



California  
Department of  
Health Services

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Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**Department of Health Services**



**ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**  
Governor

June 23, 2005

AFL 05-26

**TO:** SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES (SNFs), NURSING FACILITIES (NFs),  
and SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES/NURSING FACILITIES (SNF/NFs)  
AND HOSPITAL SWING BEDS

**FROM:** CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

**SUBJECT:** RELEASE OF LONG TERM CARE MINIMUM DATA SET (LTC/MDS)  
DATA TO STATE MEDICAID AGENCIES

On February 18, 2005, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released Survey and Certification (S&C) Memorandum 05-19, "Release of Long Term Care Minimum Data Set (LTC/MDS) Data to State Medicaid Agencies, Section 1915 Waiver Programs, and "Real Choice Systems Change Grant" Programs in Order to Assist States' Title II, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Activities". The intent of S&C 05-19 is to inform State Medicaid Agencies and designated entities of the following:

- ❖ That CMS is allowing State Medicaid Agencies to access Long Term Care Minimum Data Set (LTC/MDS) data
- ❖ How the MDS data can be utilized to further their Olmstead and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) programs
- ❖ Describe the process for State Medicaid Agencies and designated agencies to obtain MDS Data

By providing State Medicaid Agencies access to LTC/MDS data on residents, it is believed that the states' can easily identify and transition LTC residents who wish to and could be appropriately placed in the community.

The MDS Basic Assessment Tracking Form contains Section Q1, "Discharge Potential and Overall Status" information (see Section Q1 reference below). The information in Section Q1 is intended to identify residents who express or indicate a preference to return to the community. It is important that the CMS Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) 2.0 Manual be utilized by facility staff when an MDS assessment is being made.

**SECTION Q. DISCHARGE POTENTIAL AND OVERALL STATUS**

1.	DISCHARGE POTENTIAL	a. Resident expresses/indicates preference to return to the community 0. No                      1. Yes b. Resident has a support person who is positive towards discharge 0. No                      1. Yes c. Stay projected to be of a short duration— discharge projected <b>within 90 days</b> (do not include expected discharge due to death) 0. No                      2. Within 31-90 days 1. Within 30 days        3. Discharge status uncertain
2.	OVERALL CHANGE IN CARE NEEDS	Resident's overall self sufficiency has changed significantly as compared to status of <b>90 days ago</b> (or since last assessment if less than 90 days) 0. No change    1. Improved—receives fewer supports, needs less restrictive level of care    2. Deteriorated—receives more support

Requests for LTC/MDS data should be directed to the Licensing and Certification Program Application Support Section/Federal Systems Support Unit at **MDSOASIS@dhs.ca.gov**, or to contact by phone at **(916) 552-8200** and via fax at **(916) 552-8965**. The Program Application Support Section/Federal Systems Support Unit is also responsible for tracking disclosures of LTC/MDS data under the Privacy Act.

The following sources are provided for your reference:

1. **Privacy Protected Data: Request Policies and Procedures**  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/privacyact/requests/>
2. **State Government Agencies** - Information regarding Data Use Agreement (DUA)  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/privacyact/requests/govmdsoasis.asp>
3. **Additional Requirements for Nursing Home Data Requests**  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/privacyact/requests/additionalrequirements.asp>
4. **Instructions for Completing the DUA**  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/privacyact/requests/cmsdua.pdf>
5. **Research Data Assistance Center (ResDAC)** provides free assistance to academic and non-profit researchers interested in using Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP, and Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS) data for research.  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/researchers/resdac.asp>

S&C Letter 05-19 may be found at the following link:  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/survey-cert/sc0519.pdf>

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If you have any questions, please contact your local DHS Licensing and Certification District Office, or contact Sarah Swaney, HFE Specialist, Program Policy Section, at (916) 552-8867 or by email at [sswaney@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:sswaney@dhs.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

**Original Signed by  
Jean Johnson, Chief**

Jean Johnson, Chief  
Policy and Administration Branch  
Licensing and Certification Program

Enclosure