

# CMS MDS Software Developer/Vendor Call Minutes

June 10, 2021

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET

## Welcome ..... Emmanuel Kalluri, CMS

- Welcome to the CMS MDS Software Developer / Vendor call. The purpose of this call is to provide information to MDS Software Developers and Vendors who are creating or have created software for MDS providers. On this call we will provide information on MDS updates that will be effective October 1, 2021. We will discuss PDPM Grouper Updates, Data submission specification updates, Validation Utility Tool (VUT) updates and the ASAP system enhancements.
- If time allows we will have an open Q & A session at the end of this call.
- If you do not have the agenda for this call, it may be found at <https://qtso.cms.gov>. You will need to click on the Minimum Data Set (MDS) Vendors link under the “I’m a Vendor” tab in the middle of the page, a link to the agenda can be located under the “News & Updates” section.

## PDPM Grouper Update (DLL to JAR)..... Doug Papallo, 3M

With this release, the PDPM grouper is developed and distributed as a JAVA component and will be updated to address the most current set of ICD-10 codes approved by CMS, and any associated code assignments to their respective clinical categories.

Additional changes to the PDPM will be made based on the specifications provided in requirements expected to be received by CMS in the early July timeframe.

The FY2022 PDPM grouper version number will be set to version 2.0 since it will be moving to a JAVA platform. A DLL version of the PDMP grouper will no longer be distributed.

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

Great news! There are no item set updates for implementation on October 1, 2021. Does that mean there are no data submission spec updates for October 1? Not exactly.

One thing that we can expect to change every year is the allowed list of ICD-10 codes for item I0020 (the primary diagnosis item). Therefore, you can expect to see an updated Access database with two new tables - pdpm\_icd\_codes\_FY2022 and pdpm\_icd\_codes\_2\_FY2022 – posted as soon as we have it. Other than that, no other changes are planned.

## Validation Utility Tool (VUT) updates. .... John Jackson, GDIT

Since the Validation Utility Tool performs the ICD lookup validation for I0020, it will be updated and posted soon after the FY2022 PDPM ICD codes are released.

One other change will be made to the VUT. Vermont has decided to end their collection of Section S items, so the VUT will stop validating those items after September 30, 2021.

No other changes are planned for the VUT. We usually get it posted in the August timeframe.

Just a reminder that the validation of OBRA's depends on the value of the (relatively) new item introduced in the errata: STATE\_PDPM\_OBRA\_CD. Therefore, if any states begin or end collection of PDPM values for OBRA assessments, please remember to update the value of STATE\_PDPM\_OBRA\_CD in assessments submitted to the VUT so that it provides the correct results!

**ASAP System Enhancements .....Marni Bussell, Telligen**

The MDS ASAP system will continue to validate assessment records using the final MDS 3.0 data specifications version 3.00.1 (dated 4-22-2019) and the latest data spec errata version 3.00.7 (dated 02-01-21).

With this release, ASAP will incorporate the new JAR PDPM Grouper version 2.0 and will update the valid values for I0020B based on updates to the ICD-10 codes that have not yet been released. As already noted, the updated ICD-10 codes will be published to the MDS Technical Information page when available.

Additionally, the MDS ASAP system will end the collection of Section S items for the state of VT. No other Section S items have changed with this release.

**Discussion of Submitted Q & A's ..... Emmanuel Kalluri, CMS**

- The questions that were submitted prior to this software developer/vendor call have been answered and posted accordingly on the QTSO website. Please refer to <https://qtso.cms.gov> to access the "MDS Vendor Call Q & A's" pdf file.

**Open Q and A Session ..... Emmanuel Kalluri, CMS**

The following questions were asked and addressed during the live vendor call:

1. Sally Battle (Experience Care) noted there were four JAR files in the download and asked about the differences between them. The key update API JAR and the JAR with dependencies should be used.

Follow-up question: The JAR files don't have a main entry point; do we need to do some extra work to be able to use them? Those JAR files are built as libraries, so there's no specific entry point.


Sally asked if a wrapper needs to be created in order to use the JARs. She noted she's a Windows programmer and uses Visual Studio. She asked how to integrate the JAR files; it looks like she'll need to write another Java program to call the JAR file.

Doug will get more information about this and have it included in the minutes.

**Post-meeting Note:** 3M is working on an example for Experience Care similar to what we have provided to vendors for the Home Health grouper.

We would like to handle it in the same fashion as the Home Health dev team does and provide it to the vendor who requested it and then handle examples on a case-by-case basis.

2. Caller asked if information related to the JAR files will be made more public than a response to one person; if it could be posted with the JAR files. Emmanuel confirmed this could be posted.

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3. Caller asked for any updates related to eliminating Section G. Ellen Berry (CMS) explained many states are currently looking at the PDPM. CMS' goal is to eliminate Section G and keep Section GG. These are in their infancy of data collection and analysis. At this point, the expected timing will be in 2023. The timing will be affected by any governmental changes that occur during the next couple of years.

Follow up question: Are any additional changes expected for next October? Ellen stated there's some probability that there could be changes in ICD-10 codes. Other than that, we don't have information about anything additional coming in the future.

No additional questions were received.

**Closing Comments. .... Emmanuel Kalluri, CMS**

- Thank you all for attending the call and keeping updated on future changes to MDS.
- If vendors have additional questions, please send them to the CMS technical issues mailbox at [jqies@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:jqies@cms.hhs.gov). Have a good rest of your day, and stay safe.



## Important Resources

### QTSO Website

<https://qtso.cms.gov/>

<https://qtso.cms.gov/vendors/>

<https://qtso.cms.gov/vendors/minimum-data-set-mds-vendors/>

### CMS.gov - MDS Technical Information

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/NHQIMDS30TechnicalInformation.html>

### CMS.gov – MDS RAI Manual

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/MDS30RAIManual.html>

### CMS.gov – MDS Payment Driven Payment Model

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/SNFPPS/PDPM.html>

### Email PDPM Questions

[pdpm@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:pdpm@cms.hhs.gov)

### Email - MDS Technical Issues

[iqies@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:iqies@cms.hhs.gov)