

APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY AND COMMON ACRONYMS

Glossary

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Ability to Understand Others		Comprehension of direct person-to-person communication whether spoken, written, or in sign language or Braille. Includes the resident's ability to process and understand language.
Active Assisted Range of Motion	A/AROM or AAROM	A type of active range of motion in which assistance is provided by an outside force, either manually or mechanically because the prime mover muscles need assistance to complete the motion. This type of range of motion may be used when muscles are weak or when joint movement causes discomfort; or for example, if the resident is able to move their limbs but requires help to perform entire movement.
Active Discharge Plan		An active discharge plan means a plan that is being currently implemented. In other words, the resident's care plan has current goals to make specific arrangements for discharge, staff are taking active steps to accomplish discharge, and there is a target discharge date for the near future. If there is not an active discharge plan, residents should be asked if they want to talk to someone about community living and then referred to the Local Contact Agency (LCA) accordingly. Furthermore, referrals to the LCA are recommended as part of many residents' discharge plans. Such referrals are a helpful source of information for residents and facilities in informing the discharge planning process.
Active Disease Diagnosis		An illness or condition that is currently causing or contributing to a resident's complications and/or functional, cognitive, medical, and psychiatric symptoms or impairments.
Active Range of Motion		Movement within the unrestricted range of motion for a segment, which is produced by active contraction of the muscles crossing that joint is completed without assistance by the resident. This type of range of motion occurs when a resident can move their limbs without assistance.

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Activities of Daily Living	ADLs	Activities of daily living are those needed for self-care and mobility and include activities such as bathing, dressing, grooming, oral care, ambulation, toileting, eating, transferring, and communicating. Select self-care and mobility items from Section GG are utilized to classify a resident into the PT, OT, and nursing components for PDPM.
Acute Change in Mental Status		Alteration in mental status (e.g., orientation, inattention, organization of thought, level of consciousness, psychomotor behavior, change in cognition) that was new or worse for this resident, usually over hours to days.
ADL Aspects		Components of ADL activities. These are listed next to each ADL in the item set. For example, the aspects of GG0130A (Eating) are using suitable utensils to bring food and/or liquid to the mouth and swallowing food and/or liquid once the meal is placed before the resident.
Adverse Consequence		An unpleasant symptom or event that is caused by or associated with a medication, impairment or decline in an individual's physical condition, mental, functional, or psychosocial status. It may include various types of adverse drug reactions (ADR) and interactions (e.g., medication-medication, medication-food, and medication-disease).
Adverse Drug Reaction	ADR	ADR is a form of adverse consequence. It may be either a secondary effect of a medication that is usually undesirable and different from the therapeutic effect of the medication, or any response to a medication that is noxious and unintended and occurs in doses for prophylaxis, diagnosis, or treatment. The term "side effect" is often used interchangeably with ADR; however, side effects are but one of five ADR categories, the others being hypersensitivity, idiosyncratic response, toxic reactions, and adverse medication interactions. A side effect is an expected, well-known reaction that occurs with a predictable frequency and may or may not constitute an adverse consequence.
Assessment ID		A sequential numeric identifier assigned to each record submitted to iQIES.
Assessment Period		See Observation Period.

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Assessment Reference Date	ARD	The specific end-point for the look-back periods in the MDS assessment process.
Assessment Window		The period of time defined by Medicare regulations that specifies when the ARD must be set.
Assisted Living		A noninstitutional community residential setting that includes services of the following types: home health services, homemaker/personal care services, or meal services.
Audiology Services		Audiology services include the testing of hearing and balance; recommending assistive listening equipment; managing hearing screening programs; providing education regarding the effects of noise on hearing and the prevention of hearing loss; managing cochlear implants; and providing counseling and aural rehabilitation. Audiologist is defined in regulation 42 CFR § 484.
Autism		A developmental disorder that is characterized by impaired social interaction, problems with verbal and nonverbal communication, and unusual, repetitive, or severely limited activities and interests.
Baseline		An individual's usual, customary, initial, or most common (depending on the item) range or level of something; for example, behavior, laboratory values, mood, endurance, function, vital signs, etc. "Baseline" information is often used as a basis for comparing findings or results over time.
Bladder Rehabilitation/Bladder Retraining		A behavioral technique that requires the resident to resist or inhibit the sensation of urgency (the strong desire to urinate), to postpone or delay voiding, and to urinate according to a timetable rather than to the urge to void.
Board and Care		A noninstitutional community residential setting that includes services of the following types: home health services, homemaker/personal care services, or meal services.
Body Mass Index	BMI	Number calculated from a person's weight and height. BMI is a reliable indicator of body fat. BMI is used as a screening tool to identify possible weight problems for adults.

