

Determining RUG-III Group Distribution Based on MDS 3.0 Data

The RUG-III distribution of days provided in the spreadsheet in the downloads section of the SNF PPS spotlight page at http://www.cms.gov/SNFPPS/02_Spotlight.asp was taken directly from the RUG-III group reported on the validation report of the same MDS used to establish the RUG-IV group. Although the distribution for RUG-III used to calculate the recalibration of the parity adjustment is provided at the link above, stakeholders can determine RUG-III groups using MDS 3.0 data as described below. It should be noted that Table 4 in the FY 2012 SNF proposed rule (76 FR 26371) was published based on preliminary FY 2011 data to demonstrate the difference between expected RUG-IV utilization and actual RUG-IV utilization. For those interested in replicating the parity adjustment calculation, they should follow the procedure discussed in section II.B.2 of the proposed rule and the directions outlined below.

In addition to the RUG-IV grouper DLL, a second DLL was created that could be used by those who need to calculate RUG-III on MDS 3.0 data. This "crosswalk" or "conversion" DLL takes an MDS 3.0 record as input and outputs a new record in MDS 2.0 format. The new record contains all of the MDS 2.0 items that are needed to compute RUG-III. Users can take that MDS 2.0 record and then send it to the old RUG-III grouper that was used until implementation of MDS 3.0. The sequence of events is as follows:

- a) Start with an MDS 3.0 record.
- b) Call the crosswalk DLL.
- c) The crosswalk DLL produces an MDS 2.0 record with all necessary RUG-III items.
- d) Call the old RUG-III grouper with the MDS 2.0 record created in the previous step.
- e) The RUG-III grouper produces the RUG-III group for the original MDS 3.0 record.

This is exactly what the ASAP system does in order to produce the RUG-III groups for the validation report. The RUG-III groups are also stored in the ASAP database and are included in extract files that are produced by QIES. So if a researcher went through the steps above, they should receive the same RUG-III group that is in the ASAP database and the validation reports.

The crosswalk DLL and documentation are available on the MDS 3.0 technical specs web page:

http://www.cms.gov/NursingHomeQualityInits/30_NHQIMDS30TechnicalInformation.asp#TopOfPage