

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): QA&I Interim Review Process

ODP Announcement 20-094

AUDIENCE:

Administrative Entities (AEs)
Supports Coordination Organizations (SCOs)
Providers rendering services through the Consolidated, Person/Family Directed Support,
Community Living Waivers (ID/A Waivers) and/or the Adult Autism Waiver (AAW)
All interested parties

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this communication is to announce that the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) will be conducting a Quality Assessment and Improvement (QA&I) interim review process for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

DISCUSSION:

ODP received approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) through an Appendix K amendment to conduct a QA&I “interim” review for FY 20-21 and to delay the implementation of Cycle 2, Year 1 activities until FY 21-22.

The following is a summary of the approved changes for the interim review period:

- Timeline
 - The QA&I activities will begin on September 1, 2020 and end on March 31, 2021.
- Review Period
 - The timeframe under review will be July 1, 2019 through February 29, 2020 (unless otherwise specified).

- Sampling
 - ODP will pull a sample of individuals receiving services and supports through the ID/A Waivers and AAW using the proportionate random representative sampling methodology as described in the ID/A Waivers and AAW.
 - AEs will **not** pull their own sample for this interim cycle; ODP will send a sample of providers and individual records to AEs by August 15th.

- Tools
 - Questions have been aligned between the ID/A Waivers and AAW so there will be one tool for SCOs and one tool for providers.
 - Questions from Cycle 1, Year 3 will focus on CMS Performance Measures, Information Sharing Advisory Committee (ISAC) focus areas, health and safety, and other areas that ODP identifies as a priority.

- Individual Interviews
 - ODP will complete all individual interviews remotely. AEs will not conduct individual interviews during the interim process.
 - Questions related to the COVID-19 pandemic will be included.

- Self-Assessments
 - Entities will not complete a self-assessment.

- Desk and Onsite Reviews
 - All QA&I reviews will occur remotely, with no “in person” meetings planned.
 - All required documentation will be submitted to the QA&I team prior to the desk review.
 - At the conclusion of the desk review, the QA&I team and entity leadership will meet remotely to discuss findings and recommendations from the interim review, as well as the entity’s quality improvement priorities, successes and challenges.

- Entrance and Exit Conference
 - Entrance and exit conferences will be replaced with a virtual conference of the QA&I team and entity leadership at the conclusion of the Desk and Onsite Review section.

- QA&I Review Spreadsheet and Corrective Action Plan (CAP)
 - The QA&I Review Spreadsheet and Corrective Action Plan (CAP) will be modified to account for changes to the interim cycle.

- Comprehensive Report
 - A copy of the completed QA&I spreadsheet along with the CAP (if applicable) will be sent electronically to the entity reviewed. Receipt of this information indicates that the interim review for the entity is complete.
 - Reviewed entities will not receive a Comprehensive Report. A summary of results from the interim review process will be included in the Annual Statewide QA&I Report.

The updated resources and materials for the interim review are available on the MyODP Training & Resource Center and can be accessed using the following path: Resources > ODP Information > QA&I Process.

Please send questions via email directly to the QA&I Process Mailbox at RA-PWQAIPProcess@pa.gov.