

## 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.

### **Revised CMS Long Stay Quality Measures Utilized to Determine the Supplemental Quality Incentive Payments Made to Eligible Nursing Facilities in SFY 2025 And SFY 2026**

The Department of Community Health (DCH) is revising the CMS Long Stay Quality Measures utilized to determine the supplemental quality incentive payments made to eligible skilled nursing facilities during SFY 2025 and SFY 2026. Incentive payments will be paid to eligible skilled nursing facilities that demonstrate improvement in the quality of care rendered to its Medicaid beneficiaries.

This change will not impact the funding allotted for eligible nursing facilities, which remains as follows:

	<b>State Funds</b>	<b>Federal Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
SFY 2025	\$12,000,000	\$24,253,776	\$36,253,776
SFY 2026	\$12,000,000	\$24,253,776	\$36,253,776

On August 12, 2021, DCH notified interested stakeholders, via its public notice process, that skilled nursing facilities that demonstrated improvement in at least one or more of the following 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:

- Percent of high-risk long-stay residents with pressure ulcers
- Percent of long-stay residents who received antianxiety or hypnotic medication
- Percent of long-stay residents who received antipsychotic medication
- Percent of long-stay residents with a urinary tract infection

### **Revised CMS Long Stay Quality Measures for Calendar Year 2024 with Payout in SFY2025**

In October 2023, CMS discontinued use of the “high-risk long stay residents with pressure ulcers” measure. Consequently, DCH will discontinue its validation of the “high-risk long stay residents with pressure ulcers” measure for the calendar year 2023 to 2024 comparison. The supplemental payment issued during SFY 2025 will be based on the percentage of improvement ranked by decile for each of the three categories listed below for calendar year 2024<sup>1</sup>:

- Percent of long-stay residents who received antianxiety or hypnotic medication
- Percent of long-stay residents who received antipsychotic medication
- Percent of long-stay residents with a urinary tract infection

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<sup>1</sup> CMS Long Stay Quality Measures may be accessed by selecting the following link: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality/nursing-home-improvement/quality-measures>

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.*

**Revised CMS Long Stay Quality Measures for Calendar Year 2025 with Payout in SFY2026**

During calendar year 2025, nursing facilities must demonstrate improvement in at least one or more of the following four categories (as compared to calendar year 2024) in order to be eligible to receive a supplemental payment in SFY 2026.

- Percent of long-stay residents who lose too much weight
- Percent of long-stay residents with a urinary tract infection
- Percent of long-stay residents who received antipsychotic medication
- Percent of long-stay residents experiencing one or more falls with major injury

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).<sup>2</sup> Supplemental payments will be distributed to eligible nursing facilities once per year. The base year will be adjusted annually to reflect improvement against the prior year. For example, CY2024 will be paid out against improvement from CY2023, CY2025 would be paid out against improvement from CY2024, and CY2026 will be paid out against improvement from 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.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 14<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024**  
**Russel Carlson, Commissioner**

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<sup>2</sup> During the September 12, 2024 DCH Board meeting, DCH received approval from its Board to revise the CMS Long Stay Quality Measures utilized to determine the supplemental quality incentive payment made to eligible skilled nursing facilities on an annual basis. DCH also received approval to revise its payment distribution methodology. The public notice may be accessed by selecting the following link: <https://dch.georgia.gov/meetings-notice/public-notice>.