CMS
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

Overview of the Data Validation Process for the SNF Assessment-Based Measures

August 2025

SNFVBP
SKILLED NURSING FACILITY VALUE-BASED PURCHASING PROGRAM

SNFQRP
SKILLED NURSING FACILITY QUALITY REPORTING PROGRAM

CMS Disclaimer

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Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this training, participants will be able to:

- Explain the purpose and structure of the data validation process for SNFs.
- Describe the notification process.
- Explain required activities for selected SNFs, including submission deadlines, submission processes, and data validation timelines.
- Access available resources to help reinforce the training.

Acronyms

- **CMS** – Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- **iQIES** – Internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System
- **MDS** – Minimum Data Set
- **POC** – Point of Contact
- **QRP** – Quality Reporting Program
- **SNF** – Skilled Nursing Facility
- **VBP** – Value-Based Purchasing

For a list of other SNF VBP Acronyms and SNF QRP Acronyms please visit:

- SNF VBP Acronym List
- SNF QRP Acronym List

Presenters

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Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

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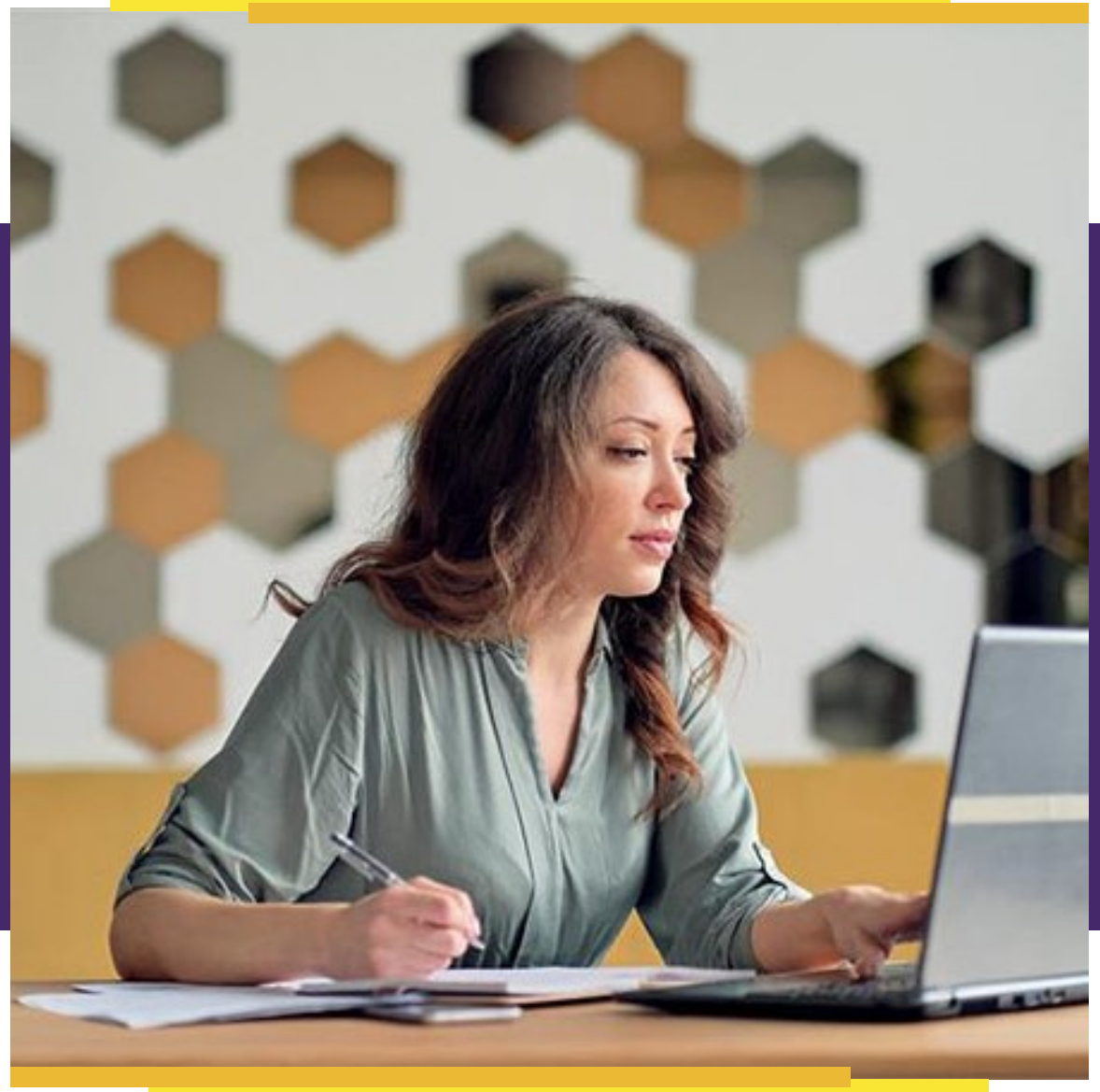
Epidemiologist/ Principal Researcher

