



Today, CMS announced changes to the Five-Star Quality Rating System that will take effect on February 20, 2015. The changes will likely impact a number of our members' ratings, resulting in a loss of one or two stars.

NOTE: CMS will provide a preview of each center's new ratings on Friday, February 13, starting around noon. Information on how you can access your preview data is included below.

The changes announced will impact how CMS assigns stars for both the Staffing and Quality Measure components, which may impact a center's Overall rating. They also will add two new measures to the Quality Measure component: the short-stay antipsychotic measure and the long-stay antipsychotic measure that CMS has been using on Nursing Home Compare for the past several years.

Following is a summary of the changes to the Five-Star components:

- Overall Five-Star rating
 - No changes to methodology but changes to Staffing and Quality Measure (QM) components will impact your overall rating
- Survey component
 - No changes
- Staffing component
 - Changed how 3- and 4-Star ratings are determined on Staffing component.
 - Centers that have a 3-Star rating on both their RN and Direct Care Staffing will no longer receive 4 Stars but will now receive a 3-Star rating.
 - This also may impact a Center's Overall rating since a 4- or 5-Star rating on the Staffing component added one star to your Overall rating.
- Quality Measure component
 - Added two new Quality Measures to the current nine QMs
 - Short-Stay use of antipsychotics
 - Long-Stay use of antipsychotics
 - Rescaled the cut points for each star level on the Quality Measure component. CMS did not provide the new cut points on the call but will release this information shortly in the new technical user's manual.
 - This will result in many members losing one or two stars on the Quality Measure component. Since the QM component contributes to the Overall rating, a sizable number of centers may also lose a star on their Overall rating.

The February 2015 Five-Star Preview Report, which will reveal the effect of recalculation on your center's Five-Star rating, will be available for access through the Quality Improvement Evaluation System (QIES) and CASPER around noon on Friday, February 13.

Given the significance of these changes, and the potential for many of our members to lose a star as a result of the new calculations, we strongly encourage you to access your preview report as soon as possible to determine if your ratings will be affected.

Remember that your new Five-Star rating will not be available to the public until February 20. If your rating has changed, this will give you some time to prepare to communicate the changes -- and the reasons for them -- to key stakeholders. AHCA is developing template communication materials to assist you with this process. The materials will be available on the AHCA website by Monday, February 16, on the [Five-Star page](#). Members-only materials will require a login ID and password to access.

NOTE: AHCA has scheduled an all-member webinar for Friday, February 13, at 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time to go over the Five-Star changes in detail and answer members' questions.

AHCA Member Webinar on Five-Star

Friday, February 13, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. Eastern

Registration Link: <http://webinars.ahcancal.org/session.php?id=15440>

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACCESSING FIVE-STAR PREVIEW REPORTS:

You may access your Five-Star Preview Report online through the Quality Improvement Evaluation System (QIES). CMS uses the QIES for many purposes including MDS submission and access to CASPER reporting. Note that QIES is a secure access service and requires a user name and password in order to review information that has been posted by CMS. Your MDS Coordinator will have your facility's login information.

1. After logging into QIES, select the CASPER Reporting link located on your MDS State Welcome page.
2. Once in the CASPER Reporting system, click on the "Folders" button and access the Five-Star Report in your "st LTC facid" folder, where "st" is the 2-character postal code of the state in which your facility is located and "facid" is the state-assigned Facility ID of your facility.

If you need assistance in accessing your Five-Star preview data, call the QIES Help Desk at 1-800-339-9313

Click on the link for [directions](#) on how to obtain login credentials for QIES or visit the Five-Star page on the AHCA website.

We will continue to keep you posted as new information becomes available.

Best,



Mark Parkinson
President & CEO

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