

MDS 3.0 for Nursing Homes and Swing Bed Providers: What's New from CMS

The MDS is a powerful tool for implementing standardized assessment and for facilitating care management in nursing homes (NHs) and non-critical access hospital swing beds (SBs). Its content has implications for residents, families, providers, researchers, and policymakers, all of whom have expressed concerns about the reliability, validity, and relevance of MDS 2.0. Some argue that because MDS 2.0 fails to include items that rely on direct resident interview, it fails to obtain critical information and effectively disenfranchises many residents from the assessment process. In addition, many users and government agencies have expressed concerns about MDS 2.0 data quality and validity. Other stakeholders contend that items used in other care settings should be included to improve communication across providers.

MDS 3.0 has been designed to improve the reliability, accuracy, and usefulness of the MDS, to include the resident in the assessment process, and to use standard protocols used in other settings. These improvements have profound implications for NH and SB care and public policy. Enhanced accuracy supports the primary legislative intent that MDS be a tool to improve clinical assessment and supports the credibility of programs that rely on MDS.

MDS 3.0 - What's New

January 27, 2010: Two changes have been made:

A new version of the MDS 3.0 item subsets (V1.00.1) has been posted. The zip file that is available at

www.cms.hhs.gov/NursingHomeQualityInits/25_NHQIMDS30.asp

includes a file called MDS3.0 Item Subsets V1.00.1 January 2010 that lists the changes that have made since the previously-posted version to each of the individual item subsets.

The previously-posted MDS 3.0 Item Matrix has been removed from the list of available downloads. The content of this matrix is contained in Appendix F of the RAI manual. A more detailed version of the item matrix that is intended for software developers is available as part of the MDS 3.0 data submission specifications.

MDS 3.0 Information for the October 1, 2010 Implementation

The following files are now available under the Downloads section of this page at www.cms.hhs.gov/NursingHomeQualityInits/25_NHQIMDS30.asp:

MDS 3.0 Item Subsets V1.00.1 January 2010 - This zip file contains printable documents with the required subset of data items for each MDS 3.0 assessment and tracking document (e.g. admission, quarterly, annual, significant change, discharge, entry, etc).

MDS 3.0 RAI Manual Jan 27, 2010 - This zip file contains chapters 1,2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Each section in chapter 3 is contained in a separate PDF file (e.g., Section C: Cognitive Patterns). Appendices A through G, and H are also listed. Chapters 2 and 4 along with Appendix C are now included in this file.

MDS 3.0 Satellite Broadcast Part I - This file contains information about the first MDS 3.0 satellite broadcast, which is available in the document labeled "MDS 3.0 Satellite Broadcast Part I."

Please Note: Although this is the material that will be applicable with the October 1, 2010 implementation, CMS strongly encourages that all parties refrain from or delay conducting training until after the "Train-the-Trainer" sessions have been completed (scheduled for the spring 2010).

Questions regarding the "MDS 3.0 RAI Manual" on this page should be directed to MDS30Comments@cms.hhs.gov. Please note that CMS will not be providing an individualized response to each inquiry; however, CMS will make sure the issues or comments are addressed in the upcoming MDS 3.0 training sessions or updates to the information provided on this page.

Questions regarding "software development and technical coding" for MDS 3.0 should be directed to Michael.Stoltz@cms.hhs.gov. Responses to questions will be provided during Vendor Teleconferences.

The information listed below under the "Downloads" section is subject to change. CMS will communicate any changes to these materials on this page as well as through Open Door Forums hosted by CMS.