

Howard A. Zucker, M.D., J.D.
Acting Commissioner of Health

NEW YORK
state department of
HEALTH

Sue Kelly
Executive Deputy Commissioner

July 30, 2014

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 2014 Nursing Home Quality Initiative (NHQI). While the overall methodology of the four components remains consistent with the methodology applied last year, there is a change in the point distribution in two components. In addition, two measures are being replaced in the Quality Component and adjustments are being made for one measure in each of the Quality, Compliance, and Efficiency Components. The Department will also handle measures with too small of a sample size or unavailable data by reducing the total base of points for the facility.

In the Efficiency Component, the points assigned to the Potentially Avoidable Hospitalizations (PAH) measure have been reduced from 20 to 10, while the total points in the Quality Component have increased from 60 to 70. Each of the 14 quality measures in the Quality component will be worth five points.

Two new resident immunization measures will be used in the Quality Component, replacing those used in 2013. The percent of long stay residents who received the pneumococcal vaccine and the percent of long stay residents who received the seasonal influenza vaccine will be used in this component. In addition, due to increased vaccination rates, the employee influenza vaccination measure will be scored based on a threshold value.

The PAH measure will be calculated using the primary diagnosis on the hospital discharge record. This is a change from the 2013 NHQI, in which the admitting diagnosis was used. Use of the primary diagnosis aligns with the avoidable hospitalization measures used in the CMS Initiative to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations among Nursing Facility Residents, the Managed Long Term Care Quality Incentive, and the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program in New York State.

In the Compliance Component, a regional adjustment will be applied to the CMS Five-Star Quality Rating for Health Inspections data.

Lastly, in the event that a measure cannot be used due to small sample size or unavailable data, the Department will not reweight the points for each measure in a component. Instead, the total attainable points in the NHQI will be reduced, with each facility's score being proportioned to its total attainable points. Please refer to the attached methodology document for an example of this new method.

All of the changes noted above are detailed in the attached methodology for the 2014 NHQI. If you have any questions about the changes, please contact me or Raina Josberger at (518) 486-9012.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Roohan

Director

Office of Quality and Patient Safety

Attachment

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