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Brief Interview for Mental Status	BIMS	The BIMS is a brief screener that aids in detecting cognitive impairment. It does not assess all possible aspects of cognitive impairment.
Broken Tooth		A tooth with a crack, chip, or other loss of structural integrity.
Browser		A program that allows access to the Internet or a private intranet site. A browser with 128-bit encryption is necessary to access the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) intranet to submit data or report retrieval.
Care Area Assessment	CAA	The review of one or more of the twenty conditions, symptoms, and other areas of concern that are commonly identified or suggested by MDS findings. Care areas are triggered by responses on the MDS item set.
Care Area Triggers	CAT	A set of items and responses from the MDS that are indicators of particular issues and conditions that affect nursing facility residents.
Case-Mix Hierarchy		A system that assigns case-mix weights that capture differences in the relative resources used for treating different types of residents.
Case-Mix Index	CMI	Weight or numeric score assigned to each Resource Utilization Group (RUG-III, RUG IV) that reflects the relative resources predicted to provide care to a resident. The higher the case-mix weight, the greater the resource requirements for the resident.
Case-Mix Reimbursement System		A payment system that measures the intensity of care and services required for each resident and translates these measures into the amount of reimbursement given to the facility for care of a resident. Payment is linked to the intensity of resource use.
Cavity		A tooth with a hole due to decay or other erosion.
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services	CMS	CMS is the Federal agency that administers the Medicare, Medicaid, and Child Health Insurance Programs.
Check and Change		Involves checking the resident's dry/wet status at regular intervals and using incontinence devices and products.

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
CMS Certification Number	CCN	Replaces the term “Medicare Provider Number” in survey and certification, and assessment-related activities.
Code of Federal Regulations	CFR	A codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the Executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government.
Colostomy		A surgical procedure that brings the end of the large intestine through the abdominal wall.
Comatose (Coma)		Pathological state in which neither arousal (wakefulness, alertness) nor awareness exists. The person is unresponsive and cannot be aroused; they may or may not open their eyes, do not speak, and do not move their extremities on command or in response to noxious stimuli (e.g., pain).
Comprehensive Assessment		Requires completion of the MDS and review of CAAs, followed by development and/or review of the comprehensive care plan.
Confusion Assessment Method	CAM	An instrument that screens for overall cognitive impairment as well as features to distinguish delirium or reversible confusion from other types of cognitive impairments.
Constipation		A condition of more than short duration where someone has fewer than three bowel movements a week or stools that are usually hard, dry, and difficult and/or painful to eliminate.
Continence		Any void that occurs voluntarily, or as the result of prompted toileting, assisted toileting, or scheduled toileting.
Critical Access Hospital	CAH	A Medicare-participating hospital located in a rural area or an area that is treated as rural and that meets all of the criteria established by CMS for designation as a CAH. Additional information on CAHs is available at https://www.cms.gov/medicare/health-safety-standards/certification-compliance/critical-access-hospitals .

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Daily Decision Making		Includes: choosing clothing; knowing when to go to scheduled meals; using environmental cues to organize and plan (e.g., clocks, calendars, posted event notices); in the absence of environmental cues, seeking information appropriately (i.e., not repetitively) from others in order to plan the day; using awareness of one's own strengths and limitations to regulate the day's events (e.g., asks for help when necessary); acknowledging need to use appropriate assistive equipment such as a walker.
Delirium		Acute onset or worsening of impaired brain function resulting in cognitive and behavioral symptoms such as worsening confusion, disordered expression of thoughts, frequent fluctuation in level of consciousness, and hallucinations.
Delusion		A fixed, false belief not shared by others that the resident holds even in the face of evidence to the contrary.
Designated Local Contact Agency	LCA	Each state has community contact agencies that can provide individuals with information about community living options and available community-based supports and services. These local contact agencies may be a single entry point agency, an Aging/Disabled Resource Center, an Area Agency on Aging, a Center for Independent Living, or other state designated entities.
Disorganized Thinking		Having thoughts that are fragmented or not logically connected.
Dose		Total amount/strength/concentration of a medication given at one time or over a period of time. The individual dose is the amount/strength/concentration received at each administration. The amount received over a 24-hour period may be referred to as the "daily dose."
Down Syndrome		A common genetic disorder in which a child is born with 47 rather than 46 chromosomes, resulting in developmental delays, intellectual disability, low muscle tone, and other possible effects.
Dually Certified Facilities		Nursing facilities that participate in both the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Duplicate Record Error		A fatal record error that results from a resubmission of a record previously accepted into the CMS MDS database. A duplicate record is identified as having the same target date, reason for assessment, resident, and facility. This is the only fatal record error that does not require correction and resubmission.
Electronic Health Record	EHR	An electronic version of a resident's medical history that is maintained by the provider over time. Sometimes referred to as an electronic medical record (EMR).
Electronic Medical Record	EMR	See Electronic Health Record.
Entry Date		The initial date of admission/entry to the facility, or the date on which the resident most recently reentered the facility after being discharged (whether or not the return was anticipated).
Epilepsy		A chronic neurological disorder that is characterized by recurrent unprovoked seizures, as a result of abnormal neuronal activity in the brain.
External Catheter		Device attached to the shaft of the penis like a condom, a female external catheter, or other non-invasive urine output management device or system that routes urine to a drainage bag.
Facility ID	FAC_ID	The facility identification number is assigned to each facility. The FAC_ID must be placed in the individual MDS and tracking form records. This normally is completed as a function within the facility's MDS data entry software.
Fall		Unintentional change in position coming to rest on the ground, floor, or onto the next lower surface (e.g., onto a bed, chair, or bedside mat) or the result of an overwhelming external force (e.g., a resident pushes another resident).
Fatal File Error		An error in the MDS file format that causes the entire file to be rejected. The individual records are not validated nor stored in the database. The facility must contact its software support to resolve the problem with the submission file.

