

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 2027

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 2027. 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:

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

On September 12, 2024, DCH notified interested stakeholders, via its public notice process, that DCH would identify the CMS Long Stay Quality Measures to be utilized to determine the supplemental quality incentive payments made to eligible nursing facilities during the upcoming calendar year.¹ Skilled nursing facilities that demonstrate improvement in at least one or more of the following categories are eligible for a supplemental payment.

Revised CMS Long Stay Quality Measures for Calendar Year 2026 with Payout in SFY2027

During calendar year 2026, nursing facilities must demonstrate improvement in at least one or more of the following four categories (as compared to calendar year 2025) in order to be eligible to receive a supplemental payment in SFY 2027.

- 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).² Supplemental payments will be distributed to eligible nursing facilities

¹ The public notice may be accessed by selecting the following link: <https://dch.georgia.gov/meetings-notices/public-notices>

² 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

once per year. The base year will be adjusted annually to reflect improvement against the prior year. For example, CY2025 will be paid out against improvement from CY2024, CY2026 would be paid out against improvement from CY2025, and CY2027 will be paid out against improvement from CY2026.

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 30th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2025
Dean Burke, MD, Commissioner

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>.