

Long-Term Care Survey Alert

Check Out 3 Important RAI Manual Technical Updates

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) made several key changes to the RAI Manual's Appendix B and the data submission specifications.

On Oct. 30, CMS posted the update of Appendix B, which contains changes to the list of state RAI Coordinators, MDS Automation Coordinators, RAI Panel members and Regional Office contacts. You can access the updated Appendix B at www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/Downloads/MDS-RAI-Manual-Appendix-B-10-30-2014.pdf.

And on Nov. 4, CMS posted an updated errata document for v1.14.1 of the data submission specifications. The update removes edits -3855 and -3856, which would sometimes incorrectly trigger fatal errors on records containing valid data. CMS will also remove these edits from the Assessment Submission and Processing (ASAP) system.

The updated errata document is available at www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/Downloads/MDS-30-Submission-Specs-Errata-V1141-for-the-October-1-2014-Release.zip.

Finally, CMS posted a Nov. 30 draft version of the data submission specifications (v1.15.0), which would become effective on Oct. 1, 2015. This future version would accommodate the transition from ICD-9 diagnosis codes to ICD-10, scheduled for Oct. 1, 2015. The draft v1.15.0 is available at www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/Downloads/MDS-30-Submission-Specs-V1-15-0-October-1-2015-Release.zip.