



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Admin Info: 16-05-NH

DATE: October 16, 2015

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Surveyor Feedback on the Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0 Staffing Focus Surveys for Nursing Homes

Memorandum Summary

Release of MDS 3.0 Staffing Focus Survey Questionnaire: As part of the data-gathering effort, the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is releasing a brief survey for Regional Offices (RO), State Survey Agencies (SA) and Contracted surveyors and contacts to determine how to improve the survey process.

Background

Over the last few months, States, ROs and Contractor staff have been conducting the MDS 3.0 Staffing Focused Surveys. These surveys will continue to be conducted throughout FY 2016 and CMS is interested in improving the survey process. Therefore, CMS will be releasing a survey for individuals to provide feedback on the MDS 3.0 Staffing Focus Survey.

Request

We are asking RO, State and contracted Long-Term Care Surveyors, along with RO and SA points of contact to complete a brief on-line survey to describe any suggestions for improvement, or describe challenges they have encountered when using the MDS 3.0 Staffing Focus survey process. We will use this information to provide better assistance and improve the survey process. The survey has been created in Survey Monkey, should take ten minutes or less to complete, and can be accessed until October 30, 2015, at the following link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MDS30Focus>.

We thank you for all your efforts in participating in the MDS 3.0 Staffing Focused Surveys, and appreciate your assistance in improving upon the process.

Contact: For questions on this memorandum related to the MDS focused survey, please contact Marianne Culihan via email at MDSStaffingSurvey@cms.hhs.gov.

Effective Date: Immediately. This policy should be communicated with all survey and certification staff, their managers and the State/Regional Office training coordinators within 30 days of this memorandum.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management