



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, WA 98504-5600

January 28, 2015

ALTSA: NH 2015-001

S&C 15-06: NATIONWIDE EXPANSION OF MINIMUM DATA SET (MDS) FOCUSED SURVEY

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrators and Interested Parties:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) began conducting select Minimum Data Set (MDS)/Staffing Focused Surveys nationwide early FY2015. Like other states, Washington will be expected to allocate two surveyors for each select survey, requiring an estimated two days on average. CMS will issue further information in a follow-up communication and the department will notify you.

Previously, CMS piloted a short-term focused survey to assess MDS, Version 3.0 (MDS 3.0) coding practices and its relationship to resident care in nursing homes in five states. This nationwide project is the culmination of the five-state pilot.

CMS plans to work with Residential Care Services (RCS) collaboratively to determine the following:

- How many select surveys should be conducted
- When they should take place throughout the year
- Which facilities should be surveyed
- What survey protocols and tools that RCS should use

For this CMS-sponsored project, facilities should know that surveyors will ask a series of questions regarding staffing and MDS-related practices of facility staff and management. Surveyors will conduct record reviews, record resident observations and perform staff and resident interviews to validate reported MDS 3.0 coding and staffing levels.

Thank you for your continued commitment to nursing home residents. If you have any questions, please contact your RCS Field Manager.

Sincerely,

Carl I. Walters II., Director
Residential Care Services

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