



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Health Services

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Jim Doyle, Governor  
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary

**DATE:** August 21, 2009

**TO:** Nursing Home Providers

**FROM:** Fredi Bove, Interim Administrator  
Division of Long Term Care

Otis Woods, Administrator  
Division of Quality Assurance

**SUBJECT:** Quarterly MDS data

The Department of Health Services (DHS) is implementing a change in the Quarterly MDS form required to be completed by nursing homes. In place of the current two-page Quarterly form the Department is requiring that nursing homes complete Quarterly assessments using the MDS items contained on the four-page Medicare PPS Assessment Form (MPAF).

This change will enable the Department to more accurately assess the acuity of all residents in nursing facilities, resulting in more accurate Medicaid reimbursement

Nursing homes should begin changing to the Quarterly MPAF for assessments that have an assessment reference date on or after September 1, 2009. Nursing homes will need to complete the transition to the Quarterly MPAF by September 30. The month of September will be a transitional period during which providers may complete either the two-page Quarterly form or the Quarterly MPAF for residents that have assessment reference dates on or before September 30, 2009. For residents with assessment reference dates after September 30, the four-page Quarterly MPAF will be required. These requirements will apply to all residents, regardless of payor.

The transition period is to help accommodate any changes that may be required to nursing home MDS software programs. Please check with your software vendors to determine if changes are necessary in order to complete Quarterly assessments that include the MPAF MDS items and plan to have them installed and operational by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Two-page quarterly MDS assessments with reference dates on or after October 1, 2009 will continue to be accepted by DHS, but will be assigned to the lowest RUG classification (PA1).

We appreciate the efforts you will be undertaking to implement these new requirements. Please direct any questions you may have to Chris Benesh of DQA at (608) 266-1718, to Peg Katz of DQA at (715) 836-6748, or to Neal Brandt of DLTC at (608) 267-0243.