

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 2196-MC-FFS

DATE: December 8, 2020

TO: All Iowa Medicaid Skilled Nursing Facilities and Nursing Facilities

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

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

RE: Minimum Data Set (MDS) / Case Mix

EFFECTIVE: Upon receipt

In response to the Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released COVID 1135 Blanket Waiver on March 1, 2020, that included waiving 42 CFR 483.20 timeframe requirements for completion and submission of MDS assessments until the end of the PHE.

The IME is aware that the Federal PHE and the Federal Blanket Waiver have been extended allowing the extension of the MDS submission due dates. However, in an effort to set rates in a timely manner, per Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) 81.6(4), the IME will be extracting MDS assessment data from the Quality Improvement Evaluation System (QIES) database on the specified dates listed in Table 1.

The dates are provided to allow an extended period of time for nursing facilities to determine if they are able to submit the MDS assessments required to process the Case Mix Index (CMI) used for rate setting for long term care facilities.

If a nursing facility chooses to delay the completion and/or submission of MDS assessments, it may affect the quarterly rate setting and reimbursement rate. When a provider identifies a significant decrease in CMI or none at all due to the impact of COVID on the facility that effects the Medicaid reimbursement rate, the IME encourages providers to utilize an Exception to Policy (ETP) to extend the current rates that have been set or use the ETP process to recalculate rates once CMS lifts the 1135 Blanket Waiver for submission dates.

Case Mix 2020 Important Dates				
Resident Rosters	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
Applicable Date Range of MDS Assessment Reference Date	NA	April 1 – June 30, 2020	July 1 – September 1, 2020	October 1 - December 1, 2020
Last Day to Submit Assessments	NA	November 29, 2020	January 30, 2021	March 30, 2021
Preliminary Rosters Available to Providers via IMPA	NA	December 10, 2020	February 5, 2021	April 5, 2021
Final Day to Submit Corrections to QIES or Payer Change Forms	NA	December 23, 2020	February 18, 2021	April 18, 2021
Final Rosters Available to Providers via IMPA	NA	January 15, 2021	March 5, 2021	May 7, 2021
Rates Mailed to Providers	NA	January 27, 2021	March 26, 2021	May 21, 2021
Rate Effective Date Using MDS Data		January 1, 2021	April 1, 2021	July 1, 2021

If you have any questions, please contact the IME Quality Improvement Organization Unit at 1-800-383-1173 or email at casemix@dhs.state.ia.