# CMS MDS 3.0 Software Developer/Vendor Call Minutes
Wednesday, March 29, 2023
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. ET
Teleconference: 1-833-568-8864
Meeting ID: 161 245 2684

**Welcome.........................................................................................Ellen Berry, CMS**

Thank you for attending our call this morning and adjusting your day to a much earlier time than in the past.  For those that don't know me, I am Ellen Berry and I will be facilitating today's call, as well as presenting.  Our call is primarily focused on the technical data specifications for this October.  However, I do want to speak about the iQIES transition briefly.

**MDS Submission and Reporting Functionality in iQIES ...........................Ellen Berry, CMS**

On February 17th, CMS announced that we will transition MDS to iQIES on April 17th.  In order to fully prepare for a successful transition, CMS will shut down QIES for MDS assessment submissions, processing, and reporting on Thursday April 13th at 8:00 pm eastern.  Beginning 8:00 am eastern on April 17th, MDS users will be able to log into iQIES and upload resident assessments, view a summary of uploaded assessments, view details of MDS submissions, and view MDS final validation reports and other MDS-related reports in iQIES. After the transition, iQIES is your go to place for everything MDS. While you will be able to access CASPER, those MDS reports will NOT be updated and thus will be out dated.  The exception is the April 2023 Provider Preview report.

Since there will be over three days that MDS submissions cannot occur in either system (April 13th 8pm to April 17th 8am), providers must take into account all requirements when determining the last day they will submit completed MDS records to QIES, including but not limited to, submission timeliness, claims processing, and care plan requirements.

Thanks for those who submitted questions.  Your input, suggestions and questions help us to ensure we are clear not just the data specs but also the item sets and other needed documentation.  We have a slight change to the agenda which is several of us will be providing responses during the submitted Q&A section.

**October 2023 Data Specification Updates............................................ John Jackson, GDIT**

Regarding the forthcoming April migration to iQIES of the current production release:

- A Readme file has been posted for the current data submission specs, containing the following info:
  - The item sets are NOT changing.
  - The submission data specs are NOT changing.
  - Corrections (modifications, inactivations) work the same.
  - Error messages containing "ASAP" will now show "iQIES" instead.
- Note that the current release of jRAVEN can still be used to create assessments until the next production release (October 1, 2023).
- Also, note that the Validation Utility Tool (VUT) can still be used to validate assessments until the next production release (October 1, 2023).

Regarding the data specs (V3.01.0) for item sets V1.18.11, to be implemented October 1, 2023:

- The draft item sets can be found on the MDS RAI Manual page:
  https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/MDS30RAIManual

- The draft data specifications can be found on the MDS Technical Information page: https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/NHQIMDS30TechnicalInformation
- Many sections of the item set have new items:
  - A - Race, Ethnicity, Transportation, Language, Admitted From, Discharge Location
  - B - Health Literacy
  - D - Mood items with severity score, Social Isolation
  - GG - Functional limits, Mobility Devices, Personal Hygiene (GG0130I), Tub/Shower transfer (GG0170FF)
  - J – Pain
  - K – Nutritional approaches – note the 4 columns on the item set (K0520)
  - N – High-Risk Drug items (N0415)
  - O – Therapies (O0110)
  - Q – Participants
  - S – Yes, there are some new Section S items requested by a few states.
- Other significant changes:
  - C – BIMS items are now on the NPE.
  - D – D0200/D0300 removed
  - G – It's all gone!!!
  - GG - GG0130 and GG0170 revisions, especially for Interim Performance timepoint
  - K – K0510 removed
  - N – N0410 removed
  - O – O0100 removed
  - Q – several items replaced
- Summary:  420 item revisions, 253 are new items.
- Summary:  170 edit revisions, 89 are new edits.

And that's not all…
- Care Area Trigger specifications (CATs)
  - Changing:  5-8, 10-14, 16, 17, 19, 20
  - Section D, G and K changes are the primary reasons for logic changes
  - These will be posted on the MDS Technical Information page
  - Question:  Does anyone need the test files previously provided?  They were in fixed-length string format.  (The answer is yes, and it was suggested that the test files could be provided at a later date, in order to expedite the posting of the rest of the CAT specifications.)

When will the data specs be final?
- The current plan is to post these in May.
- The valid ICD codes for I0200B will likely be posted in June or July.

## October 2023 PDPM Grouper Updates .......................................................Tammy Luo, CMS

Good morning, my name is Tammy Luo and I will be speaking to a few changes that will be implemented in the August 2023 version of the PDPM Grouper, corresponding to the new MDS Manual v1.18 that will be released in October 2023. Please note that these changes are nominal in nature, in that they relate to changes in item numbers or breakouts of existing items for additional specificity, and they do not substantively change anything about the case-mix classification process we use under PDPM for payment purposes.

