

Top 10 Things You Should Know about the Skilled Nursing Facilities Readmission Measure (SNFRM)

The SNFRM is the measure used to evaluate SNFs in the SNF VBP Program. The program ties portions of SNFs payments to their performance on this measure, which is calculated by assessing the risk-standardized rate of all-cause, unplanned hospital readmissions for Medicare fee-for-service SNF patients within 30 days of discharge from a prior proximal hospitalization. Below are the top 10 things you should know about the SNFRM.

1. The SNFRM tracks **hospital** readmissions, **not** readmissions to the SNF. Hospital readmissions are identified through Medicare claims, so no readmission data is collected from SNFs and there are no additional reporting requirements for the SNFRM.
2. The SNFRM includes all Medicare fee-for-service Skilled Nursing Facility patients, with the exception of certain measure exclusions.
3. The SNFRM tracks readmissions within 30-days after discharge from a prior hospitalization, not discharge from the SNF. The readmission window starts on the day of or up to 24 hours after discharge from a prior hospitalization.
4. A prior hospitalization for the SNFRM's calculation is defined as an admission to an inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) hospital, critical access hospital (CAH), or psychiatric hospital.
5. As a reminder, the SNFRM does not assess the rate of readmission for SNF patients to a SNF following discharge. The measure instead assesses the rate of readmission of SNF patients to an IPPS hospital or CAH, either before or after discharge from the SNF, within 30 days of discharge from a prior hospitalization.
6. The SNFRM includes all unplanned readmissions. Unplanned admissions are identified using a modified version of the CMS Planned Readmissions Algorithm. Additional information on the measure's calculations may be found on the SNF VBP Program's website at: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Value-Based-Programs/Other-VBPs/SNF-VBP.html>.
7. The SNFRM is adjusted to account for patient differences, such as comorbidities, when comparing facility readmission rates.
8. The SNFRM will form the basis for the SNF Performance Score for the SNF VBP Program. Facilities' scores under the program will be based on performance on the measure, and value-based incentive payments will be determined by comparing all SNFs' performance scores.

9. SNFRM performance information will be made available to each SNF through confidential quarterly feedback reports.
10. As required by the SNF VBP Program's statute, CMS has proposed to adopt the SNF 30-Day Potentially Preventable Readmission Measure (SNFPPR). CMS will propose to replace the SNFRM with the SNFPPR in future rulemaking.