the nursing facility from the cost center information on Schedule O, the measure was recalculated.
 - For facilities with levels of temporary contract/agency staff of more than 10% that did not have enough information on Schedule O to determine the number of hours associated solely with the nursing facility, the measure was suppressed and the points were redistributed across the remaining quality measures.
 - Facilities with levels of temporary contract/agency staff of less than 10% were not included in the review of Schedule O because these facilities already receive full points for the measure. The facilities' rates may or may not be including contract hours associated with cost centers other than the nursing facility.

Facilities are encouraged to provide information in Schedule O which would allow the Department to determine contract hours associated with cost centers for the nursing facility separately. Accurate reporting is key to success in this and other projects.

2. We have received inquiries by nursing homes about the compliance measure based on having complete and certified cost reports submitted by the deadline of August 16, 2013 for calendar year filers, and September 30, 2013 for fiscal year filers. The methodology of the 2013 Quality Pool stipulates that the cost report submission is required to be timely, complete, and certified for their data to be incorporated in measures. Facilities that failed to meet that deadline did not have the cost report information utilized for the temporary contract/agency staff measure. The information about this requirement was included in the NHQP webinars conducted in June 2013. Ninety-five percent of nursing homes were in compliance with this measure for 2013. We are aware of the concern; however, no changes were made to the methodology.

3. Review of results for the three risk-adjusted quality measures (i.e., pressure ulcer, weight loss and pain) determined a programming error which has been corrected. These measures have been recalculated and the results have been incorporated in the revised 2013 NHQP results.
4. Nursing homes are excluded from receiving NHQP funding if there was a determination of fraud or abuse by the Attorney General's Office from a case that closed during the measurement year or the payment year. We have refined the ineligibility criteria for fraud and abuse determinations to exclude cases of larceny. Nursing homes determined to have a case of fraud or abuse for reasons other than larceny are excluded from receiving 2013 NHQP funding. We look forward to continuing to refine this criteria in subsequent years.

There are two attachments to this letter. The first attachment describes the methodology for the 2013 NHQP and the second attachment provides instructions on how to interpret your facility's one-page report. Your facility's updated one-page report is posted to the Health Commerce System (HCS). To access this report, follow the instructions below:

1. Go to the website at <https://commerce.health.state.ny.us>.
2. At the security screen, enter your "HCS" id and password.
3. At the Health Commerce System Welcome Page, select "NH Rate Sheets 4/2009-Forward" under the heading "My Applications."
4. At the Nursing Home Rates screen, select "2013 Nursing Home Quality Pool Results" from the drop-down list under "Nursing Home Rates Selection List."
5. Identify your facility in the drop-down list under "Nursing Home Selection List," then select "SHOW REPORTS."

The Department will be publicly releasing these results in the near future and will make the dataset available on the Department's website at Health Data NY.

If you have questions, please contact me or Raina Josberger at NHQP@health.state.ny.us.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Roohan
Director
Office of Quality and Patient Safety

Attachment

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