

What is the Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing (SNF VBP) Program?

The **SNF VBP Program** is a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) program that awards incentive payments to skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) to encourage SNFs to improve the quality of care they provide to patients. For the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Program year, performance in the SNF VBP Program will be based on performance across four quality measures.



What is the Early Look Performance Score Report for FY 2026?

The Early Look Performance Score Report (Early Look Report) is intended to accomplish three goals for the newly expanded SNF VBP Program:

1. Familiarize SNFs with the planned format of the official Performance Score Report that will be distributed for the FY 2026 Program year.
2. Familiarize SNFs with the scoring and payment methodology that will be applied for the FY 2026 Program year.
3. Inform SNFs of their past performance on the four quality measures adopted for the FY 2026 Program year, and model performance for the FY 2026 SNF VBP Program year using this historical data.



Do the Early Look Reports affect my SNF's payments?

No. The Early Look Reports are intended for informational purposes only. The Early Look Reports use historical measure data to model performance in the expanded SNF VBP Program.

The data included in the Early Look Reports do not reflect your facility's official performance in the SNF VBP Program and will not impact your facility's payments; CMS will share official performance information for the FY 2026 Program year based on updated measure data at a later date.

Which quality measures are included in the Early Look Reports? What historical measure data were used to calculate measure results?



The Early Look Reports include historical measure results during a baseline period and a performance period for the four quality measures described in the table below. For additional, detailed information about these measures, please consult their respective technical reports linked in the table below.

Measure Name & Technical Report	What is the measure result?	What is the data source for this measure?	What is the measure's baseline period in the Early Look Report?	What is the measure's performance period in the Early Look Report?	What is the measure's case minimum? (see below)
SNF 30-Day All-Cause Readmission Measure (SNFRM)	This measure evaluates the annual risk-standardized rate of unplanned, all-cause hospital readmissions.	Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) Part A claims	FY 2021 (10/01/2020–9/30/2021)	FY 2022 (10/01/2021–9/30/2022)	25 eligible stays
Skilled Nursing Facility Healthcare-Associated Infections Requiring Hospitalization (SNF HAI)	This measure evaluates the annual risk-standardized rate of healthcare-associated infections requiring hospitalization that are acquired during SNF care.	Medicare FFS Part A claims	FY 2021 (10/01/2020–9/30/2021)	FY 2022 (10/01/2021–9/30/2022)	25 eligible stays
Total Nursing Staff Turnover (Nursing Staff Turnover)	This measure evaluates the annual turnover rate among eligible skilled nursing facility staff, including registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), and nurse aides.	CMS's Payroll-Based Journal (PBJ) system	FY 2021 (10/01/2020–9/30/2021)	FY 2022 (10/01/2021–9/30/2022)	5 eligible staff and 1 eligible stay
Total Nursing Hours per Resident Day (Total Nurse Staffing)	This measure evaluates the case-mix adjusted total nursing staff hours (including RNs, LPNs, and nurse aides) per a facility's aggregate count of a daily resident census.	CMS's PBJ system	FY 2021 (10/01/2020–9/30/2021)	FY 2022 (10/01/2021–9/30/2022)	25 average residents per day

What is the case minimum policy?



To receive a measure score in the Early Look Reports, SNFs must provide reportable data to CMS and must meet the applicable measure's case minimum during the performance period. This is known as the case minimum policy.

- If a SNF does not meet the case minimum for a particular measure during the performance period, that measure is not included in the calculation of a performance score or incentive payment multiplier.
- If a SNF does not meet the case minimum for a particular measure during the baseline period only, the SNF will only be scored on achievement; the SNF will not be scored on improvement, so the SNF's achievement score will equal their measure score.

How did CMS calculate the performance score and incentive payment multiplier in the Early Look Reports?

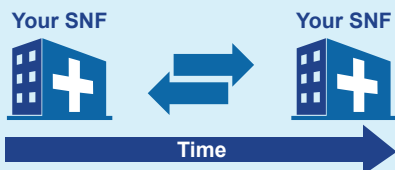


In the Early Look Reports, CMS calculated a performance score using historical measure data to model each SNF's overall performance across four quality measures. CMS also calculated an incentive payment multiplier to model each SNF's payment adjustment if performance were based on the historical measure data.

Step 1

After calculating measure results during a baseline period and a performance period for each measure, CMS calculated achievement, improvement, and measure scores for each measure for each SNF.

