

**Chiles Healthcare Consulting, LLC**  
**Mary Chiles, RN**  
**1908 Maple Shade Lane, Richmond, Virginia 23227**  
**Telephone 804-355-1943, FAX 804-355-1859, Pager 804-997-1060**  
**E-mail: maryltc@mindspring.com**

---

**FYI – Updates**

**Date:** September 2004

**VIRGINIA MDS CHANGES – from Judy Wilhide, August 11, 2004**

Virginia is making two changes to MDS requirements that make altering your MDS software **mandatory** to meet these requirements. This is State specific for Virginia. It does not affect facilities in other states.

1. The current Virginia Quarterly (Optional Version for RUG-III 1997 Update) will not be accepted into the database beginning January 26, 2005. You must inform your software vendor that Virginia is changing our requirement for the Quarterly Assessment to the Medicare PPS Assessment Form (MPAF), Version July 2002. Data specifications can be found at: [www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/mds20/mdssoftw.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/mds20/mdssoftw.asp).

There is also discussion regarding modification and/or elimination of Section S. .

**MDS TRAINING – from Judy Wilhide, August 4, 2004**

The DAVE Team has developed the first official CMS training materials for teaching MDS coding. They are now available in CD-ROM format from the State RAI Manager's Office for five dollars.

The following is included on the CD-ROM:

1. Two PowerPoint Presentations entitled "Improving MDS Accuracy." They are identical, except the trainer's copy has talking points in the "notes" section of the PowerPoint.
2. A Word Document entitled "Facilitator's Guide to Improving MDS Accuracy."
3. A mock resident record for practicing MDS coding
4. An answer key for the exercise included on coding Section G.
5. A copy of the CMS memorandum discussing physician delegation of tasks in SNFs and NFs

The cost of this CD-ROM is \$5.00. You are encouraged to copy and distribute the materials as you deem best for your organization. You must leave the DAVE and CMS logo on the material. You may use portions of the materials at different times, but it must be identifiable as CMS DAVE material. To order a copy, send a check for five dollars, made out to "The Virginia Department of Health" to the following address: -- MDS Training Materials, Attn: Denise Austin, Center for Quality Health Care, 3600 W. Broad Street, Suite 216 Richmond, VA 23230-4920. **PS – this is really a great training tool.**

**Quality Measure – Weight Loss [to be reported on Nursing Home Compare in November]**

During the SNF Open Forum on 8/31/04, it was reported that the weight loss Quality Measure will be reported on Nursing Home Compare with the new Quality Measure data in November 2004. Specifically, it was reported that it would indicate the percentage of residents who had lost too much weight and was reported that the only exclusion would be for residents receiving hospice services. At this point, it appears that even if you code someone in Section K/5 as being on a planned weight change program or code in Section J/5 for end stage disease, these residents will be included in the calculation of who has lost too much weight. This may be a good time to review your dining and nutrition programs and to prepare talking points to address questions.

**Survey Focus – Restraints**

Restraint Guidelines – VDH recently released a revised guideline for restraint usage in nursing homes and consumer guide to restraint usage in nursing facilities. Both of these documents stress the fact that restraints are to only be used to treat medical symptoms; that the facility should continually explore and utilize least restrictive alternatives and plan how best to reduce the time that a resident is restrained and outlines specific documentation requirements that must be consistently integrated into the resident's record. The consumer guide is a terrific tool to help you in educating residents and responsible parties regarding the regulations and risks associated with restraint use. It is anticipated that restraint use and careful review for reduction will continue to be a survey focus.

**Revised Investigative Protocols**

During the SNF Open Door Forum on 8/31/04, it was announced that CMS plans to send state survey agencies revised guidelines and/or protocols for review of F-tags #315 [pressure ulcers; #315 [use of indwelling catheters; #316 [bladder function and prevention of UTI]. I will keep you updated as more information is obtained. With new guidelines, it is reasonable to believe that these areas will be a survey focus [F-314 pressure ulcer prevention/treatment was in the top 10 list for Virginia deficiencies in 2003].

