**Overview of MDS 2023 Updates Toolkit-**

**MDS 2023 Changes and the Facility Assessment**

**MDS Changes-Impact on the Facility Assessment**

**Introduction**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires facilities to conduct and document a Facility Assessment in order to identify the necessary resources for competent resident care.

F838 Facility Assessment states, “The facility must conduct and document a facility-wide assessment to determine what resources are necessary to care for its residents competently during both day-to-day operations and emergencies. The facility must review and update that assessment, as necessary, and at least annually. The facility must also review and update this assessment whenever there is, or the facility plans for, any change that would require a substantial modification to any part of this assessment.”1

CMS also describes the intent of the Facility Assessment, “for the facility to evaluate its resident population and identify the resources needed to provide the necessary care and services the residents require.”1 Organization data is essential to determine trends, needs, performance improvement as well as resource needs and allocations needed provide the necessary care and services to the facility resident population in order to complete the Facility Assessment. Facility leadership and staff must assess and document the facilities’ capabilities in providing care that allows each resident to attain and maintain their highest practicable physical, mental and psychosocial well-being, reflecting the individuality of the facility.

**Intent of the Facility Assessment**

The intent and purpose of the facility assessment is to determine what resources are necessary to care for residents competently during both day-to-day operations and emergencies. The facility assessment is used to make decisions about direct care staff needs, facility capabilities to provide services and resources to the residents in your facility and the identification of trends or risks impacting the resident population. In general, the intent of the facility assessment is for the facility to evaluate its resident population and identify the resources needed to provide the necessary person-centered care and services the residents require.2

**Data for the Facility Assessment**

Data is a key component of the Facility Assessment. Data is the heart of strategic decision making in healthcare operations – clinical, financial, operational systems and quality outcomes. Many types of data are utilized daily in skilled nursing facilities across the nation deriving from the Minimum Data Set (MDS), billing practices (UB04), electronic health records, business software, and other assisted technologies. This data leads to insights – resident population demographics, resident acuity, resident conditions, resource utilization and allocation, financial performance and more.

The facility assessment asks an organization to collect and use information from a variety of sources, including the MDS. “Some of the sources may include but are not limited to MDS reports, Quality Measures, 672 (Resident Census and Conditions of Residents) and/or 802 (Roster/Sample Matrix Form) reports, the Payroll-Based Journal, and in-house designed reports.”2

The MDS is not only important to the Facility Assessment but also for Emergency Preparedness. The facility’s emergency preparedness plans as required under §483.73 (Emergency Preparedness) should be integrated and compatible with the facility assessment. As one is updated, so should the other.

**MDS 2023 Changes and the Facility Assessment**

With the 2023 MDS changes, there are new key data elements that need to be considered for the revision and complement of the Facility Assessment. Suggested updated data element areas include, but are not limited to the following MDS 2023 changes:

* Activities of Daily living including Section GG updates
* Health literacy
* Social isolation
* Medication Reconciliation trends
* Signs and symptoms of delirium
* PHQ-2 to 9
* Section GG
* Pain updates
* Nutrition approaches
* High risk medications – use and indication.
* Special treatments – oxygen use, chemotherapy, suctioning, IV medications, dialysis
* Section Q – participation in goal setting, resident preferences, cultural competence

It is recommended that facility leadership and the MDS Coordinator review the MDS Facility Readiness Tool Checklist in Section 2 of this Toolkit for further information.

**Summary**

Education and competency with completion of the MDS will be essential, in order for thorough and accurate information to be utilized successfully in the Facility Assessment for decision-making and quality outcomes. All staff completing the MDS should have an understanding of how the coding process relates to data points used in making facility decisions on resources necessary for quality of resident care.

Ongoing review of MDS data will be an integral part of the analysis necessary to determine if the Facility Assessment requires updating or modification based upon the unique facility resident population and resource needs.

**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>

Centers 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>

2Quality Improvement Organizations. Facility Assessment Tool. <https://qioprogram.org/facility-assessment-tool>