Eli's Hospice Insider

Hospice News: Help SNFs Improve MDS Accuracy With These Hospice Coding Tips

Pitfall: Facilities may forget that hospice admission triggers a significant change MDS.

If you're a hospice provider serving nursing home patients, you can help those facilities fill out their MDS assessments correctly.

Tip: For item A1800 (Entered From), facilities should select Code 07, Hospice "if the resident was admitted from a program for terminally ill persons where an array of services is necessary for the palliation and management of terminal illness and related conditions," states the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services'** RAI User's Manual. The hospice must be state-licensed or Medicare-certified. The response includes community-based or inpatient hospice programs.

Plus: If an individual is enrolled in a home-based hospice program enter 07, Hospice, instead of 01, Community, for MDS item A2100 (Discharge Status), the Manual instructs. Again, state license or Medicare certification requirements apply.

Remember: Nursing homes must complete a significant change MDS when a patient elects hospice, even if they completed another MDS assessment recently.