

MDS Duplicate Residents

What is a duplicate resident?

A duplicate resident is **one person in real life, who is a nursing home resident.**

This one real life person, however, exists as two or more residents in the “mind” of the MDS system.

Is the creation of a duplicate resident OK?

No. Information is inaccurate when a duplicate resident exists. In your nursing home, your resident count is too high and it looks like you missed assessing some people. For instance, you do a quarterly assessment on John Smith but misspell his name as John Smithe. The system creates a “John Smithe” as a new person (who doesn’t really exist) and assigns the assessment you just did to that new person. The system thinks the real John Smith did not get an assessment at all. This may eventually cause a default on your RUG report if this problem is not identified and fixed.

What creates a duplicate resident?

If you input wrong data in the **Social Security Number, date of birth, last name, first name, or gender** fields, you may prompt the system to create a new resident. Your error can be misspelled names, inverted numbers/letters, or just one wrong number. Or if you put an initial with a name in the first name field, e.g. “John A.” or “A. John” instead of using both the First and Middle Name fields, e.g. “John” “A”, the system may create a duplicate resident. Or if you put a suffix in the last name field, such as Smith Jr, the system may create a duplicate resident.

The federal system checks each assessment it receives with eight different criteria. It uses logic with the above fields and some ‘behind the scenes’ information to try to make a correct match. If a match is found the assessment is attached to the resident identified, even with the differences in some fields. If no match is found, it creates a “new” resident. This “new” resident is really a duplicate resident.

How can I prevent a duplicate resident?

Use caution whenever entering the **Social Security Number, date of birth, last name, first name, or gender**. Make sure that the information you have is correct. Use proper methods to correct any inaccurate data already successfully submitted. Double check all pre-filled data on your computer screen as you work through assessments.

How can I quickly find any duplicate residents?

- **MDS 3.0 Missing OBRA Assessment Report** – If there is anyone on this report and you know an assessment has been successfully and timely transmitted, check the Resident Internal ID field to see if it matches prior MDS documents.
- **MDS 3.0 Roster Report** - If a resident is showing up more than once on this report, check the Resident Internal ID's to see if they match.
- **Error Message -1018** on the Final Validation Report. Inconsistent Record Sequence: This message is caused by either submission of an MDS record out of order, or a duplicate resident ID number.
- **Error Message -1027** on the Final Validation Report. New Resident: this can be caused by either an assessment transmitted before an Entry Tracker, or a duplicate resident.

What do I do if I think I have a duplicate resident?

Contact your MDS Automation Coordinator. In Washington State, please call or e-mail David Carter, using the contact information below. He can verify whether you do actually have a duplicate resident. If you do, you will need to modify any records that have inaccurate information. After this is done, contact David and he will merge the resident profiles to make sure all the history for that resident ends up attached to the correct resident ID and the extra ID number is eliminated.

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