Clinical quality indicators (QIs) are a key part of the Minnesota Nursing Home Quality System. Most of the MN QIs are based on the Federal Quality Indicator/Quality Measures (QI/QMs) to be consistent for providers, but all are improved in the following ways for quality reporting and improvement:

- The MN QIs are more comprehensive, including 26 QIs representing 10 care domains.
- Where appropriate, the QI definitions are changed to better reflect care quality:
  - All QIs that trigger when a resident gets worse or better now also trigger when they stay at the best or worst level in behavior, continence, and physical function.
  - Residents that are not clinically appropriate to look at are excluded from the definitions (for instance, mobility improvement for residents with quadriplegia).
- An annual rate is used for each QI to create a more stable and reliable number.
- All QIs have been risk-adjusted using a model developed by a University of Minnesota research team in collaboration with the MN Department of Human Services.

“How do I read this report?”

“Facility Score on 100- and 35-Point Scales” (Top of Report): These scores are the sum of your facility’s QI points. The maximum number of points is 100. The sum of points is then converted to a 35-point scale for use in the Quality Add-On to payment rates. The statewide average score on a 35-point scale is also given.

“Number of Missing QIs” (Top of Report): This is the number of QIs in your facility in which fewer than 10 or 20 residents (depending on the QI) were measured during the year. Because QI rates are not reliable for such a small number of residents, we do not report these results or include them in the Facility Score. (Note: Prior to October 2012, we inserted the state average for any missing QI and/or domain.)

“Current Rate for Full Points” (1st Column): 20% of all MN facilities did better than this Risk-Adjusted QI Rate.
- For the Positive QIs showing desirable care processes and/or outcomes, a higher rate is better, so if your facility’s Risk-Adjusted QI Rate is above this number the QI receives full points.
- For the Negative QIs showing undesirable care processes and/or outcomes, a lower rate is better, so if your facility’s Risk-Adjusted QI Rate is below this number the QI receives full points.

“Current Rate for No Points” (2nd Column): 10% of all MN facilities did worse than this Risk-Adjusted QI Rate.
- For the Positive QIs showing desirable care processes and/or outcomes, a higher rate is better, so if your facility’s Risk-Adjusted QI Rate is below this number the QI receives no points.
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Please note: These instructions apply to the QI reports provided directly to facilities.

- For the Negative QIs showing undesirable care processes and/or outcomes, a lower rate is better, so if your facility’s Risk-Adjusted QI Rate is above this number the QI receives no points.

“Observed Facility Rate” (3rd Column):
# of residents in your facility with QI condition during the year
# of residents in your facility eligible for the QI during the year

“Risk-Adjusted Facility Rate” (4th Column): Your facility’s Observed QI rate adjusted for residents’ health conditions or characteristics that facilities can’t control but that put the resident at risk for the QI process or outcome.

“Risk-Adjusted State Avg” (5th Column): The statewide average on each Risk-Adjusted QI; compare your facility’s rate to this column.

“Facility Rank on Risk-Adjusted Rate” (6th Column): Your facility’s rank on each Risk-Adjusted QI compared to the rest of the state. For all QIs, a lower number (e.g. “1 of 385”) is better.

“Domain Points – 10 Maximum” (7th Column): This is the sum of all points earned in each care domain, and is a good way to see how your facility is doing overall in each care area. If one or more QIs are missing, the domain score is rescaled to 10 points. If all QIs are missing, the domain is not counted and we rescale your facility’s total score to 100 points. (Note: Prior to October 2012, we inserted the state average for any missing QI and/or domain.)

“Facility QI Points” (8th Column): Your facility’s points earned on each Risk-Adjusted QI. To immediately identify QIs of particular interest for your facility, those earning full points are marked with a “happy face” while those earning no points are bolded and marked with a “sad face.”

“Possible QI Points” (9th Column): The maximum points possible on each Risk-Adjusted QI.

“What MDS items are included in each QI?”

For the definitions of each QI and its risk adjusters, log into the DHS Provider Portal website at https://nfportal.dhs.state.mn.us/ and click the MN Quality Indicators tab at the top of the screen, or visit the DHS public quality indicator website at http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/id_051946.

If you have any questions regarding the MN QI Reports, please contact:
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