Clinical FAQs 2023

Q1. For the updated MDS changes this fall, when an assessment is open with an ARD of 10/01/2023 or after, can it be changed to a Prior Date?

No. The MDS item sets have been changed significantly, effective 10/01/2023. To ensure that all appropriate information is included on the form and in the file transmitted to CMS, we will not be allowing ARDs to be changed across the 10/01/2023 date line. Assessments opened prior to 10/01/23 can be changed to other dates prior to, but not on or after 10/01/23, and assessments opened with an ARD of 10/01/23 or later can't be changed to a date prior. Attempting to change an ARD across this date will result in an error stating: "Please select a date prior to (or after) 10/01/2023 or start a new assessment".

Q2. If the Functional Abilities and Goals Assessment is not divided into Admission, Discharge, and OBRA/Interim sections, will the information still flow to the appropriate items in section GG of the MDS?

Yes, it will. This will pull the information to the MDS based on the date of the assessment, the Assessment Reference Date, and the type of assessment being completed.

Q3. Will OSA assessments be included in the MDS Scheduling Tool?

They will not be included, because some states require an OSA assessment schedule that deviates from the federal OBRA schedule, which would make any predictions inaccurate for users in those states.

Q4. How/when do I turn off section G? Will it be automatic?

This is not automatic; all facilities must do this on 10/01. Please follow the instructions below:
1. Click the **American Data – ECS > Settings > Site.**
2. Click the drop-down arrow to select your **Site**.
3. Click **MDS**.
4. Click on **Section to sign**.
5. In the row labelled **G**, Click on the "x" to remove it from every column but the **OSA**.
6. Once done click **OK**, and **OK** to Exit.

Click here to complete your [Pre-Setup Questionnaire](#), and let us know when you have updated to version 10.2.0.0.

Section to Sign

	NC	NQ	ND	NT	NPE	NP	OSA	IPA	SP	SD	ST	XX	NS	NSD
A	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
B	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x				x
C	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x				x
D	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x				x
E	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x				x
F	x													
G	x	x	x			x	x		x	x			x	x
GG	x	x	x		x	x			x	x	x			x
H	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x			x	x
I	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x				x
J	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x				x
K	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x				x
L	x	x				x								
M	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x				x
N	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x				x

OK   Cancel

Q5. If my state hasn't released a decision about using OSA vs PDPM, what should I expect?

There are 3 options that we have been seeing to this point, but this is in no way the only possibilities. This is just what we have seen from states so far.

1. Your state may choose PDPM, and you will begin to bill from HIPPS codes.
2. Your state may choose to keep RUGs by adding the OSA.
3. Your state may choose to not require the OSA but utilize a rate freeze until they can get a PDPM system into place.

Q6 Will an assessment be able to be copied to an OSA?

MDS responses in ECS can be set to show the last MDS answer when a new assessment is opened. By default, nearly all the items included on the OSA have this turned on. Complete the OBRA assessment and submit it to ECS and then open the OSA. Upon opening, the OSA will be filled in with the responses from the OBRA assessment. Users will then only need to review the responses and sign the sections prior to submitting the OSA.

Q7. Is there an easy way to access the RAI manual while completing an MDS assessment?

