

# RAI Spotlight



Kiera Price  
RAI Coordinator  
1-717-787-1816  
[qa-mds@pa.gov](mailto:qa-mds@pa.gov)

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## Minimum Staffing Standards for Long-Term Care Facilities and Medicaid Institutional Payment Transparency Reporting Final Rule

On April 22, 2024, CMS affirmed its commitment to hold nursing homes accountable for providing safe and high-quality care for the nearly 1.2 million residents living in Medicare- and Medicaid-certified long-term care facilities by issuing the [Minimum Staffing Standards for Long-Term Care \(LTC\) Facilities and Medicaid Institutional Payment Transparency Reporting](#) final rule.

CMS is also finalizing enhanced facility assessment requirements and a requirement to have a registered nurse onsite 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to provide skilled nursing care.

More Information:

- [Full fact sheet](#)
- [Press release](#)

Source: [https://www.cms.gov/training-education/medicare-learning-network/newsletter/2024-04-25-mlnc#\\_Toc164778705](https://www.cms.gov/training-education/medicare-learning-network/newsletter/2024-04-25-mlnc#_Toc164778705)

## Next Teleconference: Cognition Documentation

**Date:** July 11, 2024  
**Time:** 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM  
**Topic:** Cognition Documentation  
**Handouts:** Presentation materials will be emailed to all participants prior to the start of the training.

**Registration Link:**  
<https://mslc.webex.com/webex/register/r98b10152e234e6df5b89e2dfbfe5ea14>

**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>

### Questions:

- **RAI**, Manual including MDS coding? [qa-mds@pa.gov](mailto: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](mailto:pahelpdesk@mslc.com)
- **CMS SNF QRP Public Reporting?** [SNFQRPPRquestions@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:SNFQRPPRquestions@cms.hhs.gov)
- **Medicare Part A Billing and Eligibility Questions** - Contact your MAC - Novitas at 1-877-235-8073
- **MDS Technical Issues** (Contact the MDS Automation Coordinator, Ruth Anne Barnard at [rbarnard@pa.gov](mailto:rbarnard@pa.gov))

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## April Teleconference Q and A

We have a wound doctor that comes in. He has documented a Stage on an injury when it is covered with eschar/slough. I have coded as unstageable r/t RAI instructions. Is this correct?

Yes. Per the RAI Manual Version 1.18.11, October 2023, page M-8:

1. Visualization of the wound bed is necessary for accurate staging.
2. If, after careful cleansing of the pressure ulcer/injury, a pressure ulcer's/injury's anatomical tissues are obscured such that the extent of soft tissue damage cannot be observed or palpated, the pressure ulcer/injury is considered unstageable.
3. Pressure ulcers that have eschar (tan, black, or brown) or slough (yellow, tan, gray, green or brown) tissue present such that the anatomic depth of soft tissue damage cannot be visualized or palpated in the wound bed, should be classified as unstageable, as illustrated at <https://npiap.com/page/PressureInjuryStages>.
4. If the wound bed is only partially covered by eschar or slough, and the anatomical depth of tissue damage can be visualized or palpated, numerically stage the ulcer, and do not code this as unstageable.

## Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing Program: FY 2026 Early Look Performance Score Report

Download your FY 2026 Early Look Performance Score Report for the [Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing \(SNF VBP\) Program](#) from [iQIES](#). CMS will expand the SNF VBP Program to assess performance on multiple quality measures, rather than a single measure. Use your report to get familiar with:

- Planned format of the official Performance Score Report
- Scoring and payment methodology
- Your past performance on the 4 quality measures and model performance

Visit [Confidential Feedback Reporting & Review and Corrections](#) for more information.

Questions?

- Contact [iqies@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:iqies@cms.hhs.gov) about report access, or call 800-339-9313
- Contact [SNFVBP@rti.org](mailto:SNFVBP@rti.org) about the program

Source: [https://www.cms.gov/training-education/medicare-learning-network/newsletter/2024-04-25-mlnc#\\_Toc164778705](https://www.cms.gov/training-education/medicare-learning-network/newsletter/2024-04-25-mlnc#_Toc164778705)

## Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0 Technical Information

April 10, 2024

The Microsoft Access database containing the International Classification of Diseases (ICD)-10 codes allowed for item I0020B has been updated to reflect changes occurring soon with PDPM V2.2002. The new tables added should be treated as retroactive for FY2024. Please review the README.TXT included in the ZIP file, now available in the **Downloads** section.

Source: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality/nursing-home-improvement/minimum-data-set-technical-information>

## CMS Proposal to Collect Four New Items as Standardized Patient Assessment Data Elements Beginning with the FY 2027 SNF QRP

CMS is proposing to require SNFs to collect and submit four new items as standardized patient assessment data elements under the SDOH category using the MDS: one item for Living Situation; two items for Food; and one item for Utilities. The proposed Living Situation item asks, “What is your living situation today?” The proposed response options are: (0) I have a steady place to live; (1) I have a place to live today, but I am worried about losing it in the future; (2) I do not have a steady place to live; (7) Resident declines to respond; and (8) Resident unable to respond. The first proposed Food item states, “Within the past 12 months, you worried that your

food would run out before you got money to buy more.” The second proposed Food item States, “Within the past 12 months, the food you bought just didn’t last and you didn’t have money to get more.” The same response options are proposed for both items: (0) Often true; (1) Sometimes true; (2) Never True; (7) Resident declines to respond; and (8) Resident unable to respond. Lastly, the proposed Utilities item asks, “In the past 12 months, has the electric, gas, oil, or water company threatened to shut off services in your home?” The proposed response options are: (0) Yes; (1) No; (2) Already shut off; (7) Resident declines to respond; and (8) Resident unable to respond.

Source: CMS Proposed Rule - <https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2024-06812.pdf>

### Manuals with Recent Updates:

#### Appendix B:

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/changes-appendix-bapril-2024.pdf>

#### CMS iQIES Reports User Manual v2.6

<https://qtso.cms.gov/providers/nursing-home-mdsswing-bed-providers/reference-manuals>