Healthcare Management Solutions, LLC

Data Validation Process Overview



Purpose of the Data Validation Process

The purpose of the data validation process is to verify the accuracy of data used in quality measure calculations for the SNF Assessment-Based Measures.

Overview of the Data Validation Process

CMS will randomly select up to 1,500 SNFs.

CMS will select up to 10 MDS assessments from each selected SNF.

CMS will request the corresponding medical records.

Facilities will submit the requested medical records through the provided link.

CMS will validate MDS data elements.

CMS will prepare and release individual SNF data validation reports.

SNF Data Validation Process Selection

SNFs are randomly selected each year to participate in the data validation process.

SNFs may be randomly selected in consecutive years.

Notification Process

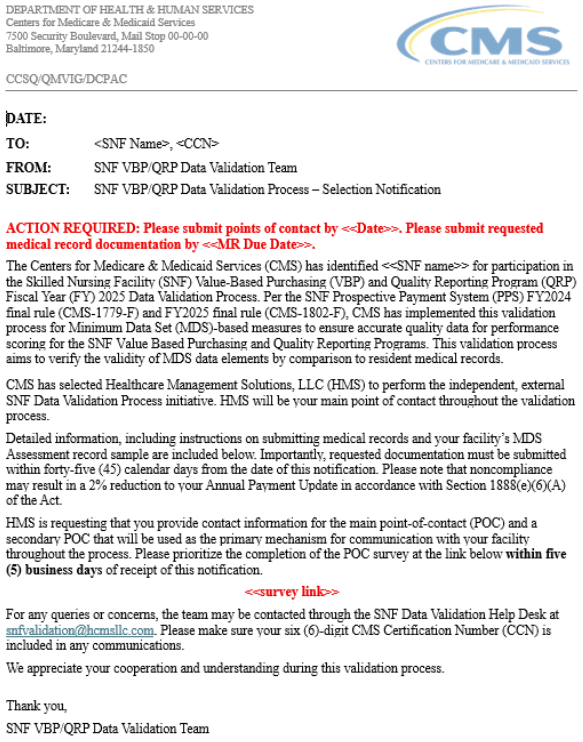
Selection Notification

Selected SNFs will receive a Skilled Nursing Facility Data Validation Process - Initial Selection Notification in their iQIES MDS 3.0 Provider Preview Reports folder informing them that they have been chosen for the data validation process.

