

## CMS releases draft version of MDS 3.0 for nursing homes, May 12, 2009

The goals of the MDS 3.0 revision were to introduce advances in assessment measures, increase the clinical relevance of items, improve the accuracy and validity of the tool, and increase the resident's voice by introducing more resident interview items. Providers, consumers, and other technical experts in NH care requested that MDS 3.0 revisions focus on improving the tool's clinical utility, clarity, and accuracy. CMS also wanted to shorten the tool while maintaining the ability to use MDS data for quality indicators, quality measures, and payment (resource utilization groups-III [RUGs-III] classification).

In addition to improving the content and structure of the MDS, the RAND/Harvard team effort also aimed to improve user satisfaction. User attitudes are key determinants of quality improvement implementation. Negative user attitudes toward the MDS are often cited as a reason that NHs have not fully implemented it in targeted care planning.

### **Key Findings for MDS 3.0**

- Improved Resident Input
- Improved Accuracy and Reliability
- Increased Efficiency
- Improved Staff Satisfaction and Perception of Clinical Utility

Improvements incorporated in MDS 3.0 produce a more efficient assessment instrument: better quality information was obtained in less time. Such gains should improve identification of resident needs and enhance resident-focused care planning. In addition, inclusion of items recognized in other care settings is likely to enhance communication among providers. These significant gains reflect the cumulative effect of changes across the tool, including:

- use of more valid items,
- direct inclusion of resident reports,
- improved clarity of retained items,
- deletion of poorly performing items, form redesign, and
- briefer assessment periods for clinical items.

### **Draft MDS 3.0 Data Specifications and Data Item Set**

A draft version of the MDS 3.0 Item Set is now posted. The final version is scheduled for publication in October 2009.

**Please Note:** This is a DRAFT version of the data set and should not be used for any training purposes. The FINAL version of the item set, data specifications and RAI manual are scheduled for publication on this page in October 2009.

Publishing the final versions of each of these documents in October 2009 will provide all stakeholders approximately one year to complete all tasks associated with the implementation of MDS 3.0.

Questions regarding the data specifications should be directed to **[MDS30Comments@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:MDS30Comments@cms.hhs.gov)**