Yes! The RAI Manual can be easily accessed as you are completing an MDS assessment. Click onto the question mark symbol in the upper right-hand corner of ECS and then select item number button next to the MDS question that you need more information on.
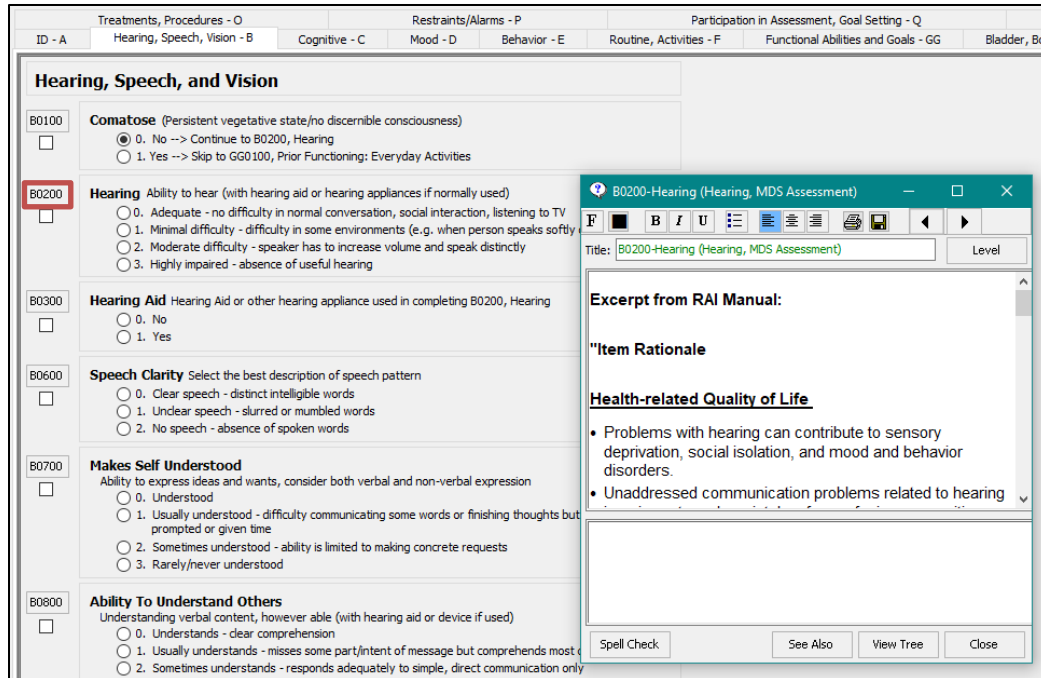
Q8. Where can I find MDS coding training?
The CMS Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Training website offers multiple resources. https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/Skilled-Nursing-Facility-Quality-Reporting-Program/SNF-Quality-Reporting-Program-Training.

Q9. How do I access ECS training materials and videos?
All training documentation, past webinars, future webinar signup, and training videos are located on our Client Sign On. This is accessed via our website at https://www.american-data.com/. Then click onto the Client Sign On button in the upper right-hand corner. Enter the username and password provided by the Client Sign On Administrator at your facility. The credentials for logging into the site may not match the credentials you use to access ECS. The login information for ECS and the Client Sign On are managed separately, but both are managed by someone internally at your facility and are not managed by American Data. If you are unsure who the Client Sign On Administrator at your facility is, we can provide that information.

Q10. Why do I sometimes receive recalculation warnings on my MDS transmission file report I receive from the iQIES system?
When you transmit your MDS batch files to the iQIES system, you will receive a validation report. On this report, you will see either an Accepted or Rejected. Sometimes, however, you will see Accepted, but also what we refer to as recalculation warnings. These warnings will

occur when ECS and CMS are calculating different PDPM HIPPS codes or if they are calculating using different logic versions.

No matter what the case, they are **warnings**, not rejections, so you should not resubmit the MDS assessment to them. They have received it and accepted it but are making you aware of a potential issue within the software or with the PDPM HIPPS code that was calculated.

If you receive this warning due to a **different version**, then one of the following would be the cause:
1. CMS released the updated PDPM grouper recently and it has not yet been programmed into ECS; or
2. The version of ECS you are using is not the most up to date (to include the updated PDPM grouper version); or
3. Your version of ECS is updated, however the assessment that was transmitted to the iQIES system had HIPPS calculated prior to updating.

If you receive this warning due to a **recalculated PDPM HIPPS code** and you notice that the one listed on the validation report differs from what ECS has calculated, you should follow the below steps:
1. Try to recalculate the HIPPS on the assessment. Maybe an item was changed on the MDS and was not resubmitted after that change or ECS was updated after you calculated the HIPPS.
2. If the HIPPS still does not match what CMS calculated, then you should contact the clinical department so we may further investigate the cause.

