CMS MDS 3.0 Software Developer/Vendor Call Agenda

Thursday, April 11, 2024
Time: 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. ET
Zoom Link:
https://cms.zoomgov.com/j/1618195843?pwd=SzQ1WUpHbE5vWHdvdXFIOW80YWF2QT09
Dial in Option: 1-833-568-8864 Meeting ID: 161 819 5843 Password: 181652

Welcome ....Kimberlie Jasmin, CMS

Welcome everyone and Thank you for joining the MDS Software Developer/Vendor Call.

My name is Kimberlie Jasmin, and I will be facilitating today's call.

The purpose of this call is to provide information to software developers and vendors who are creating or have created software for Nursing Home providers.

Please note that this call will only cover questions specific to the MDS data submission specifications and technical information. This call will NOT cover clinical coding, quality reporting requirements or policies, and payment policies. If you are not a software vendor or developer, do NOT attend this call.

All participants please be advised that this meeting will be recorded only for documentation purposes.

Please note the resources listed at the bottom of the agenda. Minutes will be posted on the QTSO.cms.gov website within the next two weeks.

Thank you to those who submitted questions, comments, or concerns ahead of this afternoon's call.

If time allows, we will have an open Q & A session at the end of this call.

I will now hand over the call to John Jackson.

Data Submission Specification Updates ....John Jackson, GDIT

New draft data specs have been posted on the CMS web site for MDS (V3.02.0). These specs go into effect on October 1, 2024. They match the new item set V1.19.1 for MDS, which is available in the usual locations on the CMS web site.

So, what's new?

- The Section GG Goal items (and their associated edits) will be removed.
- Items A2121 through A2122E will be removed from the NPE ISC.
- New "COVID-19 Vaccination Up To Date" item (O0350). Valid values are 0, 1, and dash.
- New items N0415K1 and N0415K2 (anti-convulsant) added.
- Section S items have been added to the dictionary by request. These items can be selected by states that did not originally request them in 2025 (not for this year).
- New edit -4070 to handle skips for items A2121 and A2123.
- New edit -4071 to handle skips for item D0700.

We anticipate publishing FINAL specs for MDS within a couple of months. Please let us know if you find any issues, so we can avoid errata documents!

No changes to the CAAs for October 2024.

Please remember – we also publish updated ICD-10 lists for use with item I0020B in FY2025 in a separate Access database (as we have in previous years). This will become available in the summer.

Regarding the data specs package that we publish:

> We currently provide the following:

- The Microsoft Access data dictionary
- PDFs for each section of the assessment instrument, as well as the item change report, the edit change report, and the unduplicated edits by ID report
- Comma Separated Value (CSV) files for the item master, item value, ISC master and ISC value tables
- HTML files which allow users to navigate through the items and edits
- An Overview file for newcomers to the data specs.

Question: Are you using the Microsoft Access database as part of your workflow? If so, please respond to the helpdesk. If you don't respond, we will assume that you don't use it! Thanks in advance for getting back to us on this matter.

State Required Section S Items...John Jackson, GDIT

New for Section S:

From Colorado:

- New items S0195A-D, Y, Z: topic: Local Contact Agency Referral Decision.
- S0200B will now be used in concert with the S0195 items. It is a large text field, and we needed to reuse it due to space limitations in the fixed-length string representation of assessments!

From Maryland:

- New items S0509B, S0535, S0540, S0545, S0550, S0555: topic: PASRR.
- S0509 and S0511 (existing items) now allow the dash.

From Massachusetts:

- New items S6299, S6301A-C,Z, S6302, S6303E-H, S6304
- New allowed value of 99999999 (not yet received) for S6305B. This item is listed as text, even though it is a date field…because 99999999 is not a valid date, so it would trigger edit -3808 if validated as a date.

Note to all – there's only 15 bytes left for future new Section S items. In fact, the MDS fixed-length string is running out of space in general. We are aware of this issue and considering options. Stay tuned.

iQIES Submission Processing System and Validation Utility Tool Updates........................Liz Kowal, ICF

On October 1, 2024, the iQIES submission processing system and VUT will process records with a target date on or after 10/01/2024 using version 3.02.0 of the MDS Data Specifications.

iQIES will continue to process records with a target date prior to October 1, 2024, using the appropriate set of data specifications in effect for the target date of the submitted record.

