

MDS Alert

MDS NEWS TO USE

Get the height and weight right at K2. A recent MDS coding tip sheet clarifies coding K2. "This item directs you to record a current height and weight in order to monitor nutrition and hydration status over time, and provides a mechanism for monitoring the stability of weight over time."

For new admissions, measure height in inches. For current admissions, check the clinical records for the last recorded height. If it was more than one year ago, measure the resident's height again.

As for recording weight, check the clinical records. "If the last recorded weight was taken more than one month ago or the previous weight is not available, weigh the resident again," the tip sheet says.

"If the resident has experienced a decline in intake at meals or snacks, or a decline in fluid intake, weigh the resident again. If the resident's weight was obtained more than once during the preceding month, record the most recent weight."

Round up height to the nearest whole inch and weight to the nearest whole pound. Read the tip sheet at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NursingHomeQualityInits/20_NHQIMDS20.asp.

The latest MDS 3.0 news: To see how the MDS 2.0 jibes with the draft MDS 3.0, check out the crosswalk at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/nursinghomequalityinits/25_nhqimds30.asp.

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** anticipates that the vast majority of items on the draft MDS 3.0 will be included in the final version, although there could be some changes. A second document shows MDS 2.0 dropped items.