

Fiscal Year 2026 Skilled Nursing Facilities Prospective Payment System Proposed Rule

On April 11, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued its fiscal year (FY) 2026 Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) Prospective Payment System (PPS) [proposed rule](#). Please find CMS' fact sheet [here](#) and NRHA's summary below.

NRHA will be commenting on the proposed rule. Comments are due June 10, 2025, via [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). If you have any questions or comments that you would like addressed in NRHA's response, please contact Alexa McKinley Abel (amckinley@ruralhealth.us) by May 27.

Major proposals include:

Payment rate. CMS proposes to update the SNF PPS rate by 2.8% in FY 2026.

SNF Quality Reporting Program (SNF QRP). CMS proposes the following changes to the SNF QRP:

- Removing four patient assessment data elements: One item for living situation, two items for “food security,” and one item for “utilities.”

CMS seeks input on future measure concepts regarding:

- Interoperability: CMS requests input and comments on approaches to assessing interoperability in SNFs.
- Well-being: CMS defines well-being as “a comprehensive approach to disease prevention and health promotion, as it integrates mental and physical health while emphasizing preventative care to proactively address potential health issues.” CMS is interested in tools and measures that assess overall health, happiness, and satisfaction in life that could include aspects of emotional well-being, social connections, purpose, fulfillment, and self-care.
- Nutrition: CMS requests input on tools and frameworks that promote healthy eating habits, appropriate exercise, nutrition, or physical activity for optimal health and well-being.
- Delirium: CMS states that delirium is an often under-detected, common complication of illness or injury that leads to negative health outcomes like frailty and cognitive impairment. CMS requests input on the applicability of measures that evaluate for the sudden, serious change in a person's mental state or altered state of consciousness that may be associated with underlying symptoms or conditions.

CMS also seeks feedback on shortening the SNF QRP reporting deadline from 4.5 months to 45 days. Currently, SNFs have 4.5 months after each quarterly data collection period to complete their data submissions. CMS is not proposing this change but seeking input for a potential future change.