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Fatal Record Error		An error in MDS record that is severe enough to result in record rejection. A fatal record is not saved in the CMS database. The facility must correct the error that caused the rejection and resubmit a corrected original record.
Fecal Impaction		A mass of dry, hard stool that can develop in the rectum due to chronic constipation. Watery stool from higher in the bowel or irritation from the impaction may move around the mass and leak out, causing soiling, often a sign of a fecal impaction.
Federal Register		The official daily publication for rules, proposed rules, and notices of Federal agencies and organizations, as well as Executive Orders and other Presidential Documents. It is a publication of the National Archives and Records Administration and is available by subscription and online.
Feeding Tube		Presence of any type of tube that can deliver food/nutritional substances/fluids directly into the gastrointestinal system. Examples include, but are not limited to: nasogastric tubes, gastrostomy tubes, jejunostomy tubes, percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tubes.
Fever		A fever is present when the resident's temperature (°F) is 2.4 degrees greater than the baseline temperature.
Final Validation Report	FVR	A report generated after the successful submission of MDS 3.0 assessment data. This report lists all of the residents for whom assessments have been submitted in a particular submission batch and displays all errors and/or warnings that occurred during the validation process. An FVR is a facility's documentation for successful file submission. An individual record listed on the FVR marked as "accepted" is documentation for successful record submission.
First Time in This Facility		Newly admitted resident who has not been admitted to this facility before.
F-Tag		Numerical designations for criteria reviewed during the nursing facility survey.

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Functional Limitation in Range of Motion		Limited ability to move a joint that interferes with daily functioning (particularly with activities of daily living) or places the resident at risk of injury.
Gradual Dose Reduction	GDR	Step-wise tapering of a dose to determine whether or not symptoms, conditions, or risks can be managed by a lower dose or whether or not the dose or medication can be discontinued.
Group Home		A noninstitutional community residential setting that includes services of the following types: home health services, homemaker/personal care services, or meal services.
Habit Training/ Scheduled Voiding		A behavior technique that calls for scheduled toileting at regular intervals on a planned basis to match the resident's voiding habits or needs.
Hallucination		A perception in a conscious and awake state, of something in the absence of external stimuli. May be auditory or visual or involve smells, tastes, or touch.
Health Information Exchange	HIE	An organization that oversees and governs the exchange of health-related information among organizations according to nationally recognized standards. HIEs can function at the federal, state, and local level.
Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System	HCPCS	A uniform coding system that describes medical services, procedures, products, and supplies. These codes are used primarily for billing.
Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996	HIPAA	Federal law that gives the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) the authority to mandate regulations that govern privacy, security, and electronic transactions standards for health care information.
Health Insurance Prospective Payment System Code	HIPPS Code	The Health Insurance Prospective Payment System code is comprised of the PDPM case-mix code, which is calculated from the assessment data. The first four positions of the HIPPS code contain the PDPM classification codes for each PDPM component to be billed for Medicare reimbursement, followed by an indicator of the type of assessment that was completed.

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Health Literacy		The degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions.
Hospice Services		A program for terminally ill persons where an array of services is provided for the palliation and management of terminal illness and related conditions. The hospice must be licensed by the state as a hospice provider and/or certified under the Medicare program as a hospice provider.
Ileostomy		A stoma that has been constructed by bringing the end or loop of small intestine (the ileum) out onto the surface of the skin.
Inactivation		A type of correction allowed under the MDS Correction Policy. When an invalid record has been accepted into the CMS database, a correction record is submitted with inactivation selected as the type of correction. An inactivation will remove the invalid record from the database.
Inattention		Reduced ability to maintain attention to external stimuli and to appropriately shift attention to new external stimuli.
Indication		The identified, documented clinical rationale for administering a medication that is based upon a physician's (or prescriber's) assessment of a resident's condition and therapeutic goals.
Indwelling Catheter		A catheter that is maintained within the bladder for the purpose of continuous drainage of urine.
Interdisciplinary Team	IDT	A team that includes staff members from multiple disciplines such as nursing, therapy, physicians, and other advanced practitioners.
Interim Payment Assessment	IPA	An optional assessment that may be completed by providers in order to report a change in the resident's PDPM classification.
Intermittent Catheterization		Insertion and removal of a catheter through the urethra into the bladder for bladder drainage.

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
International Classification of Diseases, Clinical Modification	ICD-CM	Official system of assigning codes to diagnoses and procedures associated with hospital utilization in the United States. The ICD-CM contains a numerical list of the disease code numbers in tabular form, an alphabetical index to the disease entries, and a classification system for surgical, diagnostic, and therapeutic procedures.
Internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System	iQIES	The umbrella system that encompasses the MDS system and other provider-specific assessment collection systems, as well as survey and certification data collection and storage. SNF/NF providers not utilizing proprietary software can complete and submit the MDS records in iQIES, as well as obtain MDS-related reports.
Interoperability		A system's ability to exchange electronic health information with, and use electronic information from, other systems without special effort on the part of the user. Interoperability is further specified as health systems' ability to electronically send health information to, receive health information from, find health information in, integrate health information into, or health information from other electronic systems outside of their organizations.
Interrupted Stay		Interrupted Stay is a Medicare Part A SNF stay in which a resident is discharged from SNF care (i.e., the resident is discharged from a Medicare Part A–covered stay) and subsequently resumes SNF care in the same SNF for a Medicare Part A–covered stay during the interruption window.

