

MDS Alert

RAI Compliance: Get Your Dates Straight Without Backdating The MDS

Here's one practice you want to avoid.

In the MDS compliance world, there are some clear-cut don'ts that can hurt your facility if you don't know to avoid them.

And backdating the MDS falls in the camp of OBRA no-no's.

Example: One facility didn't date anything on the MDS until its care plan meetings, and then they decided what to date when, says **Leah Klusch, RN, BSN**, executive director of the **Alliance Training Center** in Alliance, OH. "That isn't how it works."

Consultant **Marilyn Mines, RN, BC, RAC-C**, has seen facilities that sign and date the MDS to fit the "regulation timeline"--even when they haven't finished the paperwork and/or the care plan.

The compliance bottom line: "If a facility gets caught doing that--it's in big trouble," cautions Mines, who is director of clinical services for **FR&R Healthcare Consulting** in Deerfield, IL.

Instead: Use the OBRA and PPS-required assessment charts in the RAI manual and look at whether your assessment meets those criteria for timing on those charts
(www.cms.hhs.gov/NursingHomeQualityInits/Downloads/MDS20rai1202ch2.pdf).