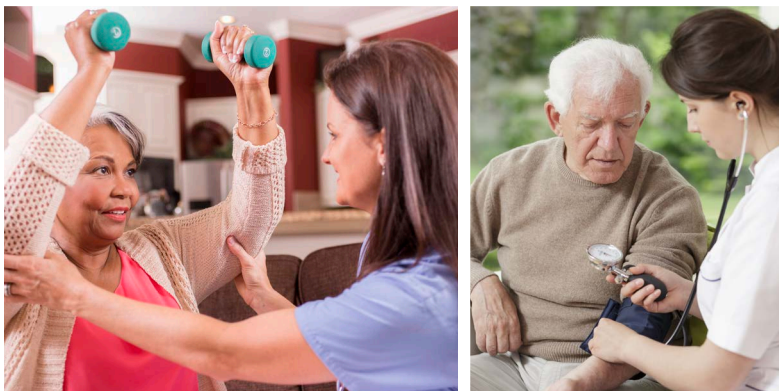


# Standardized Patient Assessment Data Project



Patients admitted to post-acute care (PAC) settings are currently evaluated using different clinical assessment instruments depending on the PAC setting, including Home Health Agencies (HHAs), Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRFs), Long-Term Care Hospitals (LTCHs), and Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs). Data from these varied assessments are used for quality measurement and improvement, care planning, regulatory oversight and payment.

The Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation Act of 2014 (IMPACT Act of 2014) requires that patient assessment data elements collected across PAC settings become standardized.

This data standardization will enable improved quality measure (QM) development, exchangeability of data, and comparison of quality across PAC settings. It also has the potential to improve patient outcomes by improving the coordination of care across and within the continuum of PAC settings and improving discharge planning.

**PAC providers are being asked to assist CMS with field data collection to test the standardized data elements for reliability, validity, and ease of use in all four PAC settings.**

**CMS QUALITY STRATEGY**  
BETTER CARE | HEALTHY PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES | AFFORDABLE CARE

## Project Overview

CMS is working with the RAND Corporation and its partners to implement the Standardized Patient Assessment Data Project. The goal of the project is to develop and test standardized assessment-based data elements across the PAC settings for purposes of complying with the requirements of the IMPACT Act of 2014. The project is being conducted over three years, from October 2015 – September 2018.

PAC providers are being asked to assist with field data collection to test the standardized data elements for reliability, validity and ease of use in all four PAC settings (HHAs, IRFs, LTCHs, and SNFs).

### Patient assessment data element development and testing will focus on the following clinical domains as outlined in the IMPACT Act:

- Cognitive Status
- Mental Status (e.g., mood)
- Medical Conditions (e.g., pain)
- Impairments (e.g., incontinence and sensory impairments)
- Other clinical topics (e.g., care preferences and medication reconciliation)

## Why should PAC providers participate?

It is of vital importance that PAC providers participate in this project to ensure that the standardized patient assessment items are valid, reliable and useful across PAC settings. PAC providers who participate in the field testing will:

- Have the opportunity to provide input to CMS on data elements under development;
- Get experience with the new data collection standards before they are considered for proposal in CMS quality reporting programs;
- Be able to showcase their commitment to quality care and participation in a national standard setting project;
- Be provided with an honorarium and certificate of appreciation from CMS.

## What is expected from participating PAC providers?

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

## Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Is participation in field testing mandatory?**  
Participation is voluntary. Providers who do not wish to participate will not be penalized in any way.
- 2. Will providers be compensated for participation in the field test?**  
Participating providers will receive an honorarium at the completion of the required assessments.
- 3. What will happen if state surveyors arrive at the facility during field data collection?**  
In the event that state surveyors arrive at the agency/facility during the field test, research nurses will suspend data collection activities and resume when the state survey is over.
- 4. How can we sign up to participate?**  
Please sign and return the agreement form that was mailed to your facility. This form can also be found at <https://tinyurl.com/NationalAssessmentTesting>.
- 5. What do I do if I have more questions about participation?**  
To learn more about the project and find out about informational webinars please go to <https://tinyurl.com/NationalAssessmentTesting> or call 1-855-233-5690.

## Which markets are eligible for participation?

- 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

For more information, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/NationalAssessmentTesting> or call us toll-free at 1-855-233-5690.

