

State gives official notice of nursing home quality pool

According to a [notice in the Dec. 26 State Register](#), DOH is formalizing plans to move forward with the nursing home quality pool in 2013.

DOH plans to implement the quality pool in 2013 by scoring and comparing facilities' performance in the following categories: (1) quality measures based on MDS 3.0 data, employee flu vaccination data and the CMS Five-Star staffing measure; (2) compliance measures based on the CMS Five-Star health inspection rating and timely filing of Medicaid cost reports and flu immunization data; and (3) avoidable hospitalizations based on MDS 3.0 data and a potentially preventable hospitalization quality indicator for short and long stay hospitalizations.

Facility scores will be based on current performance and improvements from the prior year. Specialty nursing homes and those found in immediate jeopardy or with substandard quality of care will be ineligible for quality payments. Funding for the planned \$50 million in quality payments will be accessed by reducing existing resources paid through the nursing home pricing methodology to non-specialty nursing homes. LeadingAge NY continues to strongly advocate for a separate funding source for quality payments, and will provide further details as they are received.

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