SNF/NF and ICF/IID LTC Provider Call; Revised Testing and Visitation Guidance; Update SNF QRP Reporting Program; Quality Measure Rating Threshold Changes; Expanded Medicare Nursing Home Ownership Data; Upcoming Telligen Event

September 28, 2022

Save the Date! SNF/NF and ICF/IID LTC Provider Call

Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2022

Time: 1-2 pm CT

The access information will be sent out the week of the call.

Intended Audience: Nursing/Skilled Nursing AND ICF/IID

Please Note, ICF/IID facilities should make plans to attend the 1 p.m. call.

Infection Control staff, and clinical staff responsible for implementing the guidance, are strongly encouraged to attend these calls.

Revised Testing and Visitation Guidance

CMS recently distributed revised testing guidance included in QSO-20-38-NH Revised 09/23/22, and updated guidance for face coverings and masks during visits included in QSO-20-39-NH Revised 09/23/22.

The Oklahoma State Department of Health, LTC Survey Department, is removing the Provider Grids from the LTC COVID Resource webpage for further review in order to align with the current guidance. If a facility is in outbreak, follow the Standards of Care for Infection Prevention and Control, as well as facility policy and procedures.

For complete information regarding the revised CMS guidance review the following QSO Memos:

QSO-20-38-NH REVISED 09/23/2022 (cms.gov)

QSO-20-39-NH REVISED 09/23/2022 (cms.gov)

Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting Program (SNF QRP)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting Program (SNF QRP) requires SNFs to submit quality measure and standardized resident assessment data elements to CMS. For a given data submission period, the Minimum Data Set (MDS) assessments submitted by a SNF must meet the Annual Payment Update (APU) minimum submission threshold of no less than 80 percent of the MDS assessments having 100 percent completion of the required SNF QRP data elements.

Review the reference table which indicates the MDS data elements used in determining the APU minimum submission threshold for the FY 2024 SNF QRP determinations. An "X" in the table indicates the valid assessment type and data collection reporting periods.

For detailed measure specifications, please refer to SNF QRP QM User's Manual V3.0.

Quality Measure Rating Threshold Changes

On September 21, 2022, CMS sent out a notification regarding Post-Acute Care Quality Measure Rating Threshold changes that will occur with the October 22nd refresh.

In March 2019, CMS released memorandum QSO-19-08-NH, which outlined a plan to update the quality measure (QM) rating thresholds every six months. The plan was to increase the thresholds by 50% of the average rate of improvement in QM rating scores. For example, if there is an average rate of improvement of 2%, the QM rating thresholds would be raised 1%. Similar to setting new thresholds, this action also aims to incentivize continuous quality improvement. Additionally, it reduces the need to have larger adjustments to the thresholds in the future. Due to COVID 19, these updates were put on hold; however, CMS began implementing them in April 2022, and plans to update them again with the October 2022 refresh. CMS will also release a new Five-Star Quality Rating System Technical Users' Guide with the updated QM rating thresholds in October.

Expanded Medicare Nursing Home Ownership Data

On September 26, 2022, CMS released notification they are making additional data publicly available that will provide more information about the ownership of all Medicare-certified nursing homes. This data will, for the first time, give state licensing officials, state and federal law enforcement, researchers, and the public an enhanced ability to identify common owners of nursing homes across nursing home locations. This information can be linked to other data sources to identify the performance of facilities under common ownership, such as owners affiliated with multiple nursing homes with a record of poor performance.

The data file on nursing home ownership will be posted to data.cms.gov and updated monthly to help researchers, states, regulators and others analyze how ownership of particular nursing homes or groups of nursing homes impacts the quality of care nursing home residents receive. The new nursing home ownership data will also be accessible to consumers through a link in the ownership section of Care Compare on the Medicare.gov website with the next update of the website on September 28th.

For more information on the HHS data release, including publicly available data files, please visit: Skilled Nursing Facility and Ownership Data here:

https://data.cms.gov/provider-characteristics/hospitals-and-other-facilities/skilled-nursing-facility-enrollments

Save the Date! Upcoming Telligen Event

On October 5 at 1 pm CT, Telligen, Oklahoma's Quality Improvement Organization, will host a webinar: "Monkeypox Clinical Presentation and Pain Management: What Healthcare Providers Need to Know." The webinar will feature up-to-date information for preventing the spread of monkeypox (MPX) in healthcare facilities. The presentation will discuss proactive strategies for providing care to all individuals, including vulnerable populations, who are at risk of contracting the MPX virus. Telligen's expert, Heather Jones, DNP, NP-C, will provide hospital and nursing home staff with an overview of MPX, including the basics of the disease and what is known about how to decrease transmission in healthcare settings. In addition, Joshua Blum, MD, will discuss potential wound and neuropathic pain management strategies that may aid in the supportive treatment of patients diagnosed with MPX.

Access registration information via Telligen's flyer.

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