Overview of the
Early Look Performance Score Report for the Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing (SNF VBP) Program

Hosted by: Outpatient Quality Program Systems and Stakeholder Support

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Webinar Chat Questions

Please submit any questions that are pertinent to the webinar topic via the Chat tool. As time permits, we will answer these questions at the end of the webinar. Pertinent questions not answered will be addressed in a questions-and-answers document, to be published at a later date.

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If you have an additional question after this event, submit your question to the SNF VBP Program Help Desk at SNFVBP@rti.org. Include the webinar name, slide number, and speaker name.

If you have a question unrelated to the current webinar topic, we recommend that you first review the CMS website for general information regarding the SNF VBP Program: https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality/nursing-home-improvement/value-based-purchasing. If you do not find an answer, then submit your question to the SNF VBP Program Help Desk.

We will respond to questions as soon as possible.

Speakers

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Moderated by:
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Purpose

This event will provide an overview of the SNF VBP Program's new Early Look Performance Score Reports (Early Look Reports) for fiscal year (FY) 2026, including:

- The data used, and the methodology employed, to model results
- The contents of the Early Look Reports
- How to access your facility's Early Look Report

Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Understand the quality measures and methodology adopted for the FY 2026 SNF VBP Program

- Interpret the results included in the Early Look Reports

- Understand how to access and review your facility's Early Look Report

Acronyms

CCSQ	Center for Clinical Standards and Quality	**ID**	identification
CE	continuing education	**IPM**	incentive payment multiplier
CMS	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services	**iQIES**	Internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System
DCPAC	Division of Chronic and Post Acute Care	**QIES**	Quality Improvement and Evaluation System
DVIQR	Division of Value, Incentives, and Quality Reporting	**QMVIG**	Quality Measurement and Value-Based Incentives Group
FFS	fee-for-service	**PPS**	Prospective Payment System
FY	fiscal year	**SNF**	skilled nursing facility
HAI	healthcare-acquired infection	**SNF HAI**	Skilled Nursing Facility Healthcare-Associated Infections Requiring Hospitalization measure
HARP	HCQIS Access Role and Profile	**SNFRM**	SNF 30-Day All-Cause Readmission Measure
HCQIS	Health Care Quality Information Systems	**VBP**	value-based purchasing
HQR	Hospital Quality Reporting		

Nikkilyn Morrison, SNF VBP Program Researcher, DVIQR Program Support Contractor

Looking Ahead to the Changes for the FY 2026 SNF VBP Program

Program Background

- The SNF VBP Program awards incentive payments to SNFs to encourage SNFs to improve the quality of care they provide to patients
  - CMS applies incentive payments prospectively to all Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) Part A claims paid under the SNF Prospective Payment System (PPS) for the applicable Program year (beginning October 1)
  - The SNF VBP Program began awarding incentive payments in FY 2019

- All SNFs paid under Medicare's SNF PPS are subject to the SNF VBP Program
  - Inclusion does not require any action on the part of SNFs

Program Background

- Statute specifies that, under the SNF VBP Program, SNFs:
  - Are evaluated by their performance on quality measures
  - Are scored on both improvement and achievement
  - Receive quarterly confidential feedback reports containing information about their performance
  - Earn incentive payments based on their performance

Program Background

- To date, performance in the SNF VBP Program is based on a single measure of all-cause hospital readmissions
- CMS adopted additional quality measures in the FY 2023 and FY 2024 SNF PPS final rules for future Program years

- The expanded SNF VBP Program will begin in the FY 2026 Program year
  - CMS will apply incentive payments for performance in the FY 2026 Program year beginning October 1, 2025

Overview of FY 2026 Program Year

- For the FY 2026 Program year, CMS will assess SNF performance on **four quality measures**:
  - SNF 30-Day All-Cause Readmission Measure (SNFRM)
  - Skilled Nursing Facility Healthcare-Associated Infections Requiring Hospitalization measure (SNF HAI)
  - Total Nursing Staff Turnover measure (Nursing Staff Turnover)
  - Total Nursing Hours per Resident Day measure (Total Nurse Staffing)

Overview of FY 2026 Program Year

- Similar to prior years of the SNF VBP Program, CMS will:
  - Calculate measure results during a baseline period (FY 2022) and performance period (FY 2024) for each SNF

