**Overview of MDS 2023 Updates Toolkit-**

**Section 3**

**MDS Competencies - Overview and Templates**

**MDS Competencies – Section Overview and How to Use Templates**

In the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Long-Term Care Facility Resident Assessment Instrument 3.0 User’s Manual, Chapter 1, Page 1-2, it states, “Clinical competence, observational, interviewing and critical thinking skills, and assessment expertise from all disciplines are required to develop individualized care plans.”1

In addition, F726 Nursing Services also addresses the requirements for competencies that indicates, “The facility must have sufficient nursing staff with the appropriate competencies and skills sets to provide nursing and related services to assure resident safety and attain or maintain the highest practicable physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being of each resident, as determined by resident assessments and individual plans of care and considering the number, acuity and diagnoses of the facility’s resident population in accordance with the facility assessment”.2

Competency in documentation to substantiate Minimum Data Set (MDS) coding, consistent with directions in the Long-Term Care Facility Resident Assessment Instrument 3.0 User’s Manual, is essential for quality care planning, accurate assessment process, compliance, accurate data and reimbursement. It is essential that staff are trained and competent in this process.

This section provides several tools that can be utilized following education, to identify evidence of competencies in multiple areas. These knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA) tools will be able to determine if an employee is competent, needs additional training, identifies the method of evaluation and any recommendations. Competency tools include:

* Nursing Assistant Checklist - Section GG coding
* Licensed Nurse – Section GG
* Professional Therapy – Section GG coding
* Agency Licensed Nurse – Section GG coding
* Agency Nursing Assistant – Section GG coding

**References and Resources**

1Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. State Operations Manual, Appendix PP – Guidance to Surveyors for Long Term Care Facilities. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/provider-enrollment-and-certification/guidanceforlawsandregulations/downloads/appendix-pp-state-operations-manual.pdf>

2Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Long-Term Care Facility Resident Assessment Instrument 3.0 User’s Manual. Version 1.18.11, October 2023: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/MDS30RAIManual>