

OASIS Alert

CMS Shows Off New OASIS-C Form

Process measures, M0 item revisions will mean big changes for HHAs.

Providers are one step closer to seeing the majorly revamped assessment tool they'll start using in 2010.

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** has issued its latest version of the OASIS-C tool, and it contains the changes CMS and OASIS contractor officials described at an industry conference in October.

The addition of process measures focused on vaccinations and risk assessments, long-anticipated modifications to items like ambulation, and elimination of the prior status column for ADLs are just some of the many changes CMS and its contractors have incorporated into the new form.

Providers should take a hard look at the latest form and provide feedback on it, CMS's **Deborah Terkay** urged attendees at the **Nat-ional Association for Home Care & Hospice's** annual meeting last month. The deadline for comments is Jan. 13, 2009, according to a notice in the Nov. 14 Federal Register.

More change ahead: CMS plans to take providers' comments seriously and revamp the tool one more time before issuing the final data collection instrument next year, Terkay noted. CMS already has made significant revisions to the tool based on provider comment, both from public notices and from field testing that took place this year, so HHAs' feedback is important, she stressed.

Resource: You can see the new OASIS-C form and its supporting documents at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PaperworkReductionActof1995/PRAL/list.asp> -- search for CMS-R-245. Or email editor Kelly Quinones Miller at kellyq@eliresearch.com with "OASIS-C December" in the subject line for a free pdf copy.

Note: Sign up for **Rebecca Friedman Zuber's** Dec. 11 **Eli**-sponsored audioconference, "OASIS-C: What You Need To Know Now About This Major Assessment Overhaul," at http://www.audioeducator.com/industry_conference.php?id=1306 or by calling 1-800-508-2582.