Several changes are being proposed for Year 2 of the Quality Incentive Payment Program (QIPP), which will begin Sept. 1.

- The proposed amendments will be published in the Texas Register on May 4. If adopted, these amendments would lower the qualifying percentage of Medicaid nursing facility days of service to total days threshold for QIPP participation. Facilities with a 62.8 percent or greater historical Medicaid nursing facility days to the total days in a qualifying cost or accountability report would now be able to participate in the program. Information regarding specific facility’s percentage of Medicaid days of service and total days is on the QIPP page of the HHS website.

- HHSC is opening a special enrollment period for nursing facilities that will be eligible to participate in QIPP if the revised eligibility cut-off point in the proposed rule is adopted. The current enrollment period ends April 30. The special enrollment period will run from now until May 7. If the proposed amendment is not adopted, all pending applications will be discarded. Facilities can submit an application on the QIPP page of the HHS website.

- Nursing facilities that want to participate in Year 2 of QIPP — and would like to pursue a Change of Ownership to transition from a non-state government owned facility to a private facility — must submit an application to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission no later than June 30.

- The proposed rule amendments are:
  - Lowering the private nursing facility QIPP eligibility cut-off point to be equal to the mean percentage plus one-quarter of one standard deviation of historical Medicaid nursing facility days of service provided under fee-for service and managed care by all private nursing facilities.
  - Deleting the Good Cause Exception to the 150-mile geographic proximity requirement.
  - Allowing a private nursing facility that was eligible to participate in QIPP during Year 1 to be eligible to participate in Year 2 regardless of its Medicaid nursing facility days of service for that eligibility period.
  - If the amendments are adopted, HHSC intends to size the pool through a separate administrative action so that all existing QIPP participants do not experience a negative impact in the absolute amount of funds received on a per-day and per-bed basis relative to the first QIPP program year (FY18), provided the quality metrics are achieved. The total pool funding will be increased, contingent upon adoption of the rule, to $625 million.

Email questions about QIPP to QIPP@hhsc.state.tx.us.