

RAI Spotlight



UPDATED: Final MDS 3.0 RAI User's Manual Version 1.20.1

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The posted final *Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0 Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) User's Manual* version (v)1.20.1 has been updated to align with the revisions to item J1900 in the release of the MDS item sets v1.20.1v4. The updated version is now available in the **Downloads** section on the [Minimum Data Set \(MDS\) 3.0 Resident Assessment Instrument \(RAI\) Manual](#) page. The *MDS 3.0 RAI User's Manual* v1.20.1 will be effective beginning October 1, 2025.

Minor corrections have also been implemented. All changes to the posted

version of the final *MDS 3.0 RAI User's Manual* v1.20.1 are identified in included chapter/section change tables and in the list below:

- Pg. 3-4: Updated reference to removed sub-items of item O0400.
- Pg. J-37: Updated screenshot for item J1900.
- Pg. X-9: Updated reference to removed sub-item of item O0400.

Please replace any previously downloaded versions of the *Final MDS 3.0 RAI User's Manual* v1.20.1 with the version posted on September 24, 2025.

Questions:

- **RAI**, Manual including MDS coding? qa-mds@pa.gov
- **State Medicaid**, including Section S, OSA CMI reports and Field Office information? Myers and Stauffer Help-desk at (717) 541-5809 or pahelpdesk@mslc.com
- **CMS SNF QRP Public Reporting?** SNFQRPPRquestions@cms.hhs.gov
- **Medicare Part A Billing and Eligibility Questions** - Contact your MAC - Novitas at 1-877-235-8073
- **MDS Technical Issues** including Manual Assessment Correction/Deletion Request and Missing OBRA Assessment Reports (Contact the MDS Automation Coordinator, Ruth Anne Barnard at rbarnard@pa.gov)

CDC Announces New ICD-10-CM Codes Effective October 1, 2025

The October 1, 2025 diagnosis code update files are now available. Use these files for discharges occurring from October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026, and for patient encounters occurring from October 1, 2025 -September 30, 2026.

The files in the 2026 ICD-10-CM section contain information on the ICD-10-CM updates effective with discharges on and after October 1, 2025.

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coding-billing/icd-10-codes>

Next Teleconference: Frequently Asked PDPM Questions

Date: January 8, 2026
Time: 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Topic: Frequently Asked PDPM Questions
Handouts: Presentation materials will be emailed to all participants prior to the start of the training.

Registration Link:
<https://mslc.webex.com/weblink/register/re04e0ffd8644686abe292e9fb8ced612>

Presenter: Lynn Snider, BSN, RN, RAC-CT
Myers and Stauffer

A recording of this conference will be available following the presentation at:
<https://nfrp.panfsubmit.com>

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Section GG Refresher

Q & A for October 2nd, 2025 Training

Q. When only two documentation entries are available, how should Section GG be coded?

A. According to the CMS RAI 3.0 User's Manual (October 2025) CMS anticipates that an interdisciplinary team (IDT) of clinicians is involved in assessing the resident during the assessment period. The expectation is that the IDT will determine the resident's usual performance.

Q. If a task did not occur due to vegetative state and the resident has been in this state for more than 3 months, would the facility code 09 or continue to code 88?

A. Please refer to the RAI Manual, page GG-20: If the resident does not attempt the activity and a helper does not complete the activity for the resident during the entire assessment period, code the reason the activity was not attempted.

- *Code as 09 if the activity is not applicable for the resident (the activity did not occur at the time of the assessment and prior to the current illness.*

Q. For GG0170D, Sit to Stand, what would be coded if the resident requires 1 helper and a sit to stand device?

A. This should be coded based on the resident's ability to come to a standing position from sitting in a chair, wheelchair, or on the side of the bed. Please refer to the definitions for coding in the RAI Manual for Mobility; additionally, page GG-RAI Manual, pages GG-43 and GG-45 contain examples for Sit to Stand.

Q. Is stand-by assistance considered supervision and coded as 04?

A. Yes. For GG0130 Self-Care and GG0170 Mobility, Supervision or touching assistance is coded as 04 with a definition of: Helper provides verbal cues and/or touching/steadying and/or contact guard assistance as resident completes activity. Assistance may be provided throughout the activity or intermittently.