No planned changes to the user tool; access to the VUT remains the same.

The MDS VUT is targeted to be available for testing by May 2024.

If any updates to these dates change, a notification will be sent out.

Discussion of Submitted Q & A's .... Kimberlie Jasmin, CMS
Q1. Are there any plans to provide programmatic access to iQIES functionality, or documentation for APIs?
A1: CMS may consider as a future requirement.

Q2. Are there any plans to provide a test or example environment for vendors to use to test interaction with iQIES without accessing specific, real-world facilities?
A2: No. The MDS Validation Utility Tool (VUT) is a software utility that can be used to validate MDS submission files in XML format. The VUT attempts to enforce the edits that are mapped to the MDS items, as published in the MDS version 3.02.0 Data Submission Specifications.

Q3. We have a question regarding the skip patterns for K0710A and K0710B, specifically when Column 2 of K0520A and K0520B are skipped and Column 3 of K0520A and K0520B are either 0 or -. In this scenario, we feel K0710A2 through K0710B3 equal [^], however we do not see an edit that addresses this exact scenario.

Edit -4055 indicates K0520A2, K0520B2 and K0520Z2 are skipped when A2300 minus A1600 is greater than or equal to 7 days:

> -4055 Consistency Fatal a) If A2300 (assessment reference date) minus A1600 (entry date) is greater than or equal to 7 days, then the following items in Column 2 must be equal to [^]: K0520A2, K0520B2, K0520Z2.

Per V3.01 and V3.02.0 of the data specifications, edit -4043 does not address K0710A2 through K0710B3 when K0520A and K0520B are skipped.

-4043 Skip pattern Fatal (a) If K0520A2=[1] OR K0520B2=[1] OR K0520A3=[1] OR K0520B3=[1] then K0710A2 through K0710B3 must

not equal [^].

(b) If K0520A2=[0,-] AND K0520B2=[0,-] AND K0520A3=[0,-] AND K0520B3=[0,-] then K0710A2 through

K0710B3 must equal [^].

Per the MDS 3.0 RAI Manual v1.18.11 regarding K0710: Percent Intake by Artificial Route:

> Complete K0710 only if Column 2 and/or Column 3 are checked for K0520A and/or K0520B.

Can you confirm that if K0520A2=[0,-,^] AND K0520B2=[0,-,^] AND K0520A3=[0,-] AND K0520B3=[0,-] then K0710A2 through K0710B3 must equal [^].
If this is correct, will the data specifications be updated to reflect this?
A3: K0710 would not be automatically skipped if K0520 Column 2 *While not a Resident* is skipped since Column 3 K0520A3 and B3 items are also factored in for the completion of K0710.

When an item has the dash (-) as an allowed response, then the record would not be rejected when a (–) dash is coded. All the K0520 and K0710 items have the dash as a valid response. Whether a record would be accepted or rejected when an item is skipped (^) will depend on the various items involved and the edits that apply to those items.

We recommend you take advantage of the MDS VUT to test your records with various scenarios to determine if a record would be accepted or rejected.

Open Q and A Session ....**Kimberlie Jasmin, CMS**

Q1: When you publish the minutes from this meeting, could put in there a link to the Validation Utility Tool (VUT) just so there is no confusion as to where it is located?
A1: Yes, the second page of the agenda include a link to the VUT.

Q2: What can we do when we are not having trouble with the VUT internally, but for customers, the file(s) from IQIES are not generating certain Section Items correctly when they are imported into our system in some scenarios and Validation tool is not recognizing them?
A2: If you want to open an XML file and view it, you can use a text editor to check for special characters, or something odd in the XML file or you can send the "sanitized" XML file to the iQIES Help Desk to determine if the file is UTF-8 compliant.

