


MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Medicaid Nursing Home Providers and Other Interested Persons

FROM: Lindsay Gillette, Director of Division of Rate Setting 

Date: August 20, 2020

RE: Update on MDS Requirements

On May 15, 2020, CMS released Minimum Data Set (MDS) version 1.17.2, which will be effective October 1, 2020. This item set has an option for supporting the calculation of Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM) payment codes on OBRA assessments when not combined with the 5-day SNF PPS assessment, specifically the OBRA comprehensive (NC) and OBRA quarterly (NQ) assessment item sets, which was not possible with item set version 1.17.1. This revised item set by CMS offers us additional time to begin evaluating PDPM or a PDPM-like payment system for Medicaid in the future.

Effective October 1, 2020, Vermont will be requiring the reporting of the PDPM payment codes on the OBRA assessments when not combined with a 5-day SNF PPS assessment. These additional data elements are necessary in order for the Division of Rate Setting to begin modeling and planning for a potential transition to PDPM. As we know from communications from CMS, the RUG system will not be supported indefinitely; therefore, the Division of Rate Setting would like to be proactive in gathering data to allow for adequate time to evaluate next steps.

This MDS version will not require the Optional State Assessment (OSA). The item set effective October 1, 2020, will include certain MDS fields on the OBRA assessments for Medicaid to begin collecting data for a potential PDPM transition while continuing Resource Utilization Group (RUG) reimbursement. Since the PDPM items will appear on the OBRA MDS, providers will not need to submit separate MDS assessments.

Questions regarding this communication may be directed to Lindsay Gillette, Director of Rate Setting at Lindsay.gillette@vermont.gov.

Questions regarding clinical or technical questions related to MDS assessments may be directed to Suzanne.leavitt@vermont.gov.

