

## New Year – New QAPI

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Home Health QAPI is a year old. Are you celebrating a successful year or just glad that you survived? Have you thought about QAPI 2019 yet? Need some tips to consider as you finalize 2018 and prepare for 2019?

Timing, Audits and PIPS are three areas that you should evaluate from 2018 and consider for 2019. The following are some quick tips to help you prepare for 2019.

1. QAPI Timing: Have you decided if your QAPI is going to be based on a calendar year or a fiscal year?
  - a. If you are going with calendar year, then you should be aggregating your 2018 monthly data for the year and comparing it to your agency goals.
  - b. Calendar year 2019 QAPIs should have already been prepared and presented to your governing body for approval. But it's not too late - try to complete by end of first quarter though.
  - c. If fiscal year, then make sure that you have aligned your quarters to the fiscal year and begin preparing your fiscal year plan.
2. QAPI Audits: Now that you have a years' worth of audit data it's time to consider what needs to be added and what is ready to leave the audit list.
  - a. Monthly audits that have met their goal for three or more continuous months may be ready to reduce to monitoring only quarterly.
  - b. Quarterly audits that have met their goal for two continuous quarters may be ready for every six months or annual audits.
  - c. Consider reducing or removing well performing audits and adding new audits of items that are hot topics in the industry or items identified by your organization as being potential risk items. Topics like documentation to meet medical necessity, certifications including advance directives, or timely physician signatures
3. Performance Improvement Projects – You must initiate, complete or have an ongoing PIP each year. How was your 2018 PIP? Looking for PIP topic for 2019? How about PDGM preparation? A little broad but consider looking now at your visit utilization data, referral sources, diagnosis including primary and comorbid diagnosis and visits per episode or even days to obtain physician signatures Are any of your data points outside of the benchmarks? Maybe it should be considered for 2019 PIP.

Utilize your QAPI to help your organization improve not just something that meets the requirements.