

Center for Medicaid and State Operations/Survey & Certification Group

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**DATE:** December 7, 2006

**TO:** State Survey Agency Directors

**FROM:** Director  
Survey and Certification Group

**SUBJECT:** Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) Minimum Data Set (MDS) 2.0 Web-based Training (WBT)

**Letter Summary**

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is pleased to announce the launch of the MDS Version 2.0 WBT located on the Internet at [www.mdstraining.org](http://www.mdstraining.org).
- This WBT is an instructional training tool for use by RAI Coordinators, MDS Coordinators and interdisciplinary professional staff responsible for assessing residents in Medicare and/or Medicaid certified nursing homes.

The MDS 2.0 WBT is a comprehensive training tool designed to provide clinicians and other interdisciplinary professionals with detailed instructions on completing the Long Term Care RAI, MDS 2.0. The information contained in the Revised Long-Term Care Facility Resident Assessment Instrument User's Manual, MDS version 2.0 is presented in an interactive and easily navigated manner in the CMS MDS WBT.

The online training covers the following main topic areas:

- Overview of the RAI
- The Assessment Schedule for the RAI
- Item-by-Item Guide to the MDS
- Completing the Resident Assessment Protocols & Linking the Care Plan
- Submission and Correction of the MDS Assessment
- Medicare Skilled Nursing Prospective Payment System (SNF/PPS)

The CMS MDS WBT contains many options to make the Web site user-friendly and effective as a training tool and reference. The training tools include glossary, topic index, search feature, resources, references and additional links. Navigation controls include a navigation bar, menu screens, sidebar index and a course map. User completion data is recorded so individual users can see their progress through the training. Extensive tutorials and help are available for users wishing to discover more about how to use the Web site or who encounter difficulties.

Also, the RAI/MDS Training Web site contains authentication that the new user is in the United States. When a new user registers on the Web site, he/she will be sent an e-mail with a link to click on that will complete the registration process. Users must ensure that pop-up blockers are set to allow the use of the link in the verification e-mail. The copyright to MDS version 2.0 of the RAI for long-term care outside of the United States is held by InterRAI; therefore, the MDS version 2.0 of the RAI/MDS manual is not to be reproduced outside the United States without permission of InterRAI.

Please tell others about this exciting new training resource. We hope this will prove to be a valuable tool in your efforts toward continued improvement in care to our Medicaid and/or Medicaid beneficiaries served in long term care nursing homes. For questions regarding this Web-based training program, contact Rosemary Dunn at 410-786-1372 or e-mail Rosemary.Dunn@cms.hhs.gov.

**Effective Date:** Immediately, the MDS 2.0 WBT is available and accessible on the Internet.

**Training:** The information contained in this announcement should be shared with all survey and certification staff, their managers, the state training coordinators and all long-term care providers.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management (G-5)