The notification will include:

- Facility Selection
- Data Validation Process Details
- Notification Date
- Submit POCs by: _____
- Submit medical records by: _____

SNF Action Items



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop 00-00-00
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

CCSQ/QMVIG/DCPAC

DATE:

TO: <SNF Name>, <CCN>

FROM: SNF VBP/QRP Data Validation Team

SUBJECT: SNF VBP/QRP Data Validation Process – Selection Notification

ACTION REQUIRED: Please submit points of contact by <<Date>>. Please submit requested medical record documentation by <<MR Due Date>>.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has identified <<SNF name>> for participation in the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) and Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Data Validation Process. Per the SNF Prospective Payment System (PPS) FY2024 final rule (CMS-1779-F) and FY2025 final rule (CMS-1802-F), CMS has implemented this validation process for Minimum Data Set (MDS)-based measures to ensure accurate quality data for performance scoring for the SNF Value Based Purchasing and Quality Reporting Programs. This validation process aims to verify the validity of MDS data elements by comparison to resident medical records.

CMS has selected Healthcare Management Solutions, LLC (HMS) to perform the independent, external SNF Data Validation Process initiative. HMS will be your main point of contact throughout the validation process.

Detailed information, including instructions on submitting medical records and your facility's MDS Assessment record sample are included below. Importantly, requested documentation must be submitted within forty-five (45) calendar days from the date of this notification. Please note that noncompliance may result in a 2% reduction to your Annual Payment Update in accordance with Section 1888(e)(6)(A) of the Act.

HMS is requesting that you provide contact information for the main point-of-contact (POC) and a secondary POC that will be used as the primary mechanism for communication with your facility throughout the process. Please prioritize the completion of the POC survey at the link below **within five (5) business days** of receipt of this notification.

<<survey link>>

For any queries or concerns, the team may be contacted through the SNF Data Validation Help Desk at snfvalidation@hcmsllc.com. Please make sure your six (6)-digit CMS Certification Number (CCN) is included in any communications.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding during this validation process.

Thank you,

SNF VBP/QRP Data Validation Team

- Provide primary and secondary POCs.
- Complete the provided POC form within 5 business days of the date on the notification.
- Send the requested medical documentation within 45 days of the notification date.
- For help, email snfvalidation@hcmsllc.com (include 6-digit CCN in the subject line).

