

5 key questions to help SNFs prepare for the upcoming MDS changes

With the significant MDS changes going into effect on October 1, 2023, it's imperative for SNFs to be prepared. Through thoughtful planning and understanding of the steps needed to integrate these changes into your processes, your facility can move forward with confidence. To help alleviate any unease, here are answers to the most essential questions surrounding these updates.

1 What are the significant MDS changes coming?

- > Elimination of Section G (Functional Status) and transition to Section GG (Functional Abilities and Goals).
- > Collection of additional social determinants of health data.
- > Documentation for indication of use for medications.
- > The potential release of the Optional State Assessment (OSA).
- > Additional questions at discharge about the transfer of health information.

2 What does this mean for the reimbursement formula?

- > Removal of Section G will lead to an inability to formulate a RUG score.
- > Draft MDS forms indicate there will be no path to producing a valid RUG score.
- > There's a potential need to complete both OSA and OBRA assessments for states maintaining a RUG requirement, which will increase workload and may burden facilities.

3 How will this impact the assessment process?

- > There are new questions to capture data and revised questions to alter current documentation.
- > The draft MDS forms indicate there could be an ADL replacement.
- > MDS questions GG0130 and GG0170 have updated instructions.
- > The GG questions for Interim Performance are now known as the "OBRA/Interim Performance" and will have updated instructions.
- > States that have been using PDPM on OBRA will have a smaller adjustment than those who haven't.

4

What should I be doing to prepare and train staff?

- > An RAI manual was just released and is crucial in training staff.
- > Ensure your team is familiar with the MDS draft forms.
- > Help them understand the impact on current processes.

5

How do I make sure my tech vendor is prepared to ease the process?

- > They are required to update their software and systems when documents from CMS are available.
- > Your vendor should keep you informed at every stage through newsletters, meetings, trainings, etc.

It's important to understand the impacts the MDS changes will have on your facility. By creating a plan and partnering with a vendor who is ready to navigate the updates, you can avoid potential disruptions. MatrixCare is on track with MDS, and we have many of the new questions in our database based on previously released drafts, ensuring we're well-positioned to help you with your transition.



Still have questions? Contact the experts at [matrixcare.com](https://www.matrixcare.com) or call **866.469.3766** to learn more.