

QIES MDS eNewsletter - March, 2019

Oklahoma State Department of Health, QIES Help Desk

The QIES Help Desk eNewsletter brings you information, announcements, and available training.

(Webpage links are in red lettering)

QIES Help Desk Training:

- MDS 3.0 Basic Clinical Training

**March 26th and 27th; Sign-in 8:15--9:00 and training starts at 9:00 AM
Gordon Cooper Technology Center, Shawnee, Oklahoma**

*This 2-day training is intended for new MDS Coordinators and those desiring a review of clinical coding of the MDS assessment, as well as modification guidelines of assessments. We will be covering the PDPM changes that are anticipated for fall 2019 at our September training. **It will not be covered during this March training.***

Registration has closed, however if you desire to attend, contact our office at: MDShelp@health.ok.gov or call 405-271-5278.

-REMINDER

Don't forget to bring either a hard-copy or electronic version of the 2018 RAI Manual, along with a highlighter! Click [HERE](#) for the latest version of the RAI Manual

Visit our training website at mdstraining.health.ok.gov

Upcoming Events:

- SNF Value-Based Purchasing Program: Phase One Review and Corrections Call
Wednesday, March 20 from 12:30 to 2 pm CST
Go to [Medicare Learning Network events](#) to register

During this call, participants learn about the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) Program Review and Corrections process and get answers to frequently asked questions about Phase One of the process. During the Review and Corrections period, SNFs have an opportunity to review and submit correction requests to quality measure information.

Deadline for correction submission is April 1, 2019. For more information: visit the SNF VBP Program webpage.

News to Know:

- The Oklahoma State Department of Health, QIES Help Desk now has an easier way to access resources and information. Visit [MDSresources.health.ok.gov](https://mdsresources.health.ok.gov).

- An RAI User's Manual Errata file has been posted to the CMS MDS 3.0 RAI Manual webpage [HERE](#). *The Errata file, titled MDS 3.0 RAI Manual (v1.16R) Errata (v1.1) February 13, 2019, is located in the Downloads section of the webpage and contains the RAI Manual Change Table and associated replacement pages. (Updated manual pages are marked with the footer October 2018 (R)).*

- CMS Improving Nursing Home Compare in April

On March 5, CMS announced updates coming next month to Nursing Home Compare and the Five-Star Quality Rating System to strengthen this tool for consumers to compare quality between nursing homes.

If you attended the recent OFMQ Regional Trainings, you will recall the information presented by our department regarding CMS's Five-Step Action Plan. Two of the steps included Consumer Awareness and Assistance, and Quality Improvement. By revising Nursing Home Compare and the Five-Star Quality Rating System, CMS is fulfilling their goal of continually working to improve the quality of care in nursing homes.

The April 2019 changes include:

- Revisions to the inspection process, enhancement of staffing information, and implementation of new quality measures.*
- Lifting of the 'freeze' on the health inspection ratings instituted in February 2018*
- Setting higher thresholds and evidence-based standards for nursing homes' staffing*
- Adding measures of long-stay hospitalizations and emergency room transfers*
- Removing duplicative and less meaningful measures*
- Establishing separate quality ratings for short-stay and long-stay residents*
- Revising the rating thresholds to better identify the differences in quality among nursing homes*

See the full text of this excerpted CMS Press Release (issued March 5).

- SNF Provider Threshold Report

The FY 2020 and 2021 Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Provider Threshold Report is available in the Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reports (CASPER) application. Check the status of your compliance threshold for the SNF Quality Reporting Program.

We welcome your feedback regarding our eNewsletter!

Email your comments, questions, concerns, or ideas to MDShelp@health.ok.gov.

We are conducting a brief confidential survey each quarter to determine how we can better serve you. Please take a few minutes to let us know how we are doing and to share any additional suggestions.



Quality Improvement and
Evaluation Service (QIES)

Oklahoma State
Department of Health

***Do you have MDS questions?
Contact the QIES Help Desk at:
(405) 271- 5278 or
MDShelp@health.ok.gov.***

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