

**From:** Dana Pong  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2020 10:44 AM  
**To:** Dana Pong  
**Subject:** PRIME & QIP Express - May 2020

**I. POLICY AND REPORTING UPDATES**

**PRIME/ QIP COVID-19 Impact**

- CMS rejected DHCS' request to make the Jan-June 2020 period pay-for-reporting status for PRIME and QIP. Hence, DHCS sent CMS new proposals for PRIME and QIP. SNI walked through these proposals on the 5/14 SNI Metric Office Hours. Recording posted [here](#). Both are in discussion status between DHCS and CMS and not yet finalized.
- For PRIME, CMS was willing to consider allowing systems to use performance from a previous time period to determine DY15 payment. Hence, DHCS proposed mirroring the performance and reclaiming of funds earned in DY14 and apply that % to the entity's DY15 allocation.
- For QIP since payment is part of the Medi-Cal Managed Care rates, the approach proposed for PRIME would not work for QIP. PY3 payment has to be based on performance during a period that at least overlaps the PY3 Medi-Cal Managed Care rate year. Therefore, the DHCS proposed that the performance period be March 1, 2019-Feb 29, 2020 instead of July 1, 2019-June 30,2020 and that there is a performance threshold equal to the 25%ile/minimum performance benchmark instead of a % gap closure.
- DHCS has begun discussions with CMS about a 1 year extension to the 1115 Waiver, however it is our best understanding that this extension would not include PRIME due to the lack of budget neutrality to support a 6<sup>th</sup> year of PRIME. This would mean that the transition of PRIME metrics into QIP as part of QIP PY3.5 would remain intact. This is actually beneficial for members as QIP has a higher FMAP (federal match) than the Waiver does resulting a higher net funding. Although CAPH has also received confirmation from Leader Pelosi's office that a Waiver extension request will also be part of the House's next stimulus package, CAPH will work with Pelosi's office to ensure that PRIME will not be included in that proposal. We will keep everyone informed of the status of this request and all implications, but for now through the end of 2020, there are no changes to the specific metrics being reported on by DPHs, there are only the proposed the PRIME & QIP funding mechanic changes discussed above.
- Although QIP PY3.5 performance period is already significantly impacted by COVID-19, because the official program period starts July 1, DHCS has not yet made any proposals to CMS. However, SNI has already begun to think about possible funding mechanic modifications that could be proposed for PY 3.5 and will be discussing these over the next month or so with CAC & MTAC.

**PRIME**

- **DY14 YE report.** Please send in a secure email [Dana](#) after DHCS completes the clinical/detailed review
- **DY15 MY report.** Please send in a secure email [Dana](#) after you submit to DHCS.
- **DY14 Supplemental Claiming.** DHCS will start calculations after all DPH have completed their DY14 Year End clinical/detailed review.

**QIP**

- **PY2 report.** Please send via secure email to [Dana](#) after DHCS completes the clinical/detailed review.
- **PY4-8 Measure Survey postponed.** Please note, at this time, the survey has not been cancelled, just postponed. SNI, DHLF and DHCS will continue to reassess the ability to restart the survey over the next several months, based on our knowledge of the re-allocation of your analyst and clinical staff away from routine duties and onto COVID-related activities. So once you start shifting your folks back to routine activities, please let us know.

**II. MEMBER SUPPORT**

## PRIME/ QIP

- **PRIME/QIP Leads Webinar** Tues, May 26 (12-1) will cover program updates. Recordings posted on [PRIME](#) and [QIP](#) pages.
- **PRIME/QIP Office Hours**. Next office hour: June 11 (12-1). May 14 Office Hour recording is posted on [PRIME](#) and [QIP](#) pages.
- **QIP 3.0 Readiness Summit June 8** has been postponed until further notice. Please make the appropriate travel and accommodation cancellations.

## PRIME

- **DHCS-led Topic-Specific Learning Collaborative (TLCs)**: Materials on [PRIMEone](#)\*. Questions can be directed to [Megan Thomas](#).

### III. IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS & OPPORTUNITIES

More tools posted on [PRIME/Project Implementation Resources](#) and [QIP/Implementation Tools](#).

- **New SNI Offering: Telehealth Peer-sharing & Resources**. SNI is developing new technical assistance to support members' transition to telehealth, both in the immediate term to respond to the coronavirus emergency and ongoing as telehealth becomes the new norm. This week we are holding a series of calls with ambulatory care leaders to learn how systems are adapting and expanding telehealth for primary care, specialty care, and behavioral health, and how SNI can best support those efforts. For additional information, please contact [Zoe So](#).
- **EHR Safety Net User Groups**.
  - SNI hosts EHR user groups (Epic and Cerner) every other month for reporting, analytics or clinical operations lead who would benefit from hearing from systems well-established on Epic/Cerner how they are addressing technical and operational practices and lessons learned.
  - **Epic User Group (eSNUG)**: Tuesday, 6/16 (1-2). Contra Costa to present on Electronic Case Reporting with OCHIN and Sutter. Register [here](#) and view past sessions [here](#).
  - **Cerner User Group (cSNUG)**: Wednesday, 6/24 (12-1). Topic TBD. Register [here](#) and view past sessions [here](#).
- [COVID Resources](#) compiled by SNI and CAPH. Link can be found on the [SNI Link main page](#).

### IV. Key Deadlines & Dates

- **Mar 31 (unless extension requested) – PRIME** DY15 Mid-Year Report Due
- **Sept 30 – PRIME** DY15 Year-End Report Due
- **Oct 26, 27 - PRIME**d Annual Conference hosted by DHCS and Harbage in Sacramento
- **Dec 15 – QIP** PY3 Report Due
- **Mar 31, 2021 – QIP** PY3.5 Report Due for “PRIME Transition” metrics
- **June 15, 2021 – QIP** PY3.5 Report Due for “Core QIP” metrics

**About:** The PRIME/QIP Express is sent monthly to CAPH members with information, tools and news about PRIME and QIP. If you have any topics suggested for a webinar or this Express, please contact [Dana Pong](#).

PRIME and QIP materials, including this newsletter, are posted on [SNI Link/PRIME](#) and [SNI Link/QIP](#). SNI Link is open to all CAPH members after registration.

\*Document sharing and discussion board for all PRIME participants can be found on [DHCS' PRIMEOne portal](#). Email [PRIME@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:PRIME@dhcs.ca.gov) to obtain access. Official QIP documents can also be found on DHCS [QIP public page](#).

To add or remove people from this Express please email [Abby Gonzalez](#). This list is the “PRIME/QIP Teams” list that receives the monthly QIP Leads webinar emails and other PRIME/QIP related announcements..

**Dana Pong**

Senior Data Analyst

[dpong@caph.org](mailto:dpong@caph.org) | 510-874-7118

[California Health Care Safety Net Institute](#)