

**Track Changes
from Chapter 1 V1.05
to Chapter 1 V1.07**

Chapter	Section	Page	Change
1	-	1-1	Experts in Long Term Care Teresa M. Mota, BSN , RN, CALA, RAC-CT
1	-	1-5 & 1-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare and Medicaid Payment Systems. The MDS contains items that reflect the acuity level of the resident, including diagnoses, treatments, and an evaluation of the resident's functional status. The MDS is used as a data collection tool to classify Medicare residents into RUGs (Resource Utilization Groups). The RUG classification system is used in the PPS for skilled nursing facilities, hospital swing bed programs, and in many State Medicaid case mix payment systems to group residents into similar resource usage categories for the purposes of reimbursement. More detailed information on the SNF PPS is provided in Chapters 2 and 6. Please refer to the Medicare Internet-Only Manuals (www.cms.gov/Manuals/IOM/list.asp) for comprehensive information on SNF PPS, including but not limited to SNF coverage, SNF policies, and claims processing. (The Medicare Benefit Policy Manual is located at www.cms.gov/Manuals/IOM/itemdetail.asp)
1	-	1-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer Access to Nursing Home Information. Consumers are also able to access information about every Medicare- and Medicaid-certified nursing home in the country. The Nursing Home Compare tool (http://www.medicare.gov/NHCompare) (www.medicare.gov/nhcompare/home.asp) provides public access to nursing home characteristics, staffing and quality of care measures for certified nursing homes.

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to Chapter 1 V1.07**

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1	-	1-6	<p>As such, while nursing homes have flexibility in completion of the RAI, some aspects of the process are dictated by regulation. Federal regulations at 42 CFR 483.20 (b)(1)(xviii), (g), and (h) require that (1) the assessment accurately reflects the resident's status, (2) a registered nurse conducts or coordinates each assessment with the appropriate participation of health professionals, and (3) the assessment process includes direct observation, as well as communication with the resident and direct care staff on all shifts. However, nursing homes are left to determine (1) who should participate in the assessment process, (2) how the assessment process is completed, and (3) how the assessment information is documented while remaining in compliance with the requirements of the Federal regulations and the instructions contained within this manual.</p> <p>The RAI process has multiple regulatory requirements. Federal regulations at 42 CFR 483.20 (b)(1)(xviii), (g), and (h) require that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the assessment accurately reflects the resident's status (2) a registered nurse conducts or coordinates each assessment with the appropriate participation of health professionals (3) the assessment process includes direct observation, as well as communication with the resident and direct care staff on all shifts. <p>Nursing homes are left to determine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) who should participate in the assessment process (2) how the assessment process is completed (3) how the assessment information is documented while remaining in compliance with the requirements of the Federal regulations and the instructions contained within this manual.
1	-	1-7	<p>...best possible quality of care and quality of life. It is important to note that even nursing homes that have been granted a RN waiver under 42 CFR 483.30 (c) or (d) must provide aan RN to conduct or coordinate the assessment.</p>

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1	-	1-13	Otherwise, providers cannot release MDS data in individual level format or in the aggregate. Nursing facility providers are also required under CFR 483.20 to transmit MDS data to a Federal data repository. Any personal data maintained and retrieved by the Federal government is subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974. The Privacy Act specifically protects the confidentiality of personal identifiable information and safeguards against its misuse. Information regarding The Privacy Act can be found at http://www1.cms.gov/PrivacyActof1974 . http://www1.cms.gov/PrivacyActof1974 .
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