Quality measure	FY 2026 Program year	
	Baseline period	Performance period
SNFRM	FY 2022 (10/01/2021–9/30/2022)	FY 2024 (10/01/2023–9/30/2024)
SNF HAI	FY 2022 (10/01/2021–9/30/2022)	FY 2024 (10/01/2023–9/30/2024)
Nursing Staff Turnover	FY 2022 (10/01/2021–9/30/2022)	FY 2024 (10/01/2023–9/30/2024)
Total Nurse Staffing	FY 2022 (10/01/2021–9/30/2022)	FY 2024 (10/01/2023–9/30/2024)

Overview of FY 2026 Program Year

- Similar to prior years of the SNF VBP Program, CMS will:
  - Score each SNF on achievement and improvement for each quality measure
- *New* to the expanded SNF VBP Program, CMS will:
  - Calculate measure scores for each measure for each SNF (0-10 points, higher is better)
  - Combine measure scores to calculate an overall performance score for each SNF (0-100 points, higher is better)

Overview of FY 2026 Program Year

- Similar to prior years of the SNF VBP Program, CMS will:
  - Calculate an incentive payment multiplier (IPM) for each SNF based on a SNF's performance score and the overall estimated incentive payment pool
  - Apply each SNF's IPM prospectively
    - When CMS makes payments for a SNF's Medicare FFS Part A claims in FY 2026 (beginning October 1, 2025), the adjusted federal per diem rate will be multiplied by the SNF's IPM

Nikkilyn Morrison, SNF VBP Program Researcher, DVIQR Program Support Contractor

Review the Early Look Performance Score Reports

Purpose of the Early Look Reports

- The Early Look Reports are confidential and *intended for informational purposes only*

- The reports are intended to familiarize SNFs with the expanded FY 2026 SNF VBP Program, including:
  - The format of the official Performance Score Report that will be distributed in 2025
  - The scoring and payment methodology that will be applied

Purpose of the Early Look Reports

- The reports inform SNFs of their historical quality measure performance during FY 2021 and FY 2022

- Using this historical measure data, the reports **model** performance in the FY 2026 SNF VBP Program year

- The reports **do not** reflect official performance in the SNF VBP Program

- The reports **will not** impact incentive payments to SNFs
  - CMS will share official performance information for the FY 2026 Program year, calculated using updated measure results from FY 2022 and FY 2024, at a later date in 2025

Overview of the Early Look Reports

- The Early Look Reports contain six worksheets:
  - o Introduction
  - o Overview of Performance
  - o Measure Results
  - o Measure Scores
  - o Performance Score
  - o Incentive Payment Multiplier

Worksheet 1 – Introduction

- The Introduction worksheet includes:
  - A brief summary of the expanded SNF VBP Program
  - A brief summary of the Early Look Reports and their purpose
  - A Table of Contents describing the subsequent worksheets
  - Links to additional resources and the SNF VBP Program Help Desk for questions

Worksheet 2 – Overview of Performance

- The Overview of Performance worksheet highlights key results, including:
  - Inclusion in the SNF VBP Program, as determined by the measure minimum policy requirement
  - Your SNF's incentive payment multiplier
  - Your SNF's measure results and measure scores
  - Performance comparisons to SNFs nationally and in your state

Worksheet 2 – Overview of Performance

Table 1. Your SNF's Program Eligibility and Performance

Is your SNF included in the SNF VBP Program? (i.e., met measure minimum?)	Yes
Your SNF's Incentive Payment Multiplier (IPM)	1.0176781844
Interpretation of Your SNF's IPM	Your IPM is >1, meaning your SNF would earn back more than it would have in the absence of the SNF VBP Program
Your SNF's Program Percent Rank, National	Your SNF's overall performance was equal to or better than 98% of SNFs nationwide
Your SNF's Program Percent Rank, State	Your SNF's overall performance was equal to or better than 97% of SNFs in your state

