

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 2162-MC-FFS

DATE: September 11, 2020

TO: All Iowa Medicaid Skilled Nursing Facilities and Nursing Facilities

APPLIES TO: Managed Care (MC), Fee-for-Service (FFS), PACE

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Minimum Data Set (MDS) Version 1.17.2

EFFECTIVE: October 1, 2020

On May 18, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released MDS version 1.17.2, which will be effective beginning October 1, 2020. This item set allows the option to support the calculation of Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM) payment codes on all Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) assessments. The OBRA comprehensive (NC) and the quarterly OBRA (NQ) item sets will calculate PDPM codes, which were not possible prior to the release of item set version 1.17.1. This revised item set offers the IME additional time to evaluate PDPM or a PDPM-like payment system for Medicaid rate setting in the future.

Effective October 1, 2020, Iowa Medicaid will begin collecting the PDPM payment codes on all OBRA assessments. These additional data elements are necessary for the IME to begin modeling and planning for a potential transition to PDPM for future rate setting methodology. CMS has communicated the Resource Utilization Group (RUG) system will not be supported indefinitely. Therefore, the IME would like to be proactive in gathering data to allow adequate time to evaluate next steps.

This MDS version will still require the Optional State Assessment (OSA) to be completed for ongoing quarterly case-mix reimbursement for any resident, dual eligible and Medicare only, which has a Medicare Part A skilled stay greater than 30 days.

The item set beginning October 1, 2020, will include MDS fields on the OBRA assessments that will allow Medicaid to begin collecting data to comply with the CMS Upper Payment Limit requirements and allow for a potential PDPM transition while continuing RUG reimbursement. Since the PDPM items will appear on the OBRA MDS, providers will not need to submit separate MDS assessments in order for the state to collect the PDPM data.

For additional information on the OSA, Informational Letter 2052-MC-FFS at:
https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/2052-MC-FFS_Optional_State_Assessment_1.pdf?073120202101

For further information on PDPM, visit the CMS website at:
<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/SNFPPS/PDPM.html>

If you have any questions, please contact the minimum data set (MDS) Automation Coordinator at 1-800-383-2856 Ext 2970 or email MDSCoordinatorIA@telligen.com.