



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

October 31, 2012

To: Nursing Home Administrators
Nursing Home MDS Coordinators

From: Mark A. Leeds, Director 
Long Term Care and Community Support Services

Note: Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this memorandum.

Re: Medicaid Resident Rosters and Resource Utilization Groups (RUGs) for potential new payment methodology

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (the Department) is working with the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), LifeSpan Network and other stakeholders to review the current payment methodology for nursing facilities. Specifically, the Department is interested in moving to a new acuity system based on resource utilization groups (RUGs). This process will modernize our current system by using a more refined measure of resident care needs and create a prospective rate calculation methodology that is not based on retroactive settlements.

Please note that *no changes* to the nursing cost center reimbursement have been implemented at this time.

Background

In November 2011, the Department requested that all facilities begin assigning a Medicaid RUG to their Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0 submissions. Subsequently, the Department began assigning RUG IV, index maximizing, 48 and 66 groupers using the current CMS STRIVE time study. These data have been aggregated by the Department's contractor, Myers and Stauffer LC, and reviewed by HFAM, LifeSpan Network and other stakeholders as part of broader reimbursement reform.

A major finding during the analysis has been that incorrect or incomplete MDS data are influencing facility-specific average case mix indexes (CMIs), such as a missing or inaccurate Medicaid number in the A0700 field. In order to develop facility-specific CMIs that are an accurate depiction of the people you serve, this information must be refined.

Based on recommendations from Myers and Stauffer LC, and agreed upon by representatives from HFAM and The LifeSpan Network, the Department is requesting that facilities review previously submitted MDS data and perform any necessary modifications or inactivations and/or submit any missing MDS records.

MDS Data Correction Process

By mid-November, each facility will receive, *via* United States Postal Service, two resident rosters for the time periods 10/1/11 through 12/31/11 and 1/1/12 through 3/31/12. The intent is for facilities to submit any missing MDS records or complete modifications of previously submitted records for these time periods to ensure historical and current data are accurate moving forward. To facilitate this process, the Department and Myers and Stauffer LC are hosting a Webinar to go over how to review the resident rosters and what actions to take when inaccurate information is found. Due to capacity limits, each nursing facility is limited to only one phone line and computer connection. The webinar will be recorded and posted on the Myers and Stauffer LC website for viewing at your convenience for those who cannot attend.

Resident Roster Training Webinar Registration

Date: Tuesday, November 20, 2012

Time: 9:00 am – 10:30 am Eastern

Objectives: This training webinar has been designed to provide information on how resident rosters are created, how to review resident rosters and how to correct the rosters, when appropriate.

Credits: No continuing education credits are offered.

Maximum registrations per facility: 1

Registration Link: <http://md.mslc.com/Seminars.aspx>

Next Steps

Each facility will have until December 21, 2012 to submit additional, modified or inactivated MDS records to correct the resident rosters to the best of their ability.

If there are any questions during the resident roster review and MDS submission process, please contact Myers and Stauffer at 800-763-2278.

Comments regarding this memorandum may be directed to Eric Saber at 410-767-1458 or by e-mail to eric.saber@maryland.gov.

cc: Nursing Home Liaison Committee
Rate Reform Work Group