

Center for Medicaid and State Operations

Ref: S&C-03-09

DATE: January 9, 2003

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Revised Resident Assessment Instrument User's Manual Release Effective
January 1, 2003

TO: Survey and Certification Regional Management (G-5)
State Survey Agency Directors

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that the updated version of the 1995 Long Term Care Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) User's Manual for the Minimum Data Set (MDS) will become effective January 1, 2003. This updated version incorporates clarifications to existing coding and transmission policy, integrates Questions and Answers (Qs & As) into the appropriate sections and addresses requested clarifications and scenarios concerning problem areas.

The updated RAI/MDS Manual has been posted and is currently available on our web site at <http://cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/mds20>. Revisions were made to the entire manual and therefore additional training may be necessary.

All RAI/MDS Manual users including providers, State surveyors, RAI coordinators and Quality Improvement Organization representatives should start using the updated manual upon release. Per public comment, the new Swing Bed-MDS that became effective May 2002, was not incorporated into this revision of the RAI/MDS Manual.

Effective Date: January 1, 2003

Training: The revised RAI/MDS User's Manual should be shared with all appropriate survey and certification staff, their managers, and the state/regional office training coordinators.

/s/
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