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Interruption Window		The interruption window is a 3-day period, starting with the calendar day of discharge and including the 2 immediately following calendar days. In other words, if a resident in a Medicare Part A SNF stay is discharged from Part A, the resident must resume Part A services, or return to the same SNF (if physically discharged) to resume Part A services, by 11:59 p.m. at the end of the third calendar day after their Part A-covered stay ended. The interruption window begins with the first non-covered day following a Part A-covered stay and ends at 11:59 p.m. on the third consecutive non-covered day following a Part A-covered SNF stay. If these conditions are met, the subsequent stay is considered a continuation of the previous Medicare Part A-covered stay for the purposes of both the variable per diem schedule and PPS assessment completion.
Invalid Record		As defined by the MDS Correction Policy, a record that was accepted into iQIES that should not have been submitted. Invalid records are defined as: a test record submitted as production, a record for an event that did not occur, a record with the wrong resident identified or the wrong reason for assessment, or submission of an inappropriate non-required record.
Item Set Code	ISC	A code based upon combinations of reasons for assessment (A0310 items) that determines which items are active on a particular type of MDS assessment or tracking record.
Leave of Absence	LOA	Leave of Absence (LOA), which does not require completion of either a Discharge assessment or an Entry tracking record, occurs when a resident has a: • Temporary home visit of at least one night; or • Therapeutic leave of at least one night; or • Hospital observation stay less than 24 hours and the hospital does not admit the resident.
Legal Name		Resident's name as it appears on the Medicare card. If the resident is not enrolled in the Medicare program, use the resident's name as it appears on a government-issued document (i.e., driver's license, birth certificate, social security card).

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Level of Consciousness		Alert: startles easily to any sound or touch. Drowsy/Lethargic: repeatedly dozes off when you are asking questions but responds to voice or touch. Stuporous: very difficult to arouse and keep aroused for the interview. Comatose: cannot be aroused despite shaking and shouting.
Look-Back Period		See Observation Period.
Major Surgery		Generally, major surgery refers to a procedure that meets the following criteria: 1. The resident was an inpatient in an acute care hospital for at least 1 day in the 100 days prior to admission to the skilled nursing facility (SNF), and 2. The surgery carried some degree of risk to the resident's life or the potential for severe disability.
Makes Self Understood		Able to express or communicate requests, needs, opinions, and to conduct social conversation in their primary language, whether in speech, writing, sign language, gestures, or a combination of these. Deficits in ability to make one's self understood (expressive communication deficits) can include reduced voice volume and difficulty in producing sounds, or difficulty in finding the right word, making sentences, writing, and/or gesturing.
MDS Completion Date		The date at which the RN assessment coordinator attests that all portions of the MDS have been completed. This is the date recorded at Z0500B.
Mechanically Altered Diet		A diet specifically prepared to alter the texture or consistency of food in order to facilitate oral intake. Examples include soft solids, pureed foods, ground meat, and thickened liquids.
Medicaid		A Federal and State program subject to the provisions of Title XIX of the Social Security Act that pays for specific kinds of medical care and treatment for low-income families.

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Medicare		A health insurance program administered by CMS under provisions of Title XVIII of the Social Security Act for people aged 65 and over, for those who have permanent kidney failure, and for certain people with disabilities. Medicare Part A: The part of Medicare that covers inpatient hospital services and services furnished by other institutional health care providers, such as nursing facilities, home health agencies, and hospices. Medicare Part B: The part of Medicare that covers services of doctors, suppliers of medical items and services, and various types of outpatient services.
Medicare Administrative Contractor	MAC	An organization designated by CMS to process Medicare claims for payment that are submitted by a nursing facility. MACs were previously called Fiscal Intermediaries (FIs).
Medicare-Covered Stay		Skilled Nursing Facility stays billable to Medicare Part A. Does not include stays billable to other payers (e.g., Medicare Advantage plans).
Medicare Number		An identifier assigned to an individual for participation in national health insurance program. The Medicare Health Insurance identifier is different from the resident's Social Security Number (SSN) and may contain both letters and numbers.
Medication Interaction		The impact of medication or other substance (such as nutritional supplements including herbal products, food, or substances used in diagnostic studies) upon another medication. The interactions may alter absorption, distribution, metabolism, or elimination. These interactions may decrease the effectiveness of the medication or increase the potential for adverse consequences.
Minimum Data Set	MDS	A core set of screening, clinical assessment, and functional status elements, including common definitions and coding categories that form the foundation of the comprehensive assessment for all residents of long-term care facilities certified to participate in Medicare and Medicaid and for patients receiving SNF services in non-critical access hospitals with a swing bed agreement.

