

Dear AHCA Member,

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has updated the Nursing Home Compare (NHC) [website](#) with staffing data from the first quarter of 2018. The following measures on NHC have been updated based on PBJ data from January 1 - March 31, 2018:

- Physical therapist hours per resident day
- RN hours per resident day
- Total nursing hours per resident day (RN + LPN + nurse aide hours)
- RN staffing star rating
- Staffing star rating
- Overall five-star rating

Additionally, CMS has updated the available [public use files](#) (PUFs) to include the number of hours worked by non-nursing staff (all staff listed in Table 1 of the [PBJ Policy Manual](#)) submitted through PBJ. These files distinguish between hours submitted for direct employees and contract staff.

#### **Reminders**

Starting this month, centers reporting seven or more days in a quarter with no RN hours will receive a one-star rating in the Five-Star staffing domain. Facilities that fail to submit any staffing data by the deadline or have audits that identify significant discrepancies between the hours reported and verified will receive a one-star rating for the staffing domain for three months.

Furthermore, centers that meet the following exclusions will not have a staffing rating or staffing data reported; NHC will display a "Data Not Available" message for these facilities:

- The nursing home has five or more days with at least one resident but no nurse staffing hours reported. Since nurse aides in training cannot operate independently as nurses, nurse aides in training are not included.
- Total nurse staffing aggregated over all days in the quarter with both nurses and residents is excessively low (<1.5 HRD)
- Total nurse staffing aggregated over all days in the quarter with both nurses and residents is excessively high (>12 HRD)
- Nurse aide staffing aggregated over all days in the quarter with both nurses and residents is excessively high (>5.25 HRD)

Please note that the deadline to submit the PBJ staffing data collected from your center during the April 1- June 30, 2018 reporting period is August 14, 2018. You are encouraged to enter your data into the PBJ portal and run some validation checks to ensure the data's accuracy before the deadline.

In April 2018, CMS published new Five-Star ratings that include PBJ staffing data on its NHC [website](#). AHCA hosted a [webinar](#) that provided an overview of these new changes. Members are encouraged to access the recorded webinar and other key resources including Frequently Asked Questions and the latest [Technical User's Guide](#) on [ahcancalED](#) . Please note you will need your AHCA username and password to register. Talking points can be accessed [here](#).

AHCA will continue to provide updates on PBJ and the new ratings as they become available. If you have any questions, please contact the AHCA PBJ team [here](#).

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