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



EDMUND G. BROWN, JR.  
Governor

December 1, 2014

AFL 14-30

**TO:** Skilled Nursing Facilities

**SUBJECT:** California MDS Nuggets October 2014 Newsletter

The California Minimum Data Set (MDS) newsletter is now available on the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) website. Please distribute copies to the MDS Coordinator, Director of Nursing, and Administrator.

This issue of the CA MDS newsletter (CA MDS Nuggets) includes:

1. Information on the new MDS 3.0 section “S” dated October 1, 2014;
2. A link to the new Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form dated October 1, 2014;
3. A link to the Survey and Certification Letter (S&C 14-43-NH) released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on completion of Discharge Assessment in a Medicare and/or Medicaid Certified Unit to a Non-Certified Unit;
4. Key changes to the new Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) User Manual implemented on October 1, 2014;
5. The new Change of Therapy (COT) Other Medicare Required Assessment (OMRA) Completion Requirement and MDS 3.0 section “Q” information; and
6. MDS 3.0 section “Q,” Discharge planning information.

Please send your MDS questions to: [mdsoasis@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:mdsoasis@cdph.ca.gov).

To access the CA MDS Nuggets, please follow the link below:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/LnC/Pages/MDSNewsletter.aspx>

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If you have any questions, please contact Susana Belda, RN, RAI Educational Coordinator:

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Sincerely,

**Original signed by Jean Iacino**

Jean Iacino  
Interim Deputy Director

[Attachment](#)