

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 447.205, the Georgia Department of Community Health is required to give public notice of any significant proposed change in its methods and standards for setting payment rates for services.

### INCREASE SUPPLEMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PAYMENTS TO ELIGIBLE NURSING FACILITIES

Pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval, effective September 13, 2024, the Department of Community Health (DCH) proposes to revise the methodology for distribution of the supplemental quality incentive payments to eligible skilled nursing facilities and the CMS Long Stay Quality Measures utilized. Incentive payments will be paid to skilled nursing facilities that demonstrate improvement in the quality of care rendered to its Medicaid beneficiaries.

This change is estimated to increase funding for eligible nursing facilities as follows:

|          | State Funds  | Federal Funds | Total Funds  |
|----------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| SFY 2025 | \$12,000,000 | \$24,253,776  | \$36,253,776 |

On August 12, 2021, the Department notified interested stakeholders, via its public notice process, that nursing facilities that demonstrated improvement in at least one or more of the following four categories would be eligible for a supplemental payment. The supplemental payment was based on the percentage of improvement ranked by decile for each of the four categories listed below:

- High-risk long stay residents with pressure ulcers
- Long-stay residents who received an antianxiety or hypnotic medication
- Long-stay residents who received an antipsychotic medication
- Long-stay residents with a urinary tract infection

The Department is revising the CMS Long Stay Quality Measures utilized to identify skilled nursing facilities eligible for supplemental quality incentive payments. Effective September 13, 2024 nursing facilities must demonstrate improvement in at least one or more of the *CMS established Long-Stay Quality Measures, to be identified by the Department via a public notice*, in order to receive the supplemental payment.<sup>1</sup> The supplemental payment will be based on each nursing facility's overall ranking in each CMS Long Stay Quality Measure resulting in the nursing facility receiving a payment proportional to their improvement (e.g., a facility with the highest improvement will receive the highest supplemental payment for that measure). The Department will notify the skilled nursing facilities of the revised CMS Long-Stay Quality Measures no later than September 30<sup>th</sup> preceding the start of the upcoming evaluated calendar year.<sup>2</sup>

Supplemental payments will be distributed to eligible nursing facilities once per year. For each subsequent year after calendar year 2023, the base year will be adjusted annually to reflect

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<sup>1</sup> The DCH Board will not vote on the identified measures. This public notice document serves as formal notice that the measures will be identified by DCH and updated no later than September 30<sup>th</sup> each year.

<sup>2</sup> The first revision to the CMS Long Stay Quality Measures and the payment distribution model will occur in 2025 based on 2024 data.

improvement against the prior year. For example, CY2024 would be paid out against improvement against CY2023, CY2025 would be paid out against CY2024, and CY2026 against improvement in CY2025.

Only those facilities that demonstrate improvement will be eligible for the add-on payment. *Only those facilities with 50% or more Medicaid Long-term residents are eligible.*

This public notice is available for review at each county Division of Family and Children Services office. An opportunity for public comment will be held on **September 18, 2024 at 2:30 p.m., via Zoom audio**. There will be **no in-person** attendance at the Department of Community Health (DCH).

Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during this meeting should call (404) 656-4479 at least three (3) business days prior to the scheduled public hearing to ensure any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83160390396?pwd=CWWbbekWdb3bz3wrEbBZ83GjXmJxnS.1>

Meeting ID: 831 6039 0396

Passcode: 379683

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One tap mobile

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- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
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- +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 507 473 4847 US
- +1 564 217 2000 US
- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
- +1 689 278 1000 US
- +1 719 359 4580 US
- +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 360 209 5623 US
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Individuals wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before **September 25, 2024**, to the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30301-1966. You may also email comments to Danisha Williams, [danwilliams@dch.ga.gov](mailto:danwilliams@dch.ga.gov) or fax to 404-651-6880.

Comments submitted will be available for review by submitting a request via email to Danisha Williams, [danwilliams@dch.ga.gov](mailto:danwilliams@dch.ga.gov).

If the proposed changes are presented to the Board for final action, relevant comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board. The Board expects to vote on the proposed changes at the Board meeting to be held on **October 10, 2024** at 10:30 a.m. at the Department of Community Health unless withdrawn or withheld by the Department for further review.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2024**  
**Russel Carlson, Commissioner**