

PROVIDER Bulletin



March 2025

This Provider Bulletin applies to the lines of business and provider types checked below:

PHP (Medicare) Primary Care Physicians Specialists
 PHC-CA (Medicaid) Hospitals Ancillary AHF Grants

Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) Skilled Nursing Facility Workforce Quality Incentive Program (WQIP)

In accordance with DHCS All Plan Letter (APL) 25-002, this communication serves as a notification from PHC California to applicable in-network providers concerning the Skilled Nursing Facility WQIP requirements.

As noted in DHCS APL 25-002, Managed Care Plans such as PHC California are responsible for SNF long-term care services pursuant to California Code W&I section 14184.201.

PHC California Skilled Nursing Facility WQIP policy outlines the following payment process:

SNF WQIP-Eligible Network Providers and Bed Days

WQIP-eligible providers include Freestanding SNF Level-B and Adult Freestanding Subacute Facility Level-B facilities eligible to participate in the Medi-Cal program and that furnish services under a Network Provider Agreement.

Pursuant to W&I section 14126.024(d) and (l)(3), freestanding pediatric subacute care facilities, intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled homes, distinct part facilities, and SNFs with 100% designated special treatment program beds are not eligible for SNF WQIP.

PHC California is responsible for determining if a Network Provider is eligible to participate in SNF WQIP.

SNF WQIP qualifying bed days are calendar days during which a Member receives SNF Level-B services inclusive of the first day of a Member's stay and excluding the day of discharge unless it is also the first day of stay, rendered during the Program Year (PY) and billed under a Network Provider Agreement with PHC California pursuant to applicable state and federal laws, regulations, and contractual terms for which Medi-Cal is the primary payer and where Medicare is no longer covering any portion of the bed day. PHC California will provide each of its SNF WQIP-eligible Network Provider with summary-level reporting on the number of qualifying bed days per PY.

SNF Level-B services are defined in Title 22 California Code of Regulations (CCR) sections 51123(a), 51511(b), 51535, and 51535.1 as applicable and include:

- SNF services as set forth in Title 22 CCR section 51123(a):
 - Room and board.
 - Nursing and related care services.

This Provider Bulletin is not intended to replace or conflict with any requirements outlined in your signed Agreement with AHF, PHC California or PHP. If you have any questions contact the Provider Relations Department at CAPR@aidhealth.org.

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- Commonly used items of equipment, supplies, and services as set forth in Title 22 CCR section 51511(b).
- Leave-of-absence days as set forth in Title 22 CCR section 51535.
- Bed holds as set forth in Title 22 CCR section 51535.1.

Payments to SNF WQIP-Eligible Network Providers

SNF WQIP payments will be made by PHC California to SNF WQIP-eligible Network Providers based on an interim and final per-diem amount calculated by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) in accordance with the preprint approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and DHCS' SNF WQIP Technical Program Guide.

For each PY, DHCS will aim to calculate quality scores and provide payment exhibits directing PHC California to pay the interim per diem amount during the first part of the CY following the Rating Period, and the final per diem amount during the second part of the CY following the Rating Period.

PHC California must make payments to SNF WQIP-eligible Network Providers for qualifying bed days within 45 calendar days of receiving payment exhibits from DHCS or within 30 calendar days of receiving a "Clean Claim" from the Provider, whichever is later.

SNF WQIP-eligible Network Providers may file a provider grievance with the Health Plan concerning their WQIP payments within three-hundred and sixty-five (365) calendar days of the development of a WQIP-related issue.

In accordance with the APL requirements, PHC California will hold a webinar twice per year for all contracted SNF WQIP-eligible Network Providers, with the opportunity to ask live questions.

At least 30 days before the webinar, PHC California will publish, on its website, the date and time of the SNF WQIP webinar with instructions to join and will subsequently notify DHCS and all SNF WQIP eligible Network Providers of the forthcoming webinar.

For further information concerning the DHCS SNF WQIP process, please visit the following DHCS and Plan hyperlinks listed below:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Pages/SNF-WQIP.aspx>

<https://www.PHC-CA.org/providers/wqip>

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If you have any questions or concerns regarding this authorization process change, please contact the Provider Relations department for further assistance at CAPR@aidhealth.org.

Thank you,

PHC-CA Provider Relations

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