Worksheet 2 – Overview of Performance

Table 2. Measure Performance and Scores

Measure	Your SNF's Baseline Period Measure Result	Your SNF's Performance Period Measure Result	Compared to the Baseline Period, Your SNF's Performance Period Measure Result is... [a]	Your SNF's Measure Score (0 - 10; higher is better)	Your SNF's Measure Score is...
Skilled Nursing Facility 30-Day All-Cause Readmission Measure (SNFRM)	19.65%	18.31%	better	7.11360	equal to or better than 81% of SNFs nationwide
Skilled Nursing Facility Healthcare-Associated Infections Requiring Hospitalization (SNF HAI)	6.21%	4.60%	better	10.00000	equal to or better than 100% of SNFs nationwide
Total Nursing Staff Turnover	93.61%	31.31%	better	8.89103	equal to or better than 94% of SNFs nationwide
Total Nursing Hours per Resident Day	5.03 nursing hours per resident day	4.64 nursing hours per resident day	worse	4.99223	equal to or better than 88% of SNFs nationwide

Worksheet 3 – Measure Results

- The Measure Results worksheet summarizes your SNF's measure results for all four quality measures, including:

  o Baseline period (FY 2021) case counts and measure results

  o Performance period (FY 2022) case counts and measure results

  o Guidance to interpret measure results

  *Reminder: the Early Look Reports use historical measure data to model performance in the expanded SNF VBP Program. The reports **do not** reflect official performance in the FY 2026 SNF VBP Program.*

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Worksheet 3 – Measure Results

Table 3. Your SNF's Measure Results

Measure [a]	Your SNF's Baseline Period Case Count [b,c]	Met Case Minimum Requirement During Baseline Period? [d]	Your SNF's Performance Period Case Count [b,c]	Met Case Minimum Requirement During Performance Period? [d]	Measure Result Interpretation	Your SNF's Baseline Period Measure Result [b]	Your SNF's Performance Period Measure Result [b]
Skilled Nursing Facility 30-Day All-Cause Readmission Measure (SNFRM)	47 eligible stays	Yes	55 eligible stays	Yes	A lower (↓) result indicates better performance	19.65%	18.31%
Skilled Nursing Facility Healthcare-Associated Infections Requiring Hospitalization (SNF HAI)	51 eligible stays	Yes	70 eligible stays	Yes	A lower (↓) result indicates better performance	6.21%	4.60%
Total Nursing Staff Turnover	278 eligible nursing staff	Yes	210 eligible nursing staff	Yes	A lower (↓) result indicates better performance	93.61%	31.31%
Total Nursing Hours per Resident Day	209 average residents per day	Yes	197 average residents per day	Yes	A higher (↑) result indicates better performance	5.03 nursing hours per resident day	4.64 nursing hours per resident day

Worksheet 4 – Measure Scores

- The Measure Scores worksheet summarizes your SNF's scores for all four quality measures, including:
  - Achievement scores (0-10, higher is better)
  - Improvement scores (0-9, higher is better)
  - Measure scores (0-10, higher is better)

Worksheet 4 – Measure Scores

Table 4. Your SNF's Measure Score Calculations

Measure	Your SNF's Baseline Period Measure Result [a]	Your SNF's Performance Period Measure Result [a]	Your SNF's Achievement Score (0 - 10; higher is better)	Your SNF's Improvement Score (0 - 9; higher is better)	Your SNF's Measure Score (0 - 10; higher is better)
Skilled Nursing Facility 30-Day All-Cause Readmission Measure (SNFRM)	19.65%	18.31%	7.11360	4.89204	7.11360
Skilled Nursing Facility Healthcare-Associated Infections Requiring Hospitalization (SNF HAI)	6.21%	4.60%	10.00000	9.00000	10.00000
Total Nursing Staff Turnover	93.61%	31.31%	8.46434	8.89103	8.89103
Total Nursing Hours per Resident Day	5.03 nursing hours per resident day	4.64 nursing hours per resident day	4.99223	0.00000	4.99223

Worksheet 5 – Performance Score

- The Performance Score worksheet summarizes your SNF's overall performance across all four quality measures
  - It includes high-level information regarding:
    - Inclusion in the SNF VBP Program, as determined by the measure minimum policy requirement
    - Each measure score's contribution to the overall performance score
    - Your SNF's performance score
    - Your SNF's national program rank

Worksheet 5 – Performance Score

Table 5. Measure Minimum Requirement

Number of Measures Required for SNF VBP Program Eligibility [a]	2 of 4
Your SNF's Number of Measures Receiving a Measure Score	4 of 4
Measure Minimum Met?	Yes

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Worksheet 5 – Performance Score