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Modification		A type of correction allowed under the MDS Correction Policy. A modification is required when a valid MDS record has been accepted by the CMS MDS database, but the information in the record contains errors. The modification will correct the record in the CMS database. A modification is not done when a record has been rejected.
Monitoring		The ongoing collection and analysis of information (such as observations and diagnostic test results) and comparison to baseline and current data in order to ascertain the individual's response to treatment and care, including progress or lack of progress toward a goal. Monitoring can detect any improvements, complications or adverse consequences of the condition or of the treatments; and support decisions about adding, modifying, continuing, or discontinuing, any interventions.
Most Recent Medicare Stay		This is a Medicare Part A–covered stay that has started on or after the most recent admission/entry or reentry to the nursing facility.
Music Therapy		Music therapy is an intervention that uses music to address physical, emotional, cognitive, and social needs of individuals of all ages. Music therapy interventions can be designed to promote wellness, manage stress, alleviate pain, express feelings, enhance memory, improve communication, and promote physical rehabilitation. In order for music therapy to be coded on the MDS, the service must be provided or directly supervised by a qualified staff.
National Drug Code	NDC	A unique 10-digit number assigned to each drug product listed under Section 510 of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. The NDC code identifies the vendor, drug name, dosage, and form of the drug.
National Provider Identifier	NPI	A unique federal number that identifies providers of health care services. The NPI applies to the SNF/NFs for all of its residents.
Nephrostomy Tube		A catheter inserted through the skin into the kidney or its collecting system.

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Non-medication Pain Intervention		An intervention, other than medication, used to try to manage pain which may include, but are not limited to: bio-feedback, application of heat/cold, massage, physical therapy, occupational therapy, nerve block, stretching and strengthening exercises, chiropractic, electrical stimulation, radiotherapy, ultrasound, and acupuncture.
Non-pharmacological Intervention		Approaches that do not involve the use of medication to address a medical condition.
Non-Therapy Ancillary	NTA	One of the five categories used to determine reimbursement under PDPM. NTA accounts for the non-therapy services and treatments a resident may need during their stay, such as medications, medical supplies, and specialized treatments.
Nursing Facility	NF	A facility that is primarily engaged in providing skilled nursing care and related services to individuals who require medical or nursing care or rehabilitation services for the rehabilitation of injured, disabled, or sick persons, or on a regular basis, health related care services above the level of custodial care to other than mentally retarded individuals.
Nursing Monitoring		Nursing Monitoring includes clinical monitoring by a licensed nurse (e.g., serial blood pressure evaluations, medication management, etc.).
Nutrition or Hydration Intervention to Manage Skin Problems		Interventions related to diet, nutrients, and hydration that are provided to prevent or manage specific skin conditions (e.g., wheat-free diet to prevent dermatitis, increased calorie diets to meet basic standards for daily energy requirements, vitamin or mineral supplements for specifically identified deficiencies.)
Observation Period		The time period over which an MDS assessment captures a resident's condition or status. A day begins at 12:00 a.m. and ends at 11:59 p.m.; the observation period must also cover this time period. An MDS assessment captures only occurrences during the observation period. In other words, if it did not occur during the observation period, it is not coded on the MDS. Also referred to as Look-Back Period or Assessment Period .

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Occupational Therapy	OT	Services that are provided or directly supervised by a licensed occupational therapist. A qualified occupational therapy assistant may provide therapy but not supervise others (aides or volunteers) giving therapy. Includes services provided by a qualified occupational therapy assistant who is employed by (or under contract to) the nursing facility only if they are under the direction of a licensed occupational therapist. Occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant are defined in regulations (42 CFR § 484.4). Occupational therapy interventions address deficits in physical, cognitive, psychosocial, sensory, and other aspects of performance in order to support engagement in everyday life activities that affect health, well-being, and quality of life.
Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987	OBRA '87	Law that enacted reforms in nursing facility care and provides the statutory authority for the MDS. The goal is to ensure that residents of nursing facilities receive quality care that will help them to attain or maintain the highest practicable, physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being.
On Admission		On admission is defined as: as close to the actual time of admission as possible.
Oral Lesions		An abnormal area of tissue on the lips, gums, tongue, palate, cheek lining, or throat. This may include ulceration, plaques or patches (e.g., candidiasis), tumors or masses, and color changes (red, white, yellow, or darkened).
Pain Medication Regimen		Pharmacological agent(s) prescribed to relieve or prevent the recurrence of pain. Include all medications used for pain management by any route and any frequency during the look-back period.
Passive Range of Motion	PROM	Movement within the unrestricted range of motion for a segment, which is provided entirely by an external force. There is no voluntary muscle contraction. This type of range of motion is often used when a resident is not able to perform the movement at all or puts forth no effort.
Patient Health Questionnaire	PHQ-2 to 9[©]	A validated interview that screens for symptoms of depression. It provides a standardized severity score and a rating for evidence of a depressive disorder.