Q3: When looking at the item set and data specifications, it does look like A2121 is still on the NPE. Would you please confirm if it is being removed from the item set?
A3: Yes. The item A2121 will be removed from the NPE on the final item set and data specifications.

Q4: I have a question regarding the RESTful API. Originally it was going out in April of last year and then in October they were looking for volunteers. The questionnaire went out to the States, then the State forwarded the questions to their vendors to see if anybody wanted to be part of the whole RESTful API. We volunteered to participate but we are not sure if we are on the list to be a candidate for testing.
A4: The questionnaire was about the MDS Nightly Extracts that the states receive, and we were looking for volunteers to test. We are not ready to move to APIs with regards to the MDS submissions. We suggest that you forward your question to the iQIES Help Desk for an immediate response.

Q5: When will we get the MDS RAI Manual for the October 2024 release?
A5: The draft MDS RAI Manual will be released in early June with the final coming out in August.

Q6: Would you please confirm if there are any changes to the Care Area or Triggers?
A6: There are no changes for the October 2024 release.

Q7: What about the RUG DLL for Medicaid for States that have not converted over to PDPM?
A7: There are no changes to the RUG DLL.

Q8: Is there a date when States are required to migrate to PDPM methodology?
A8: States are not required to migrate to PDPM. It is an option for States. Please reach out to the individual State to determine their plans.

Q9: When will CMS discontinue their support of the Optional State Assessments (OSA)?
A9: CMS will support the use of an OSA by state Medicaid agencies through 9/30/2025. States will be allowed to submit OSAs after 9/30/2025 if the target date is 9/30/2025 or earlier. Also, there are no changes to the OSA data specifications.

Q10: If the OSAs are going to be dropped on September 30th then does that mean that the State must move to PDPM?
A10: No. There is at least one State that has its own submission system. They may continue their RUGs at that point, or they may move to PDPM. If they continue with RUGs, then they will need their own method of how to obtain that information from their providers.

Q11: For clarification purposes, John said OSA will remain as is, but Genice said it will be dropped in October.
A11: The OSA will no longer be supported on or after October 1, 2025.

Q12: Will there be any CBSA changes this year?
A12: We will need to wait to hear from the payment side of the house on what they may or may not have to do.

Q13: When is PBJ going to be migrated from QIES to iQIES?
A13: CMS does not have a timeline at this point.

Q14: I have a question regarding iQIES and QMs. The reports were more real time when there were on the old website. Can we confirm if our facilities have any access to their QM reports in real time now or a version of those QM reports?
A14: We do not have the appropriate staff on this call. Please forward your question to the iQIES Help Desk for an immediate response.

Closing Comments .... Kimberlie Jasmin, CMS
Thank you for joining today's call. We appreciate the collaboration between our various partners to ensure a successful implementation of various CMS assessment instruments, not only by CMS but also you through your product.

As always if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please send them to the iQIES Help Desk mailbox at iQIES@cms.hhs.gov. I would like to thank our speakers, John and Liz, for an excellent job on today's call. And thank you for calling in to stay updated on the future changes to the Nursing Home Quality program.

Have a great rest of the week!

Important Resources

QTSO Website
https://qtso.cms.gov
https://qtso.cms.gov/vendors
https://qtso.cms.gov/vendors/minimum-data-set-mds-vendors
https://qtso.cms.gov/software/iqies/news
https://qtso.cms.gov/software/iqies/reference-manuals
https://qtso.cms.gov/software/iqies/training

iQIES Website
https://iqies.cms.gov/
https://iqies.cms.gov/vut
https://iqies.cms.gov/known-issues
https://iqies.cms.gov/iqies/help

HARP User Account Training
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1zj8JqxWg4

CMS.gov – MDS Technical Information
https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/NHQIMDS30TechnicalInformation

CMS.gov – MDS RAI Manual
https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/MDS30RAIManual

CMS.gov – MDS Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM)
https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/SNFPPS/PDPM

E-mail MDS PDPM
pdpm@cms.hhs.gov

E-mail MDS Technical Issues
IQIES@cms.hhs.gov

Open Door Forums
https://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/outreach/opendoorforums/odf_snfltc