



Important MDS Updates

Final MDS 3.0 Item Sets version 1.20.1v3

Late last Friday afternoon, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the final Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0 Item Sets version (v)1.20.1v3 and Item Matrix v1.20.1v3. They are now available in the Downloads section on the [Minimum Data Set \(MDS\) 3.0 Resident Assessment Instrument \(RAI\) Manual](#) page. The MDS Item Sets v1.20.1v3 will be effective beginning October 1, 2025. The biggest change comes in Section O with the removal of therapy items on the nursing home comprehensive assessment (NC), nursing home quarterly assessment (NQ), and 5-day prospective payment system assessment (NP) data sets. These items have been replaced with a smaller set of items to determine what therapies were delivered 15 minutes per day in the previous 7 days. CMS has also finalized the removal of four Section R items that were in the May draft version. The section R items removed assess elements related to patients' social determinants of health (SDOH), including information related to a resident's living situation, food, and utilities. The final CMS RAI manual has not been released, and is expected later this year.

CMS Pauses Nursing Home Care Compare Updates

Also last Friday, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [announced](#) that they will be pausing Nursing Home Care Compare updates. The agency announced the temporary pause to ensure accuracy of publicly reported information during a transition from the legacy Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (QIES) to the cloud-based Internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (iQIES). Through September, CMS will not be updating the Nursing Home Care Compare Five Star Rating System; data refreshes are expected in October. This pause allows the agency to "validate data integrity" while also verifying that publicly reported information meets CMS quality standards. Operators will still be required to maintain transparency by displaying their most recent survey findings in a publicly available part of the facility so that residents, their families and visitors can take a look and make informed decisions during this time.

MDS Question of the Month

Again, late on Friday, the Ohio Department of Health RAI and OASIS Education Coordinator, Cheryl Moya, issued the August edition of the [MDS Question of the Month](#). In this addition, she

answers questions regarding: diabetic wounds that have been surgically debrided; timing of the staff assessment of resident mood; and clarifies what types of burns can be coded on the MDS.

If you have MDS questions, OHCA is also here to help. Please contact Tammy Cassidy RN, BSN, LNHA, RAC-MT, CEAL at tcassidy@ohca.org.

Ohio Medicaid Nursing Facility Minimum Data Set (MDS) Data Use Agreement

Some members have questioned receiving a data use agreement from the Ohio Department of Medicaid. In the notification, Ohio Department of Medicaid indicates that contact information must be updated. OHCA has confirmed with Priya Lal, of ODM, that data use agreements are not required for individual providers, and they do not need to be completed.