Medical Records Submission

Submission Timeline

Day 0

Initial Notification

Day 30

Reminder

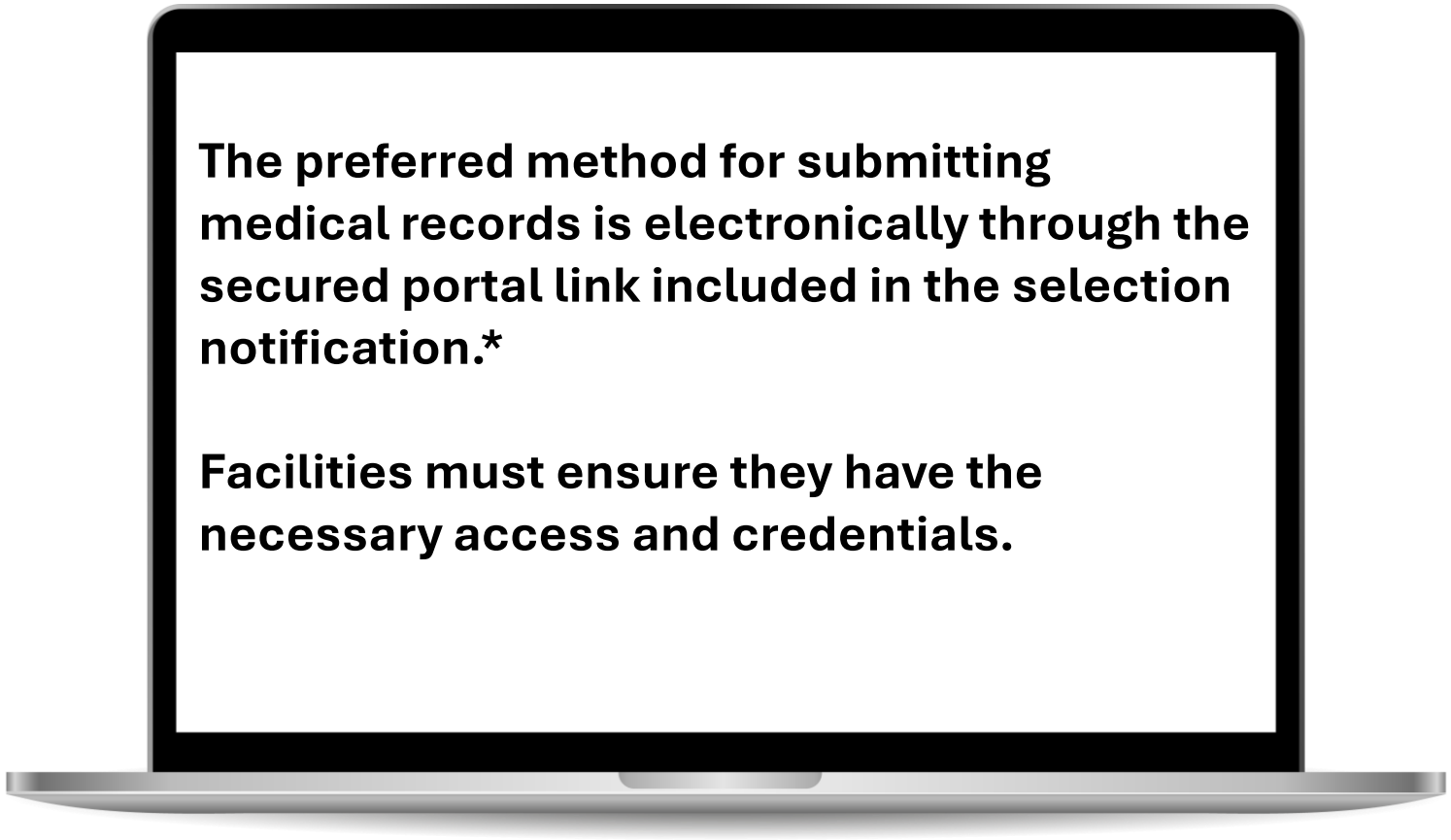
Day 45

Submission Closed

What to Submit

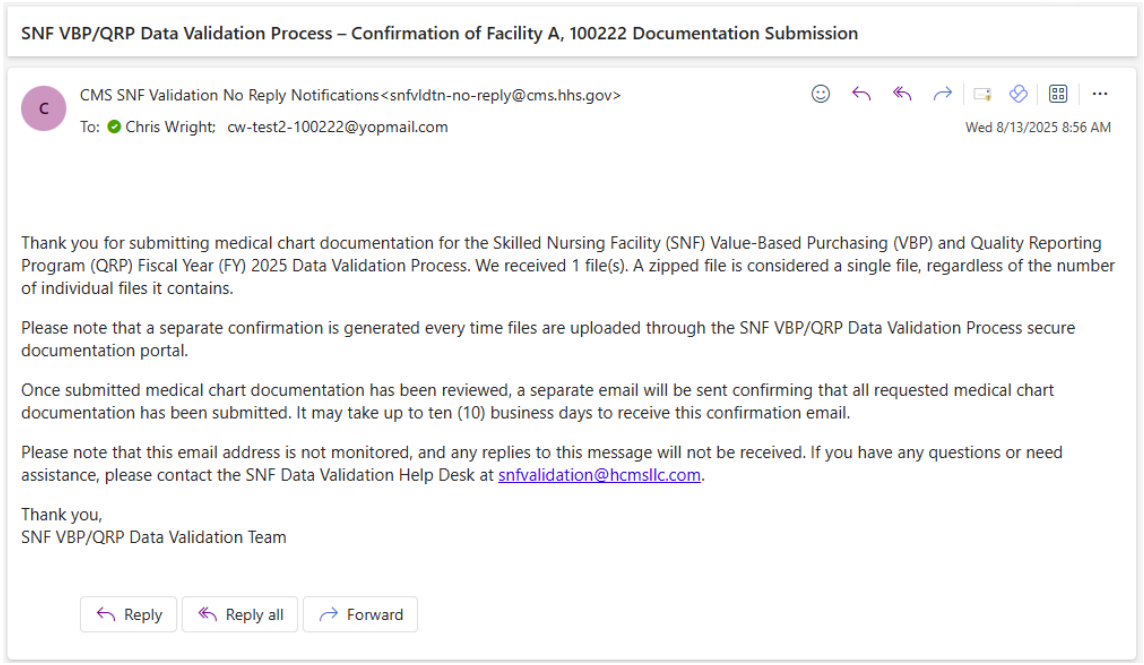
- SNFs are required to submit specific medical records to support the selected MDS data validation process.
- CMS will instruct SNFs of the medical records and specified date range for submission.
- SNFs will need to submit the requested documentation within 45 days of the initial notification.
- SNFs should not include resident social security numbers and resident face sheets.