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Patient Driven Payment Model	PDPM	The Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM) is a new case-mix classification system for classifying skilled nursing facility (SNF) residents in a Medicare Part A–covered stay into payment groups under the SNF Prospective Payment System. Effective beginning October 1, 2019, PDPM replaced the Federal case-mix classification system, the Resource Utilization Group, Version IV (RUG-IV).
Persistent Vegetative State	PVS	PVS is an enduring situation in which an individual has failed to demonstrate meaningful cortical function but can sustain basic body functions supported by noncortical brain activity.
Physical Therapy	PT	Services that are provided or directly supervised by a licensed physical therapist. A qualified physical therapy assistant (PTA) may provide therapy but not supervise others (aides or volunteers) giving therapy. Includes services provided by a qualified physical therapy assistant who is employed by (or under contract to) the nursing facility only if they are under the direction of a licensed physical therapist. Physical therapist and physical therapist assistant are defined in regulation 42 CFR § 484.4. Physical therapists (PTs) are licensed health care professionals who diagnose and manage movement dysfunction and enhance physical and functional status for people of all ages. PTs alleviate impairments and activity limitations and participation restrictions, promote and maintain optimal fitness, physical function, and quality of life, and reduce risk as it relates to movement and health. Following an evaluation of an individual with impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions or other health-related conditions, the physical therapist designs an individualized plan of physical therapy care and services for each patient. Physical therapists use a variety of interventions to treat patients. Interventions may include therapeutic exercise, functional training, manual therapy techniques, assistive and adaptive devices and equipment, physical agents, and electrotherapeutic modalities.

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Physician Prescribed Weight-loss Regimen		A weight reduction plan ordered by the resident's physician with the care plan goal of weight reduction. May employ a calorie-restricted diet or other weight-loss diets and exercise. Also includes planned diuresis. It is important that weight loss is intentional.
Portal		A secure online website that gives providers, residents, and others 24-hour access to personal health information from anywhere with an internet connection.
Prior to the Benefit of Services		Prior to provision of any care by facility staff that would result in more independent coding.
Private Home/ Apartment		A noninstitutional community residential setting that can include houses, condominiums, or apartments in the community whether owned by the resident or another person, as well as retirement communities and independent housing for the elderly.
Program Transmittal		Transmittal pages summarize the instructions to providers, emphasizing what has been changed, added, or clarified. They provide background information that would be useful in implementing the instructions. Program Transmittals can be found at the following website: https://www.cms.gov/medicare/regulations-guidance/transmittals .
Prompted Voiding		Prompted voiding is a behavioral intervention to maintain or regain urinary continence and may include timed verbal reminders and positive feedback for successful toileting.
Prospective Payment System	PPS	A payment system, developed for Medicare skilled nursing facilities, which pays facilities an all-inclusive rate for all Medicare Part A beneficiary services. Payment is determined by a case-mix classification system that categorizes patients by the type and intensity of resources used.

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Psychological Therapy		The treatment of mental and emotional disorders through the use of psychological techniques designed to encourage communication of conflicts and insight into problems, with the goal being relief of symptoms, changes in behavior leading to improved social and vocational functioning, and personality growth. Psychological therapy may be provided by a psychiatrist, psychologist, clinical social worker, or clinical nurse specialist in mental health as allowable under applicable state laws.
Psychomotor Retardation		Visibly slowed level of activity or mental processing in residents who are alert. Psychomotor retardation should be differentiated from altered level of consciousness (i.e., stupor) and lethargy.
Qualified Clinicians		Healthcare professionals practicing within their scope of practice and consistent with Federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
Quality Improvement Network	QIN	The Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) Program's 14 Quality Innovation Network-QIOs (QIN-QIOs) bring Medicare beneficiaries, providers, and communities together in data-driven initiatives that increase patient safety, make communities healthier, better coordinate post-hospital care, and improve clinical quality. By serving regions of two to six states each, QIN-QIOs are able to help best practices for better care spread more quickly, while still accommodating local conditions and cultural factors.
Quality Improvement Organization	QIO	A program administered by CMS that is designed to monitor and improve utilization and quality of care for Medicare beneficiaries. The program consists of a national network of QIOs responsible for each U.S. State, territory, and the District of Columbia. Their mission is to ensure the quality, effectiveness, efficiency, and economy of health care services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.
Quality Measure	QM	Tools that help measure or quantify healthcare processes, outcomes, patient perceptions, and organizational structure and/or systems that are associated with the ability to provide high-quality health care and/or that relate to one or more quality goals for health care. These goals include care that is: effective, safe, efficient, patient-centered, equitable, and timely.

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Recreational Therapy		Services that are provided or directly supervised by a qualified recreational therapist who holds a national certification in recreational therapy, also referred to as a “Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist.” Recreational therapy includes, but is not limited to, providing treatment services and recreation activities to individuals using a variety of techniques, including arts and crafts, animals, sports, games, dance and movement, drama, music, and community outings. Recreation therapists treat and help maintain the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of their clients by seeking to reduce depression, stress, and anxiety; recover basic motor functioning and reasoning abilities; build confidence; and socialize effectively. Recreational therapists should not be confused with recreation workers, who organize recreational activities primarily for enjoyment.
Reentry		When a resident returns to a facility following a temporary discharge (return anticipated) and returns within 30 days of the discharge.
Registered Nurse Assessment Coordinator	RNAC	An individual licensed as a registered nurse by the State Board of Nursing and employed by a nursing facility and is responsible for coordinating and certifying completion of the resident assessment instrument.
Rehabilitation Therapy		Special health care services or programs that help a person regain physical, mental, and/or cognitive (thinking and learning) abilities that have been lost or impaired as a result of disease, injury, or treatment. These services or programs can include, for example, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and cardiac and pulmonary therapies.
Religion		Belief in and reverence for a supernatural power or powers regarded as creator and governor of the universe. Can be expressed in practice of rituals associated with various religious faiths, attendance and participation in religious services, or in private prayer or religious study.
Resource Use		The measure of the wage-weighted minutes of care used to develop the RUG classification system.

