

Introduction MDS 3.0

The Minimum Data Set (MDS) is part of the federally mandated process for clinical assessment of all residents in Medicare and Medicaid certified nursing homes. This process provides a comprehensive assessment of each resident's functional capabilities and helps nursing home staff identify health problems. Care Area Assessments (CAAs) are part of this process, and provide the foundation upon which a resident's individual care plan is formulated. MDS assessments are completed for all residents in certified nursing homes, regardless of source of payment for the individual resident. MDS assessments are required for residents on admission to the nursing facility, periodically, and on discharge. All assessments are completed within specific guidelines and time frames. In most cases, participants in the assessment process are licensed health care professionals employed by the nursing home. MDS information is transmitted electronically by nursing homes to the national MDS database at CMS..

Credit: <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/-Computer-Data-and-Systems/Minimum-Data-Set-3-0-Public-Reports/index.html>

Main Objectives

- MDS screens for possible problems in 20 care areas.
- Care Area Triggers (CATs) alert to possible issues in the care needs.
- Triggered care area must be thoroughly assessed.
- There is no mandated specific tool for assessment.
- Documentation must meet criteria.

CAAs: Problem Areas

1. Activities
2. ADL Supplement Attaining Maximum Possible Independence
3. ADLs Functional Status/Rehabilitation Potential
4. Behavioral Symptoms
5. Cognitive Loss/Dementia
6. Communication
7. Dehydration/Fluid Maintenance
8. Delirium
9. Dental Care
10. Documents
11. Feeding Tubes
12. Mood State
13. Nutritional Status
14. Pain
15. Physical Restraints
16. Pressure Ulcer
17. Psychosocial Well-Being
18. Psychotropic Medication Use
19. Return to Community Referral
20. Urinary
21. Visual Function

MDS 3.0 Form

The image shows a portion of the MDS 3.0 form, specifically Section A: Identification Information. It includes several data entry fields and checkboxes for identifying the facility and the type of assessment being performed.

Complete Form: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/Downloads/Archive-Draft-of-the-MDS-30-Nursing-Home-Comprehensive-NC-Version-1140.pdf>



CAA Process Framework

- Guides review of triggered areas
- Clarifies functional status and related causes of impairments
- Assessment of causes and contributing factors provides IDT additional information
- Should help staff:
 - Consider each resident as a whole
 - Identify areas of concern
 - Develop to extent possible, interventions to help improve, stabilize, or prevent declines
 - Address need and desire for other considerations such as palliative care

No mandated forms

There are no mandated forms that must be used for the CAA process in MDS 3.0. The RAI Manual instructs "To identify and use tools that are current and grounded in current clinical standards of practice, such as evidence-based or expert-endorsed research, clinical practice guidelines, and resources."

CMS does supply facilities with CAA Resources in Appendix C. The appendix includes care area specific tools that the assessor can use for each of the 20 care areas. Each tool is between three to five pages long, guides the interdisciplinary decision-making, and provides a place to document the process. Using the tools provides a comprehensive assessment of the problem area.

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