Q. Does coding dependent apply to Eating even if only 1 staff member is required to feed the resident?

A. For Section GG0130A, Eating – Coding should be based on the resident's ability to use suitable utensils to bring food and/or liquid to the mouth and swallow food and/or liquid once the meal is placed before the resident. If the helper does ALL of the effort and the resident does none of the effort to complete the activity, then the correct code would be 01 – Dependent.

Q. For Section GG, after the data is collected, can the MDS Coordinator make the note in the medical chart indicating the usual performance per the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT)?

A. For purposes of the MDS Review, yes, the MDS nurse can document the IDT's decision in the resident medical record.

UPDATED: Final MDS 3.0 Item Sets Version 1.20.1 v4

September 23, 2025

The final Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0 Item Sets version (v)1.20.1v4 and Item Matrix v1.20.1v4 are now available in the **Downloads** section on the [Minimum Data Set \(MDS\) 3.0 Resident Assessment Instrument \(RAI\) Manual](#) page.

This revised final version of the MDS v1.20.1 item sets (v4) will go into effect October 1, 2025. It includes updates to the language in item J1900, which have been made in response to provider concerns; these are the only changes from the previous version. The MDS Item Sets v1.20.1v4 will be effective beginning October 1, 2025.

MDS 3.0 Quality Measures User's Manual v17.0 Effective January 1, 2025 and Associated User Manual Files Updated Claims and SNF QRP Measure Materials

September 19, 2025

An updated .zip file for the Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0 Quality Measures (QM) User's Manual v17.0 is now available. This .zip file package contains the updated 2025 Nursing Home Compare Claims-Based Quality Measure Technical Specifications and associated appendix and the updated Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting Program (SNF QRP) Measure Calculations and Reporting User's Manual V7.0 and associated risk adjustment and imputation appendix files. Specifically, the updated .zip file titled MDS 3.0 QM User's Manual v17.0 Effective 1-1-2025 and Associated User Manual Files.zip includes a complete set of six files:

1. The MDS 3.0 QM User's Manual V17.0 contains detailed specifications for the MDS 3.0 QMs and includes a Notable Changes section that summarizes the major changes from MDS 3.0 QM User's Manual V16.0.
2. The Risk Adjustment Appendix File for the MDS 3.0 Quality Measures User's Manual accompanies the MDS 3.0 QM Manual v17.0 and contains the logistic regression coefficient values used to calculate the risk-adjusted quality measures. There are no coefficient changes to the Risk Adjustment Appendix File from v16.0 to v17.0 since specification updates did not significantly change the coefficient values.
3. Nursing Home Compare Claims-based Quality Measure Technical Specifications (Claims-based Measures Tech Specs 2025 Update June 2025) contains detailed technical specifications for all Nursing Home Claims-based Quality Measures.
4. Nursing Home Compare Quality Measures Technical Specifications Appendix (APPENDIX - Claims-based measures Technical Specifications updates June 2025) contains tables and appendices related to the Nursing Home Compare Claims-based Quality Measures.
5. The SNF QM User's Manual V7.0 contains detailed specifications for all SNF QRP Quality Measures effective October 1, 2025.
6. The Risk Adjustment Appendix File for the SNF Quality Measures User's Manual v7.0 contains coefficient values used to calculate the risk-adjusted quality measures.
7. The Imputation Appendix File for the SNF Quality Measures User's Manual v7.0 contains imputed coefficients used to calculate the risk-adjusted Discharge Function Score measure.

CMS Memos with Updates:

CMS Memo Ref: QSO-26-01-ALL Revised 10-31-25

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-26-01-all-revised-2025-10-31.pdf>

CMS Memo Ref: QSO-25-20-NH REVISED

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-25-20-nh-revised-2025-09-10.pdf>



Manuals with Recent Updates:

Internet Quality Improvement & Evaluation Systems Minimum Data Set Error Message Reference Guide

https://qtso.cms.gov/system/files/qtso/iQIES%20MDS%20Error%20Message%20Reference%20Guide%20v1.0_0.pdf

PA: Resident Data Reporting Manual

<https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp->

[pagov/en/dhs/documents/providers/documents/long_term_nursing_facilities/resident-data-reporting-manual.pdf](https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/dhs/documents/providers/documents/long_term_nursing_facilities/resident-data-reporting-manual.pdf)