

DAVE 2

MDS Data Assessment and Verification

Fact Sheet for Nursing Facilities

What is the purpose of this project?

The Minimum Data Set (MDS) assessment plays a key role in many nursing home activities. It drives resident care planning, generates publicly reported quality measures published on the Nursing Home Compare website, provides quality indicators (QI/QMs) used during survey and certification processes, and generates payment for care and services through the Medicare and, in some states, Medicaid systems. The primary purpose of the Data Assessment and Verification project is to assess the integrity of MDS information, and to measure and improve the accuracy of MDS assessments submitted by nursing facilities. DAVE 2, initiated in October 2005, is a continuation of the original DAVE project begun in 2001. This project consists of onsite visits to nursing homes by trained nurse reviewers. Nurse reviewers will examine resident records to assess the accuracy of MDS information, and provide educational support to facility staff.

Who is sponsoring this project?

The DAVE 2 is sponsored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Abt Associates Inc., a research and consulting firm located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, is the prime contractor for this program. Under this contract CMS has authorized Abt to conduct onsite audits of MDS assessments and supporting documentation for nursing facilities participating in the Medicare and/or Medicaid programs.

What is involved in a site visit?

Facilities will be selected randomly and will be notified two weeks prior to the scheduled onsite DAVE 2 visit. Teams of two nurse reviewers will be onsite for four days, to review approximately 12 MDS forms and related medical records per facility. Records will be selected from MDS assessments completed in the 30 days prior to the visit. At the completion of the visit, the nurse reviewers will conduct an exit conference with the facility administrator (or designee) and staff to share any common themes noted and to provide education and support in these areas. In the event that significant MDS discrepancies are found during a DAVE 2 accuracy review, facilities will be referred to their state RAI Coordinators for further education and training on MDS coding.

How will the information gathered at the facility be used?

DAVE 2 findings will identify and quantify MDS coding issues and offer insights into possible causes for inaccuracies. Review results will guide enhancements to the RAI User's Manual and shape the content of educational materials and programs to improve MDS coding accuracy nationally. Educational resources will be shared with the provider community through teleconferences, satellite training, and internet postings. Additionally, DAVE 2 findings will help inform CMS's work with the development of future health assessment instruments and quality measures.

The CMS DAVE 2 website will be available in the spring of 2006 containing general information about the DAVE 2 program, as well as educational materials and upcoming presentations. Questions about DAVE 2 may be directed to Ann Spenard at (860) 613-4183 or Terry Moore, Project Director, Abt Associates at (617) 349-2463. E-mail questions and comments are also welcome and may be sent to dave2@abtassoc.com. Judith Tobin, CMS project officer for the DAVE 2 program, may be reached at Judith.tobin@cms.hhs.gov.