

**Centers For Medicare &
Medicaid Services**



**Revised
Long-Term Care
Facility Resident
Assessment
Instrument
User's Manual**

Version 2.0

**December 2002
Revised January 2008**

**Centers For Medicare & Medicaid Services'
Long-Term Care Facility
Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI)
User's Manual
Updated December 2002
For Use Effective June 15, 2005**

The *Long-Term Care Facility Resident Assessment Instrument User's Manual* for Version 2.0 is published by the Centers For Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and is a public document. It may be copied freely, as our goal is to disseminate information broadly to facilitate accurate and effective resident assessment practices in long-term care facilities.

This manual replaces CMS's original *Long-Term Care Resident Assessment Instrument User's Manual, Version 2.0*, published October 1995.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. (Note: The RAI mandated by OBRA is exempt from this requirement.)

The valid OMB control number for the Medicare Prospective Payment Form (MPAF) information collection is 0938-0739 and the form has been approved through March 31, 2006. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 90 minutes per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection.

If you have comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimates(s) or suggestions for improving these forms, please write to: CMS, 7500 Security Boulevard, N2-14-26, Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

CMS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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It's sometimes hard to believe that seven years has passed since the publication of the original RAI Manual in 1995. The Center has a new name, the Medicare Skilled Nursing Facility Prospective Payment System (SNF PPS) has been implemented, there are specialized MDS instruments for Medicare SNF and swing bed assessments, and we're fully automated with the RAVEN software packages. Over the years, CMS has issued numerous updates and clarifications in the form of Qs & As posted on the CMS website, and will continue to address clinical issues to support providers and enhance the accuracy of MDS coding. One thing for sure, the RAI is always a work in progress.

This version of the manual includes updates and clarifications to the processes and clinical items required for the MDS resident assessments that have occurred during the past seven years. Without the professionalism and tireless efforts of Carol Job, Donna Coszalter, Jan Courtney, Cathy Petko, and Kathy Wade and the staff at Myers and Stauffer, we would not have been able to produce the manual in such a short time frame. We thank you for your insights and patience throughout this process.

In addition, we want to thank our CMS co-authors, Rosemary Dunn, Sheila Lambowitz, Jeane Nitsch, and Mary Pratt. You have given freely of your time, energy and talent, to fully update, and when necessary, expand upon each section of the original RAI User's Manual and make it a more valuable tool for the industry. We could not have completed this work without the support of the entire MDS Coordinating Team who served as editors, critical readers, and researchers. Many thanks to Dana Burley, Rosemary Dunn, Yael Harris, Lisa Hines, Susan Joslin, Sheila Lambowitz, Tina Miller, Jeane Nitsch, and Mary Pratt. We also want to thank Sheryl B. Rosenfield, RNC, Director of Clinical Operations at Zimmet Solomon Health Care Consulting, LLC, for her assistance in developing new case studies and coding examples, and for helping us to integrate reviewer comments into the revised manual.

We want to particularly thank Sue Nonemaker, Cindy Hake and Dana Burley for their years of dedication, the wealth of knowledge each brought to the team, and the passion with which they supported the RAI process. We would be remiss if we also failed to acknowledge the many contributions of Helene Fredeking to the RAI process and other CMS nursing facility efforts. While all four have moved on to other challenges, their contributions to the RAI will always be remembered and greatly appreciated.

Through the years, many other CMS staff members, including Susan Burris, Dorothea Musgrave, Jeane Nitsch and Mary Weakland, have also supported the RAI process, and deserve our special thanks. Finally, a special thank you goes to Tina Miller, co-project officer on the MDS Manual Update project, for her hard work, dedication and full participation in all aspects of the project.

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Finally, we want to thank our colleagues in the CMS Regional Offices and State agencies for their support and assistance. Throughout the years, we have worked together to identify problems, answer questions, clarify coding requirements, and train providers. They've been our "eyes and ears" in the communities, and we could not have completed this update without their contributions, suggestions, and support.

We hope that you find this revised manual to be a positive resource. Questions regarding information presented in this Manual should be directed to your State's RAI Coordinator. Also, please email your question to mdsquestions@cms.hs.gov so we can ensure you receive a response to your inquiry. Please continue to check our web site for more information at: http://cms.hhs.gov/NursingHomeQualityInits/20_NHQIMDS20.asp.