August 7, 2017

Q: Can you provide some insight as to the impact the new survey process (November 2017 - which includes Phase 2 of the RoPs) will have on the survey portion of the star rating?

A: S&C 17-36 states the following with respect to Nursing Home Compare and the Nursing Home Five-Star Quality Rating System with the implementation of the new RoPs:

Currently, the Nursing Home Five-Star Quality Rating System calculates a rating based on each facility’s survey performance as compared to others’ in the same state. Most facilities will be surveyed for compliance with Phase 2 requirements using the revised survey process within a year of the November 28, 2017 effective date. However, due to the differing standards being phased in over the year, CMS will be holding constant for one year the Nursing Home Compare health inspection rating for any surveys conducted after November 28, 2017. CMS has done this previously where the star ratings are maintained for a period of time as new requirements are phased in. To address the concern that serious quality concerns will not be known, CMS will separately flag those nursing facilities to ensure public transparency. CMS stated they will provide more detailed methodology information at a later date.