The first change pertains to Section D Mood.
- Section D0200 Resident Mood Interview PHQ-9 is being replaced by D0150 Resident Mood Interview PHQ-2 to 9. In the new version, D0150C through I can be skipped if either D0150A2 or D0150B2 are coded above a certain symptom frequency, and the PHQ interview can end.
- D0300 Total Severity Score is being replaced by D0160 Total Severity Score. This is just a change to the item number.

The second change pertains to Section K, Swallowing and Nutritional Status.
- Section K0510 Nutritional Approaches is being replaced by K0520, which adds the options of "On Admission" and "On Discharge" for Items A through Z.

The third change pertains to Section O, Special Treatment, Procedures and Programs.
- Section O0100 is being replaced by O0110, which adds "On Admission" and "On Discharge" and deletes "While NOT a Resident" to Items A through Z. In addition, there are a number of changes to several sub-items in this section. For example, Item A "Chemotherapy" will be broken out into A1 "Chemotherapy", A2 "IV", A3 "Oral", and A10 "Other". All of these changes will be reflected in the new PDPM Grouper.

As a final note, we will also be changing resource mailboxes for technical PDPM Grouper questions from PDPM@cms.hhs.gov to GrouperBetaTesting@cms.hhs.gov. This announcement will be posted in the technical Grouper documentation and on the MDS Technical webpage concurrent with the release of the August 2023 Grouper.

**October 2023 iQIES Submission Processing System and Validation Utility Tool Updates**............................................................................ **Liz Kowal, ICF**
On October 1, 2023, the iQIES submission processing system and Validation Utility Tool (VUT) will process records with a target date on or after 10/01/2023 using version 3.01 of the MDS Data Specifications, as discussed by John on this call.  iQIES will, of course, continue to process records with a target date prior to October 1, 2023 (e.g., modifications), using the appropriate set of data specifications in effect for the target date of the submitted record.

iQIES will also add the functionality to create and submit assessments in accordance with the version 3.01 specs. This functionality is also scheduled for implementation on 10/1/2023.

The MDS VUT is targeted to be available for testing in August 2023.

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

**Discussion of Submitted Q & A's**...................................................................**Ellen Berry, CMS**

The following questions were submitted prior to this software developer/vendor call. Refer to the attached document.

**Open Q and A Session**..............................................................................**Ellen Berry, CMS**

Q1: I am requesting the Assessment Submitter role for a vendor account. If we have two vendor accounts and we simultaneously request the Assessment Submitter role for a particular facility in one account, we found that we received a message saying a "Security Official was not set up for the facility." However, for our other account we did not receive that same error message for the same facility or CCN value that we submitted. Do we submit request again for the first account and will that request go through without that error message showing up again?

A1: First reach out to the provider and validate that they have a Provider Security Official (PSO) established at that facility. If they do, then you should be able to submit that request with no problem. If they don't, then the provider should submit a request for a PSO role for CMS to approve and then you can submit your user role request. If either of those two paths does not work, then please contact the QIES/iQIES Service Center.

Q2: Edit -3983 does not address whether A1010X and A1010Z can be checked at the same time.

A2: You can say a resident was "unable to respond" about race and it can also be "none of the above" because the person answering on behalf of the resident also don't know the race of the resident. There's nothing to prevent you from having both checked. That's why you will not find an edit to address those two items.

Q3: I am still unclear on how to answer Section K Column 2 on an IPA when A1600 is not available. I don't how to determine whether at admission within the last 7 days.

A3:  You should have the provider answer with "0" or "1" for column 2 when its on the IPA or the dash. Any of those are acceptable items. The edit will not apply.

Q4: If the Total Severity Score for D0160 is a blank or dash, or a "99", then should the D0500 be conducted?

A4:  **After the vendor call, this question and our response was revisited. The answer has been determined to be No.  D0500 and D0600 should only be entered on the MDS if D0100=0.  The specs currently reflect this rule.**

Q5: Why would CMS suddenly stop providing fillable pdf form?

A5: The other PAC assessments do not provide a fillable item set. It is not required by statute. It is a very expensive and time-consuming process and from CMS standpoint the fillable forms are not needed. What we want is for providers to fill out electronically and to submit.

Q6: Can the OSA be combined with a non-OSA assessment as of target date October 1, 2023?

A6: No. The OSA is a non-federal item set at that point. It cannot be combined with the federal item set.

Q7: Can you provide the email address for those requesting the test files for the Care Area Trigger Specifications (CATs) in the future?

A7: Please contact the QIES/iQIES Service Center by phone at 888-477-7876 or email at iQIES@cms.hhs.gov.

Q8: Will there be a posting of the iQIES maintenance schedules similar to the QIES system?

A8: CMS built iQIES in a manner that an overwhelming number of updates that need to be deployed to the system can occur with zero downtime. In the event that a particular release will require downtime, communications will be sent out and banners will be posted on the website.

**Closing Comments.........................................................................................Ellen Berry, CMS**

Thank you to all our presenters this morning. Thank you for attending today's vendor call.  We will post the minutes on the QTSO web site.

## 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