To calculate improvement scores, CMS compared a SNF's measure result in the performance period to that SNF's own past performance during the baseline period. Scores range from 0 to 9; higher scores are better.



To calculate achievement scores, CMS compared a SNF's measure result in the performance period to national SNF performance during the baseline period. Scores range from 0 to 10; higher scores are better.

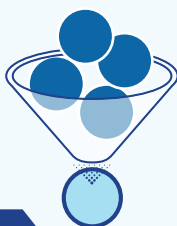


Step 2



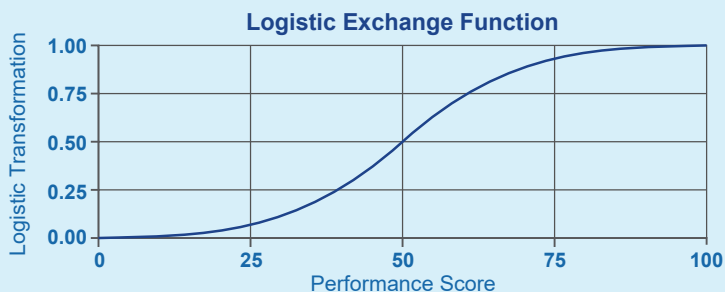
To calculate measure scores, CMS compared a SNF's achievement and improvement score for each measure; whichever score is higher becomes the SNF's measure score. Scores range from 0 to 10; higher scores are better.

Step 3



To calculate the performance score for each SNF, CMS normalized (that is, rescaled) each measure score and added all the normalized measure scores together. Normalizing measure scores confirms that all SNFs' performance scores are on a 100-point scale, regardless of the number of measure scores included in the performance score calculation. Performance scores range from 0 to 100; higher scores are better.

To calculate the incentive payment multiplier for each SNF, CMS transformed the performance scores for all SNFs using a logistic exchange function.



Using the transformed performance scores and an estimated incentive payment pool, CMS calculated each SNF's incentive payment adjustment and incentive payment multiplier.

The Early Look Reports do not include an official incentive payment multiplier and will not impact facilities' payments. However, when CMS makes payments for a SNF's Medicare FFS Part A claims in FY 2026, the adjusted federal per diem rate will be multiplied by the SNF's official incentive payment multiplier.

What is the measure minimum policy?



To receive a performance score and incentive payment multiplier in the Early Look Reports, for at least two of four measures, SNFs must (1) provide reportable data to CMS, and (2) meet the case minimum during the performance period. This is known as the measure minimum policy. SNFs that do not meet the measure minimum are excluded from the SNF VBP Program.

If a SNF does not meet the measure minimum in the FY 2026 Program year, payments to these SNFs will not be affected by the SNF VBP Program, and these SNFs will not receive a performance score or incentive payment multiplier for the FY 2026 Program year; instead, they will receive their adjusted federal per diem rate.

How can SNFs download their Early Look Report?



CMS provides all confidential feedback reports to SNFs through the [Internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System \(iQIES\)](#).

SNFs that have problems accessing their reports can contact the QIES/iQIES Service Center by phone at (800) 339-9313 or by email at iqies@cms.hhs.gov.

Can SNFs correct the results within their Early Look Reports?



The Early Look Reports are not eligible for the SNF VBP Program's Review and Correction process. The Early Look Reports are for informational purposes only. The historical measure data used to model performance in the newly expanded SNF VBP Program are not final and are subject to change; the scores and incentive payment multiplier within the Early Look Reports do not reflect facilities' official performance in the SNF VBP Program and **will not** impact facilities' payments.

CMS will share official performance information for the FY 2026 Program year based on updated measure data at a later date.

Will CMS publicly report the results included in the Early Look Reports?



No, the Early Look Reports are confidential, and the data will not be publicly reported on the [CMS-specified website](#) for public reporting.

Where can I go for more information?



For more information about the SNF VBP Program's Early Look Performance Score Reports for FY 2026, please see the Early Look Performance Score Report User Guide and the Early Look Performance Score Report Incentive Payment Multiplier Infographic, both of which are available on the [CMS website](#).

For more information about the SNF VBP Program, visit the [SNF VBP Program webpage on CMS.gov](#).

For questions about the SNF VBP Program, email the SNF VBP Program Help Desk at SNFVBP@rti.org.

For help obtaining access to your SNF's Early Look Report in iQIES, contact the QIES/iQIES Service Center by phone at (800) 339-9313 or by email at iqies@cms.hhs.gov.