Resources for Improved MDS Accuracy and Compliance

In addition to assessing compliance with federal regulations, CMS aims to help providers maintain compliance to improve the safety and quality of care nursing home residents receive. Therefore, based on the findings of the MDS focused surveys, we are providing several resources nursing homes may access to help improve compliance:

• The CMS regulations for the RAI, including the MDS 3.0 and the Care Area Assessments (CAAs) are found at 42 CFR 483.20. Interpretive guidance for these regulations is found in Appendix PP of the SOM at F-tags 272 through F287 at https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/som107ap_pp_guidelines_ltcf.pdf

• The RAI Manual provides instructions to accurately code the MDS assessment and provide appropriate care. This manual can be found at: https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/MDS30RAIManual.html

Within the manual, CMS recommends facilities review Chapter 3 for specific instructions on how to code each section of the MDS assessment. Based on survey findings, we have revised the guidance for Falls, Pressure Ulcers, and classifying medications to clarify coding instructions for providers. Additionally, Chapter 2 describes the requirements for when assessments must be completed. Specific areas in Chapter 3 of the RAI Manual to review include:

o Antipsychotic Medications (MDS Item N Page N4- N9)
o Restraints (MDS Item P Page P1 – P8)
o Falls (MDS Item J Page J26 – J34)
o UTI (MDS Item I Page I1- I9)
o Pressure Ulcers (MDS Item M Page M1 – M30)
o Continence (MDS Item H Page H1 – H2)
Training modules for completing the MDS assessment can be found at https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInitits/NHQIMDS30TrainingMaterials.html

Also, based on the complexity of coding Pressure Ulcers and the errors identified on the surveys, we have added a new training module to this website to help providers address pressure ulcers.

Providers and MDS Coordinators may also want to contact their State RAI Coordinators for questions. Contact information for State RAI Coordinators can be found in Appendix B RAI Manual and found at https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInitits/MDS30RAIManual.html