




DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Nursing Home Transmittal No. 276
September 23, 2020

To: Nursing Facility Administrators

From: Marlana R. Hutchinson, Director 
Office of Long Term Services and Supports

Subject: Changes to Maryland Medicaid's Nursing Facility Pay-for-Performance Program

Note: Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal.

The purpose of this transmittal is to notify nursing facilities of changes to the Maryland Department of Health's ("Department") Pay-for-Performance (P4P) program effective July 1, 2020.

The 2019 Joint Chairmen's Report (JCR) requested the Department to submit a plan to make the following modifications to its P4P program:

- A. Increase the size of the total award from 0.5 percent to 1.0 percent of the total nursing facility provider reimbursement;
- B. Refocus the program on reportable resident outcomes; and
- C. Include incentives and disincentives.

In order to address the requirements of the JCR, the Department convened a workgroup to review and recommend updates to the current P4P model. The workgroup focused on each of the quality measures as well as on the calculation of the total award and the distribution of the award. As a result of the workgroup's review and recommendations, the Department has made the following modifications to the P4P model:

Changes to Quality Measures

- A. Staffing Levels
 - Discontinue the use of the Wage Survey and replace it with the Payroll Based Journal.

B. Staffing Stability

- Replace the Wage Survey with a requirement that providers submit staffing longevity data in accordance with the format and instructions attached to this transmittal ; and
- Decrease the maximum points from 20 to 15.

C. Family Satisfaction Survey

- Decrease the maximum points from 40 to 30; and
- Add “Activities” as a specific domain.

D. Minimum Data Set

- Increase the maximum points from 16 to 30;
- Discontinue the use of “Percent of Residents Who Were Physically Restrained” as a category; and
- Add “Percent of Residents With Fall Resulting in Major Injury” as a category.

E. Infection Control Professional

- Discontinue the use of this quality measure.

F. Staff Immunizations

- Increase the threshold for award from 80 percent to 90 percent; and
- Increase the number of points for facilities achieving 95 percent or greater from 2 points to 5 points.

A chart detailing these changes is included as an attachment to this transmittal.

Calculation and Distribution of the Total Award

The Department has also modified the total award amount and manner of distribution as follows:

- A. The total award is increased from 0.5 percent to 1.0 percent of the annual budget allocation for nursing facility services.
- B. Eighty-five (85) percent of the total award is distributed to the highest-ranking facilities. Awards will be allocated among facilities representing 40 percent rather than 35 percent of the eligible days of care, potentially increasing the number of facilities receiving the award.

Authority

The Department has promulgated amendments to COMAR 10.09.10 and the Medicaid State Plan in order to implement these changes for performance and improvement awards that will be distributed in State Fiscal Year 2021.

Questions regarding this transmittal may be directed to Jarrod Terry at (410) 767-4757 / jarrod.terry@maryland.gov or Jane Sacco at (410) 767-6771 / janesacco@maryland.gov.

cc: Nursing Facility Liaison Committee

Attachments (3):

1. Pay for Performance Model – Changes Effective July 1, 2020
2. MDH Nursing Facility Pay-for-Performance Program Staff Stability Form
3. MDH Nursing Facility Pay-for-Performance Program Staff Stability Instructions