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Resource Utilization Group, Version IV	RUG-IV	A category-based classification system in which nursing facility residents classify into one of 66, 57, or 47 RUG-IV groups. Residents in each group utilize similar quantities and patterns of resources. Assignment of a resident to a RUG-IV group is based on certain item responses on the MDS 3.0. Some states utilize the RUG-IV system for Medicaid payment in nursing facilities.
Respiratory Therapy		Services that are provided by a qualified professional (respiratory therapists, respiratory nurse). Respiratory therapy services are for the assessment, treatment, and monitoring of patients with deficiencies or abnormalities of pulmonary function. Respiratory therapy services include coughing, deep breathing, nebulizer treatments, assessing breath sounds and mechanical ventilation, etc., which must be provided by a respiratory therapist or trained respiratory nurse. A respiratory nurse must be proficient in the modalities listed above either through formal nursing or specific training and may deliver these modalities as allowed under the state Nurse Practice Act and under applicable state laws.
Respite		Short-term, temporary care provided to residents to allow family members to take a break from the daily routine of care giving.
Significant Error		An error in an assessment where the resident's clinical status is not accurately represented (i.e., miscoded) on the erroneous assessment and the error has not been corrected via submission of a more recent assessment.
Skilled Nursing Facility	SNF	A facility that is primarily engaged in providing skilled nursing care and related services to individuals who require medical or nursing care or rehabilitation services of injured, disabled, or sick persons.
Sleep Hygiene		Practices, habits, and environmental factors that promote and/or improve sleep patterns.
Social Isolation		An actual or perceived lack of contact with other people, such as living alone or residing in a remote area.
Social Security Number	SSN	A tracking number assigned to an individual by the U.S. Federal government for taxation, benefits, and identification purposes.

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Services	SLP	Services that are provided by a licensed speech-language pathologist and/or audiologist. Rehabilitative treatment addresses physical and/or cognitive deficits/disorders resulting in difficulty with communication and/or swallowing (dysphagia). Communication includes speech, language (both receptive and expressive) and non-verbal communication such as facial expression and gesture. Swallowing problems managed under speech therapy are problems in the oral, laryngeal, and/or pharyngeal stages of swallowing. Depending on the nature and severity of the disorder, common treatments may range from physical strengthening exercises, instructive or repetitive practice and drilling, to the use of audiovisual aids and introduction of strategies to facilitate functional communication. Speech therapy may also include sign language and the use of picture symbols. Speech-language pathologist is defined in regulation 42 CFR § 484.4.
State Operations Manual	SOM	A manual provided by CMS that provides information regarding the how the State comes into compliance with Medicare and Medicaid requirements for survey and certification of all entities and appendices that provides regulatory requirements and related guidance.
State Provider Number		Medicaid Provider Number established by a state.
State Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) Coordinator		A State Agency person who provides information regarding RAI requirements and MDS coding instructions (See Appendix B).
Stress Incontinence		Episodes of a small amount of urine leakage only associated with physical movement or activity such as coughing, sneezing, laughing, lifting heavy objects, or exercise.
Submission Confirmation		The initial feedback generated by iQIES after an MDS data file is electronically submitted. This message acknowledges receipt of the submission file but does not examine the file for any warnings and/or errors. Warnings and/or errors are provided on the Final Validation Report.

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Submission Requirement	SUB_REQ	A field in the MDS electronic record (A0410) that identifies the authority for data collection. CMS has authority to collect assessments for all residents (regardless of their payer source) who reside in Medicare- and/or Medicaid-certified units. States may or may not have regulatory authority to collect assessments for residents in non-certified units.
Suprapubic Catheter		An indwelling catheter that is placed into the bladder through the abdominal wall above the pubic symphysis.
Swing Bed	SB	A rural non-critical access hospital with fewer than 100 beds that participates in the Medicare program that has CMS approval to provide post-hospital SNF care. The hospital may use its beds, as needed, to provide either acute or SNF care.
System of Records	SOR	Standards for collection and processing of personal information as defined by the Privacy Act of 1974.
Temporal Orientation		In general, the ability to place oneself in correct time. For BIMS, it is the ability to indicate correct date in current surroundings.
Therapeutic Diet		A therapeutic diet is a diet intervention prescribed by a physician or other authorized nonphysician practitioner that provides food or nutrients via oral, enteral, and parenteral routes as part of treatment of disease or clinical condition, to modify, eliminate, decrease, or increase identified micro- and macronutrients in the diet (Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, 2020).
Tooth Fragment		A remnant of a tooth.
Total Parenteral Nutrition	TPN	A method of feeding that bypasses the gastrointestinal tract. A special formula given through a vein provides most of the nutrients the body needs.
Total Severity Score		A summary of the Patient Health Questionnaire frequency scores that indicates the extent of potential depression symptoms. The score does not diagnose a mood disorder but provides a standard of communication between clinicians and mental health specialists.

