



RESIDENT ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT (RAI) PROCESS MDS COORDINATOR FACT SHEET FOR ADMINISTRATORS AND DON'S

Do you realize that the MDS Coordinator holds a vital key to the future of your nursing home? What are you doing to protect your investment?

The RAI Process begins with the MDS which leads into all aspects of resident-centered care within your building. The MDS Coordinator is pivotal to ensuring appropriate, quality care is provided to residents and accurate information is provided for the quality measures and indicators, and the billing process. When there is frequent or high turnover in this position, the result can lead to disastrous consequences.

DID YOU KNOW.....

- ✓ The MDS reflects the quality of care within your home, which in turn is seen by the public in Nursing Home Compare. Accurate coding is essential. So, as families look for a nursing home for their loved one, be sure that your home is accurately represented. The state of Missouri averages over 1000 hits per month looking at the Nursing Home Compare site.
- ✓ Surveyors review your QI/QM Reports prior to arrival. This sets the stage for your survey. The MDS data that generates this report assists surveyors to focus on areas of concern. This report should be available in your home at any time. Are you using it in your QA/QI Meetings?
- ✓ The RAI Process which ends with the Comprehensive Care Plan (F-279) was in the list of top ten citations for last year at 27%. How many other citations related to nursing can be traced back to your RAI process?
- ✓ Reimbursement on your Medicare residents is based on the information entered in the MDS. One simple change in your coding could improve your reimbursement. The difference could be as great as \$71 per day per resident. That is a lot of money over time to leave in the Medicare basket.

SO..... what can you do to invest in your MDS Coordinator and, in turn, your nursing home?

You can provide:

- ✓ **Proper training:** MDS/RAI Process One Step at a Time is co-sponsored by many different organizations representing long term care in the state. The 2-day workshop is only \$245 which can easily be recovered in more accurate coding. For further information go to: <http://web.mhanet.com/asp/Education/Seminars.asp>.
- ✓ **On-going training:** Each region of the state has an MDS Coordinator Support Group. These meetings will help the coordinator stay current on any changes in the coding of the MDS. For dates and locations in your region go to: <http://www.nursinghomehelp.org/supgr.html>.
- ✓ **On-site assistance:** The Quality Improvement Program for Missouri (QIPMO) can offer free on-site assistance to your MDS Coordinator. To reach the nurse in your area contact: Jessica Mueller at muellerjes@missouri.edu or (573) 882-0241.

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