Table 6. Your SNF's Performance Score Calculation

Measure	Your SNF's Measure Score (0 - 10; higher is better)	Maximum Possible Score	Contribution to Performance Score [b,c]
Skilled Nursing Facility 30-Day All-Cause Readmission Measure (SNFRM)	7.11360	10.00000	17.78401
Skilled Nursing Facility Healthcare-Associated Infections Requiring Hospitalization (SNF HAI)	10.00000	10.00000	25.00000
Total Nursing Staff Turnover	8.89103	10.00000	22.22759
Total Nursing Hours per Resident Day	4.99223	10.00000	12.48057
Sum of All Eligible Measures	**30.99687**	**40.00000**	**77.49216**

Worsheet 5 – Performance Score

Table 7. Your SNF's Performance Score and National Rank

Your SNF's Performance Score (0 - 100; higher is better) [d]	77.49216
Your SNF's Program National Rank (out of 13,720 SNFs) [d]	295

Worksheet 6 – Incentive Payment Multiplier

- The Incentive Payment Multiplier worksheet includes your SNF's modeled incentive payment multiplier
    - When CMS makes payments for a SNF's Medicare FFS Part A claims in the applicable Program year, CMS would multiply the adjusted federal per diem rate by the SNF's incentive payment multiplier

    *Reminder: the Early Look Reports use historical measure data to model performance in the expanded SNF VBP Program. The reports **will not** impact incentive payments to SNFs.*

Worksheet 6 – Incentive Payment Multiplier

Table 8. Your SNF's Performance Score and Incentive Payment Multiplier

Program Year	FY 2026
Your SNF's Performance Score (0-100; higher is better) [a]	77.49216
Your SNF's Incentive Payment Multiplier (IPM) [a,b]	**1.0176781844**

How to Access the Early Look Reports

- Each SNF can access their Early Look Report directly in the Internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (iQIES) at https://iqies.cms.gov/

How to Access the Early Look Reports

- To access your SNF's Early Look Report in iQIES:
  - Log into iQIES at https://iqies.cms.gov/ using a Health Care Quality Information Systems (HCQIS) Access Roles and Profile (HARP) user ID and password.
    - If you do not have a HARP account, you may register for a HARP ID at https://harp.cms.gov/register/profile-info.
  - In the **Reports** menu, select **My Reports**.
  - From the **My Reports** page, select the **MDS 3.0 Provider Preview Reports** folder.
  - Here you can see the list of reports available for download. Locate the SNF VBP Program Early Look Report (file name format: **SNFVBP_[CCN]_FY26_ELR_Apr2024.xlsx**).
  - Once located, select **More** next to the report file name and the report will be downloaded through your browser. Once downloaded, open the file to view your facility's report.

How to Access the Early Look Reports

- For help obtaining access to the Early Look Reports in iQIES, contact the QIES/iQIES Service Center by phone at (800) 339-9313 or by email at iqies@cms.hhs.gov

Additional Resources

- Additional information regarding the Early Look Reports is available on the CMS website, including:
  - A [Fact Sheet](#) providing a two-page overview of the reports and methodology
  - A [User Guide](#) providing a detailed review of the contents of the reports
  - An [Infographic](#) detailing how CMS calculated the IPM in the Early Look Report

Additional Resources

- General information regarding the SNF VBP Program, including details about:
  - Recent announcements,
  - Quarterly confidential feedback reports,
  - Quality measures,
  - Scoring methodology,
  - Public reporting, and more,

  is available on the CMS website at https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality/nursing-home-improvement/value-based-purchasing

Additional Resources

- For questions about the SNF VBP Program, email the SNF VBP Program Help Desk at SNFVBP@rti.org
- For help obtaining access to the Early Look Reports in iQIES, contact the QIES/iQIES Service Center by phone at (800) 339-9313 or by email at iqies@cms.hhs.gov

Questions

Continuing Education (CE) Approval

This program has been approved for [CE credit](#) for the following boards:

- **National credit**
  - o Board of Registered Nursing (Provider #16578)
- **Florida-only credit**
  - o Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage & Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling
  - o Board of Registered Nursing
  - o Board of Nursing Home Administrators
  - o Board of Dietetics and Nutrition Practice Council
  - o Board of Pharmacy

Note: To verify CE approval for any other state, license, or certification, please check with your licensing or certification board.

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