Term	Abbreviation	Definition
Transitional Living		Settings that provide longer-term residential services offering professional support, education, and a stable living environment for individuals transitioning from situations such as homelessness, alcohol use disorder, and substance use disorder. Such settings afford safe living accommodations and services to support a successful transition to self-sufficient living.
Up to Date (for COVID-19 Vaccine)		For the definition of “up to date,” providers should refer to the CDC webpage “Staying Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines” at https://www.cdc.gov/covid/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html .
Urostomy		A stoma for the urinary system, intended to bypass the bladder or urethra.
Usual Performance		A resident’s functional status can be impacted by the environment or situations encountered at the facility. Observing the resident’s interactions with others in different locations and circumstances is important for a comprehensive understanding of the resident’s functional status. If the resident’s functional status varies, record the resident’s usual ability to perform each activity. Do not record the resident’s best performance and do not record the resident’s worst performance, but rather record the resident’s usual performance.
Utilization Guidelines		Instructions concerning when and how to use the RAI. These include instructions for completion of the RAI as well as structured frameworks for synthesizing MDS and other clinical information.
Vomiting		The forceful expulsion of stomach contents through the mouth or nose.
Z Codes		ICD-10-CM provides codes to deal with encounters for circumstances other than a disease or injury. The Factors Influencing Health Status and Contact with Health Services codes (Z00–Z99) are provided to deal with occasions when circumstances other than a disease or injury are recorded as diagnosis or problems.

Common Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
A/AROM or AAROM	Active Assisted Range of Motion
ADLs	Activities of Daily Living
ADR	Adverse Drug Reaction
ARD	Assessment Reference Date
BBA-97	Balanced Budget Act of 1997
BBRA	Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999
BEA	(U.S) Bureau of Economic Analysis
BIMS	Brief Interview for Mental Status
BIPA	Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act (BIPA) of 2000
BLS	(U.S.) Bureau of Labor Statistics
BMI	Body Mass Index
CAA	Care Area Assessment
CAH	Critical Access Hospital
CAM	Confusion Assessment Method
CAT	Care Area Trigger
CBSA	Core-Based Statistical Area
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CLIA	Clinical Laboratory Improvements Amendments (1988)
CMI	Case-Mix Index
CMS	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
CNN	CMS Certification Number
COTA	Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant
CPS	Cognitive Performance Scale (MDS)
CPT	(Physicians) Current Procedural Terminology
CR	Change Request
DME	Durable Medical Equipment
DMERC	Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carrier
DOS	Dates of Service
EHR	Electronic Health Record
EMR	Electronic Medical Record
ESRD	End Stage Renal Disease
FAC_ID	Facility ID (for MDS submission)
FMR	Focused Medical Review

Acronym	Definition
FVR	Final Validation Report (MDS submission)
FY	Fiscal Year
GDR	Gradual Dose Reduction
HCPCS	Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System
HIE	Health Information Exchange
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996
HIPPS	Health Insurance PPS (Rate Codes)
ICD	International Classification of Diseases
ICD-CM	International Classification of Diseases, Clinical Modification
IDT	Interdisciplinary Team
IOM	Internet-Only Manual
iQIES	Internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System
IPA	Interim Payment Assessment
ISC	Item Set Code
LOA	Leave of Absence
MAC	Medicare Administrative Contractor
MDS	Minimum Data Set
MRI	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
NDC	National Drug Code
NF	Nursing Facility
NH	Nursing Home
NPI	National Provider Identifier
NTA	Non-Therapy Ancillary
OBRA '87	Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
OT	Occupational Therapy/Therapist
PCE	Personal Care Expenditures
PDPM	Patient Driven Payment Model
PHQ-2 to 9 [©]	Patient Health Questionnaire
PHQ-9-OV [©]	PHQ-9 [©] Observational Version
PIM	Program Integrity Manual
POS	Point of Service
PPS	Prospective Payment System
PROM	Passive Range of Motion
PT	Physical Therapy/Therapist
PTA	Physical Therapist Assistant

Acronym	Definition
Pub.100-1	Medicare General Information, Eligibility, and Entitlement IOM
Pub.100-2	Medicare Benefit IOM
Pub.100-4	Medicare Claims Processing IOM
Pub.100-7	Medicare State Operations IOM
Pub.100-8	Medicare Program Integrity IOM
Pub.100-12	State Medicaid IOM
PVS	Persistent Vegetative State
QIN	Quality Improvement Network
QIO	Quality Improvement Organization
QM	Quality Measure
RAI	Resident Assessment Instrument
RNAC	Registered Nurse Assessment Coordinator
RUG	Resource Utilization Group
SB	Swing Bed
SCSA	Significant Change in Status Assessment
SNF	Skilled Nursing Facility
SNF PPS	Skilled Nursing Facility Prospective Payment System
SNF QRP	Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting Program
SLP (or ST)	Speech-Language Pathology Services
SOM	State Operations Manual
SOR	System of Records
SSN	Social Security Number
STM	Staff Time Measure
SUB_REQ	Submission Requirement
TPN	Total Parenteral Nutrition