

Medicare Part A: New Short-Form Minimum Data Set For Patient Assessment In Skilled Nursing Facilities.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has a new short form for the minimum data set (MDS) required for patient assessment in skilled nursing facilities. The new short form is referred to as the Medicare PPS Assessment Form, Version 2002 or MPAF.

New Short Form Is NOT Mandatory

The new MPAF may be used starting July 1, 2002. It is not mandatory to use the new short form in place of the old long form. Skilled nursing facilities can choose to continue to use the longer old minimum data set (MDS) after July 1.

The new MPAF may be used just like the old MDS for required assessments at days 5, 14, 30, 60 and 90 of skilled nursing facility stays covered by Medicare Part A and for Medicare certification.

Some Assessment Data No Longer Required for Medicare Part A

CMS indicated it kept the system of numbering assessment data subject areas on the new form consistent with the system of numbering on the old form.

To shorten the form and to shorten the assessment process itself CMS simply eliminated certain data points that are no longer required for skilled nursing facility Medicare Part A compliance.

CMS has also indicated the wording and instructions for the new short form are identical to those on the older MDS form.

The new MPAF form can be downloaded and printed from our website at <http://www.nursinglaw.com/mpaf.pdf>.

The full text of CMS's May 31, 2002 announcement is on our website at <http://www.nursinglaw.com/mds.pdf>.

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FEDERAL REGISTER, May 31, 2002
Pages 38128 – 38132.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is offering skilled nursing facilities the option of using a modified shorter version of the minimum data set (MDS) to satisfy Medicare payment and quality requirements, starting July 1, 2002.

The new form is referred to as the Medicare PPS Assessment Form, Version 2002 (MPAF).

The purpose is to reduce the staffing burden on skilled nursing facilities and to free up time CMS believes nurses can better use providing care to patients rather than doing paperwork.

We have the new MPAF form on our website at <http://www.nursinglaw.com/mpaf.pdf>.

CMS has indicated that skilled nursing facilities who compile and report assessment data electronically can update their software for the new MPAF by logging on to <http://www.hcfa.gov/medicare/mds20/mdssoftw.htm>. This CMS website was still being updated as of this writing.

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Fatality From Blood Collection Or Transfusion: New Guidance Document From The FDA.

Federal law states at present:

When a complication of blood collection or transfusion is confirmed to be fatal, the Director, Office of Compliance and Biologics Quality, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, shall be notified by telephone, fax, express mail or e mail as soon as possible.

A written report of the investigation conducted by a collecting facility (in the event of a donor reaction) or the facility that performed the compatibility tests (in the event of a transfusion reaction) shall be submitted to the Director within 7 days.

E mail fatalities2@cber.fda.gov

Phone (301) 827-6220

Fax (301) 827-6748 Attn: CBER Fatality Program Manager

Express mail

Office of Compliance and Biologics Quality / CBER

Attn: Facility Program Manager (HFM-650)

1401 Rockville Pike, Suite 200N

Rockville, MD 20852-1448

Although reporting is mandatory, the FDA has no specific requirements for the investigation that must be conducted or a mandatory format for the report that must be submitted for a blood-related fatality.

On June 4, 2002 the FDA published a recommended outline for the information facilities should gather, record and report when such an event occurs. The FDA is accepting public comments until September 3, 2002 before issuing mandatory regulations on this subject.

We placed the FDA's non-binding recommendations on our website at <http://www.nursinglaw.com/bloodfatalities.pdf>. The announcement is at <http://www.nursinglaw.com/fda060402.pdf>.

FEDERAL REGISTER, June 4, 2002
Pages 38505 – 38506.