

# **IMPACT Act National Beta Testing Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

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## **Why Participate in This National Beta Test?**

It is vitally important that Post-Acute Care (PAC) providers – namely, Home Health Agencies (HHAs), Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRFs), Long-Term Care Hospitals (LTCHs) and Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) – participate in this national beta test to ensure that data elements being considered for standardized assessment are valid, reliable, and applicable in all PAC settings. The data elements in the beta test are being considered for cross-setting standardized assessment and will inform impending changes in data collection and reporting that are already mandated by law [Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation Act of 2014 (IMPACT Act)].

By participating in the national beta test, providers will gain experience with new CMS data collection standards before they become mandatory, have the opportunity to give feedback to CMS about the data elements under development, and be able to showcase their commitment to quality care.

## **What's in It for PAC Providers?**

PAC providers who participate in the national beta test will be provided an honorarium and will have the opportunity to support efforts to transform and modernize the health care system by promoting effective, efficient, high quality care for CMS beneficiaries, through the use of standardized, clinically meaningful, reusable data.

## **How Are PAC Providers Selected for Participation?**

A random sample of PAC providers in select markets have been identified based on characteristics such as size and location. Within those samples, providers will be asked to participate in testing.

## **Can Any PAC Provider Participate?**

Testing will be conducted in PAC facilities/agencies in the following 14 locations in the United States:

- Boston, MA
- Harrisburg, PA
- Philadelphia, PA
- Fort Lauderdale, FL
- Durham, NC
- Chicago, IL
- Nashville, TN
- Kansas City, MO
- St. Louis, MO
- Dallas, TX
- Houston, TX
- Phoenix, AZ
- Los Angeles, CA
- San Diego, CA

Only PAC providers in these 14 geographic locations that meet the sampling criteria (e.g., size, assessment volume) are eligible to participate. These geographic locations were randomly chosen to ensure geographic representativeness to the sample. To learn more, contact us by phone at 1-855-233-5690 or via email at [IMPACTbeta-test@rand.org](mailto:IMPACTbeta-test@rand.org).

## **Is Participation in the National Beta Test Mandatory?**

Participation in this effort is voluntary. Staff from Abt Associates will contact sampled providers to seek their voluntary participation in this national beta test.

## **What Is Expected of Participating PAC Providers?**

Participating providers will:

1. Select at least two staff members (preferably clinical staff who routinely conduct resident/patient assessments) for participation in training sessions on national beta test implementation.
2. Complete test assessments on 46-68 residents/patients, depending on setting type, within a 29-week data collection period.
3. Accommodate independent research nurses as they complete their own assessments to evaluate inter-rater reliability and validity of the assessment items.
4. Participate in "check in" calls with research nurses and periodic calls with research staff to discuss data collection experiences and feedback.

## **What if I Need Help or Have a Question?**

If you need assistance, please feel free to call or email us:

- Phone number: 1-855-233-5690
- Email: [IMPACTbeta-test@rand.org](mailto:IMPACTbeta-test@rand.org)