

NCQA Corrections, Clarifications and Policy Changes to the 2026 CM-LTSS Standards and Guidelines

March 30, 2026

This document includes the corrections, clarifications and policy changes to the 2026 CM-LTSS standards and guidelines. NCQA has identified the appropriate page number in the publication and the standard/element head and subhead for each update. Updates have been incorporated into the Interactive Review Tool (IRT). NCQA operational definitions for correction, clarification and policy changes are as follows:

- A **correction (CO)** is a change made to rectify an error in the standards and guidelines.
- A **clarification (CL)** is additional information that explains an existing requirement.
- A **policy change (PC)** is a modification of an existing requirement.
- A **regulatory change (RC)** is a new requirement or a modification of an existing requirement to align with federal regulations.

An organization undergoing a survey under the 2026 CM-LTSS standards and guidelines must implement corrections and policy changes within 90 calendar days of the IRT release date, unless otherwise specified. The 90-calendar-day advance notice does not apply to clarifications or FAQs, because they are not changes to existing requirements.

Page	Standard/Element	Head/Subhead	Update	Type of Update	IRT Release Date
54	LTSS 2, Element A	Scope of review	Remove the second paragraph that reads: For all surveys scheduled on or between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, the organization may submit a detailed implementation plan that includes a timeline, in place of a documented process and reports or materials.	PC	3/30/26
55	LTSS 2, Element A	Explanation	Remove the last bullet under the second paragraph that reads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all surveys scheduled on or between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, if the organization completes an implementation plan in place of a documented process and reports or materials, the plan must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A detailed description of the actions the organization will take to directly collect race/ethnicity and language data or receive the data from other sources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If the organization plans to use data from other sources, it lists the entities from which data will be received and a description of the data exchange method. ○ A timeline for implementation of data collection activities. 	PC	3/30/26