

The Least You Need to Know:

SNF Five Star Measure specifications have been updated in 2022. The technical specifications show that when a resident in the facility is receiving hospice, the SNF is protected from a negative outcome on their five-star measures.

The hospice industry recognizes all the advantages they bring to the patients, families and the SNF when caring for patients who reside in a nursing facility. The hospice provides for professional management of the patient's care plan, pays for all needs related to the terminal prognosis- including medications, DME, oxygen, and provides additional supportive care for personal care.

When asking a group of SNFs at a conference this week, "What is the benefit you receive when your patient elects hospice?," several people shouted "They manage the difficult families!"

Yes, hospices are good at a number of things, including playing coach and referee! One more benefit—SNF's quality measures are impacted positively by the exclusion of any patient who either receives hospice during their care at the facility, or is discharged to the hospice benefit.

(EXEMPTION when "O0100K2"= "1"- Resident receiving hospice, or "Discharged to hospice")

Exclusions

Hospice offers exclusions from MDS-based measures in SNFs' Five Star Measures. The following measures are calculated based on a patient population that EXCLUDES any patients receiving hospice during their stay at the SNF, or are discharged to hospice.

1. **SNF Functional Outcome Measure:**
Discharge Self-Care (Met or exceeded DC Goals for the ADLs in GG0130s) Score for Skilled Nursing Facility Residents (NQF #2635)
2. **SNF Functional Outcome Measure:**
Discharge Mobility (Met or exceeded DC Goals for Mobility in GG0170s) Score for Skilled Nursing Facility Residents (NQF #2636)
3. **SNF Functional Outcome Measure:**
Change in Self-Care Score (Normalized, or "average" improvement in the ADL GG0130s) for Skilled Nursing Facility Residents (NQF #2633)
4. **SNF Functional Outcome Measure:**
Change in Mobility Score (Normalized, or "average" improvement in the ADL GG0170s) for Skilled Nursing Facility Residents (NQF #2634)
Percent of Residents Who Lose Too Much Weight (NQF #0689)
5. **Percent of Residents Who Used** Antianxiety or Hypnotic Medication
6. **Percent of Residents Who Made** Improvements in Function
7. **Claims based quality measure of rehospitalization** for Medicare patients uses a "risk adjustment" covariate of "Hospice Care after Nursing Home Admission"



Actions of a Prudent Hospice™

ONE. Educate the team on the CMS quality measures in SNFs, as well as the Hospice quality measures programs.

TWO. Develop talking points and/or marketing tools for SNF/NF partners to discuss the impact of having patients utilize hospice services.

THREE. Embrace and thank our current SNF/NF partners for the continued coordinated care plan- and share with them the impact of using hospice when patients are declining, and how this protects their five star rating.

Link to More Information

MDS 3.0 QM User's Manual

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality-initiatives-patient-assessment-instruments/nursinghomequalityinits/nhqqualitymeasures>

