



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
*Aging and Long-Term Support Administration*  
*PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600*

October 27, 2023

**AL TSA: NH #2023-036**

**UPDATES TO NURSING HOME CARE COMPARE STAFFING AND QUALITY MEASURES**

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

We are writing to inform providers of changes to the Five Star Rating System Quality Measures for nursing homes related to precise staffing data.

In 2008, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) added the Five-Star Quality Rating System to the CMS Nursing Home Compare website. Over the years CMS has been improving the system. This update includes new guidance related to staffing and the connection with payroll based journal and quality measures derived from the minimum data set

However, due to forthcoming changes in the Minimum Data Set, including the elimination of Section G and its replacement with Section GG items in October 2023, adjustments are required to maintain the relevance and accuracy of staffing and quality measures. It's important to note that these changes are distinct from a proposed rule regarding new minimum staffing requirements, and CMS will address comments related to the proposed rule through a separate rule-making process.

On September 20, 2023, CMS released [QSO-23-21-NH](#), discussing these new changes including:

- Adjustment to Staffing and Quality Measures:
  - CMS is updating staffing and Quality Measures (QMs) to align with changes in the Minimum Data Set (MDS).
  - The CMS-672 form is being discontinued as Section G MDS data, which it relied on, is eliminated.
  - The staffing rating methodology is revised to penalize providers for inaccurate or missing staffing data.

If you have any questions, please contact Molly McClintock, Nursing Home Policy Program Manager, at (360) 742-6966 or [molly.mcclintock@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:molly.mcclintock@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Amy Abbott, Director  
Residential Care Services

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