How to Submit



*Facilities unable to submit electronically should contact the Help Desk for guidance on alternative submission options, such as paper or fax.

Confirmation of Documentation Submission



SNF VBP/QRP Data Validation Process – Confirmation of Facility A, 100222 Documentation Submission

C

CMS SNF Validation No Reply Notifications<snfvldtn-no-reply@cms.hhs.gov>

To: Chris Wright; cw-test2-100222@yopmail.com

Wed 8/13/2025 8:56 AM

Thank you for submitting medical chart documentation for the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) and Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Data Validation Process. We received 1 file(s). A zipped file is considered a single file, regardless of the number of individual files it contains.

Please note that a separate confirmation is generated every time files are uploaded through the SNF VBP/QRP Data Validation Process secure documentation portal.

Once submitted medical chart documentation has been reviewed, a separate email will be sent confirming that all requested medical chart documentation has been submitted. It may take up to ten (10) business days to receive this confirmation email.

Please note that this email address is not monitored, and any replies to this message will not be received. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the SNF Data Validation Help Desk at snfvalidation@hcmsllc.com.

Thank you,
SNF VBP/QRP Data Validation Team

Reply | Reply all | Forward

- Designated SNF POC will receive an automated email when file uploads are successfully completed.
- The notification will include the number of files that were uploaded.
- A second email will be sent once all required documentation has been initially reviewed.

Resources

Course Resources

Stay up to date on important SNF Data Validation Process resources:

- CMS SNF VBP Program
- CMS SNF QRP
- SNF VBP Spotlights and Announcements
- SNF QRP Spotlights and Announcements
- Fiscal Year 2025 Skilled Nursing Facility Prospective Payment System Final Rule (CMS-1802-F)
- Fiscal Year 2024 Skilled Nursing Facility Prospective Payment System Final Rule (CMS-1779-F)
- SNF Data Validation Process
- **SNF Validation Help Desk:**
  SNFs may contact the SNF Validation Help Desk at snfvalidation@hcmsllc.com to aid with the data validation process and answer any questions. The Help Desk's operating hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM Eastern Time.
- **iQIES Service Center:**
  SNFs should contact the QIES/iQIES Service Center if they cannot access their iQIES folder at iqies@cms.hhs.gov.

Key Takeaways

- CMS now collects data to validate the SNF Assessment-Based Measures.
- CMS will randomly select up to 1,500 SNFs each FY to validate the accuracy of MDS data used in quality measurement initiatives.
- CMS will select up to 10 MDS assessments per selected SNF.
- The selected SNFs will be required to submit medical records to fulfill the documentation requirements.
- It is important that SNFs have a POC monitor their iQIES MDS 3.0 Provider Preview Reports folder to look for the Skilled Nursing Facility Data Validation Process - Initial Selection Notification.
- CMS resources are available for SNFs to stay informed about policy updates and program changes.