

The Only MDS Constant is Change

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A Time of Change

I think it is fair to say that the only constant in skilled nursing facility care is change. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) plans October 1, 2016, for the MDS 3.0 to have new important changes. These changes are based on the next version are the MDS technical specifications, the RAI User's Manual, and the SNF PPS Final Rule. The draft version of the CMS technical specifications include that the following will be added and or changed on October 1, 2016.

MDS 3.0 Changes to Include

New PPS Part 'A' End of Stay Assessment

When a resident discharges from a traditional Medicare Part 'A' benefit, the Skilled Nursing Facility and or Swing Bed PPS Part 'A' Discharge (End of Stay) item set will be required for completion. It is anticipated that the new item set will be added to the validation reporting system and will be included on a number of reports, such as the MDS 3.0 and Swing Bed Final Validation Report.

Section 'A' Changes

In the new item A0310H: To identify the new assessment type indicated above, A0310H will be added. It asks, "Is this a SNF PPS Part 'A' Discharge (End of Stay) Assessment?"

Section C Changes

Item C0500, Summary Score change includes the label "Summary Score" moving to "BIMS Summary Score." In addition, item C0600, Should the Staff Assessment for Mental Status (C0700 - C1000) be conducted? Is changing to note the instructional options of 0 and 1 "resident was able to complete Interview" to "resident was able to complete Brief Interview for Mental Status." and "Skip to C1300" will change to "Skip to C1310." Change in option D for C0900, Memory/Recall Ability: Option D will change from "That he or she is in a nursing home" to "That he or she is in a nursing home/hospital swing bed." The deleted items C1300, Signs and Symptoms of Delirium; and C1600, Acute Onset Mental Status Change will have new item, C1310, Signs and Symptoms of Delirium (From CAM), to assume their place. There is also new item C1310: Changes to the Confusion Assessment Method (CAM) to identify signs and symptoms of delirium to be reflected in the new C1310 item. This item will be a Care Area Trigger for both the Delirium and the Cognitive Loss/Dementia Care Area Assessments (CAAs), which are ultimately used for care planning post CAA completion should the decision to proceed to a plan of care occur.

Section GG Changes

Many of us have discussed the new section GG, which is the "Functional Abilities and Goals," being added. This new item GG0130, Self-Care, is completed on admission to PPS Part 'A' and then is repeated at discharge. Section GG includes an assessment of the resident's admission performance and discharge goal for eating, oral hygiene, and toileting. At discharge from PPS Part 'A', the individual completing this section will evaluate the discharge performance again and the score will be placed in item GG0130. The

new item GG0170, Mobility, is found on the admission to PPS Part 'A' and then again at discharge. It includes an assessment of the resident's admission performance and discharge goal for how the resident moves from sitting to lying and from lying to sitting on the side of the bed. This new item will also include how the resident moves from sitting to standing and in chair, bed, and toilet transfers, and measures a variety of walking skills. In review of the scoring for both GG0130 and GG0170 items is a 6-point scale, with independent being the highest number, a 6 and dependent being the lowest number, a 1. It is important to note that this is the opposite of the current item G0110, Activities of Daily Living Assistance, in which independent is scored as 0 and total dependence as 4 thus may be problematic.

Section M Changes

There are six additional items in section M. These include: M0300B, M0300C, M0300D, M0300E, M0300F, and M0300G to the Skilled Nursing Facility Discharge, Nursing Home OMRA/Discharge item set: Question 2, "Number of these Stage [1–4] pressure ulcers that were present upon admission/entry or reentry-enter how many were noted at the time of admission/entry or reentry" will be added to the discharge item sets and the new Part A End of Stay assessment. (The comprehensive, quarterly, and PPS item sets already contain these items.). In addition to the additional items, the change to item M1040: In M1040, option H instructions will change from "i.e. incontinence (IAD)" to "e.g., incontinence-associated dermatitis [IAD]."

Section N Changes

The coding instructions for item N0410 will add a simple change from "Indicate the number of days the resident received the following medications during the last 7 days" to "Indicate the number of days the resident received the following medications by pharmacological classification, not how it is used, during the last 7 days."

Section X Changes

The new added item will be X0600E which is to identify and complete a modification on the new item set SNF PPS Part 'A' Discharge Assessment and also item X0600E is being added to identify the type of assessment being modified.

Let's Start Preparing Now

I think it is safe to say with all of the changes, we should be preparing now! As we move closer to October 1, 2016; however, thus far we appear to be on target from all available data. The key is ongoing education and training to assure that you are evaluating your residents properly and establishing resident centered plans of care.

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