Q11. How to look up orders for a specific medication.

There are two ways to get there.
1. Click on the "View Chart" button on your Easy Access screen.
    OR
1. Select the green "View" icon from your toolbar.

From the view screen:
2. Select your residents from the name selection screen that pops up.
3. Choose "Topic" from the menu bar at the top of the screen.
4. Choose the tab called "Physician Orders" from the options.
5. Double-click on the folder labeled "Medications."
6. At the bottom-left of the window, choose "Search."

Searching for Medications:
7. In the search box, type the name of the medication that you are looking for next to "Search for words,"
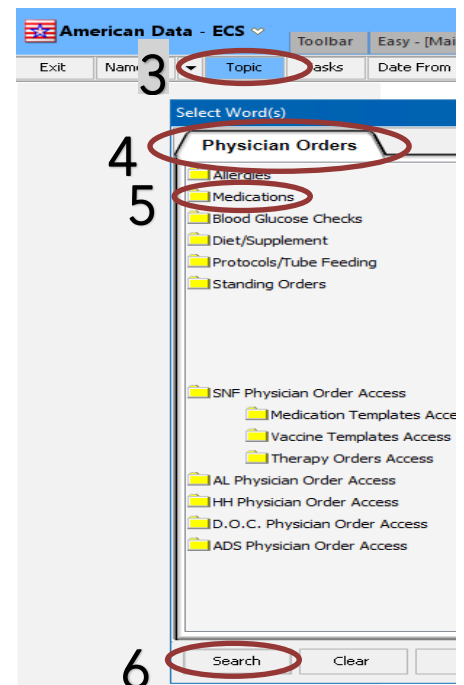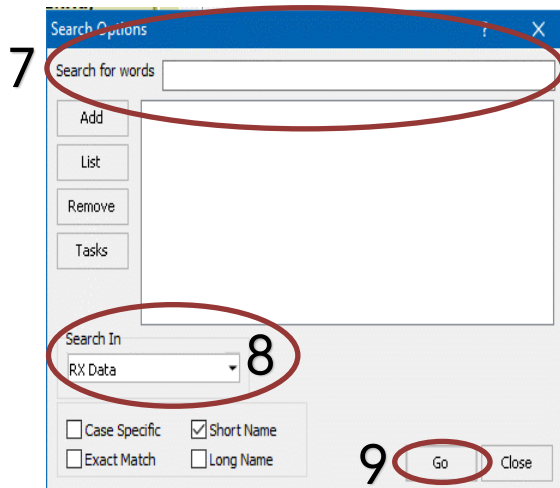
8.   Use the drop-down box below "Search In" to change from "Current Tab" to "RX Data." Click Go

a.   This will bring up a list of all available dose forms of the medication. You may select one specific dosage, or use "select all" to choose all of the available options.

9.   Once you have chosen the dosages to search for, click OK to return to the view screen.

10.   The search window will close. Click "Go" on the view screen to bring up the entries/orders containing that medication.

Q12. How do I get the progress wheels back onto the MAR/TAR?

There is a check box on the electronic sign setup. This allows a facility to choose whether they want the progress wheels on the MAR/TAR and even allows for that to occur per individual task. This means that if some tasks make sense to have the wheels, whereas others do not, the user can easily add the checkbox onto only the tasks where the progress wheels are necessary. To enable the progress wheels, follow the steps below.

1. Click onto the **Toolbar**.
2. Click onto the **Sign** icon (or navigate via American Data – ECS > Write > Sign > Electronic Sign).
3. Click onto **Tasks**.
4. Highlight a task that you want to add the progress wheels too and click onto **Edit**.
5. Place a checkmark in **Show Progress Wheels**.
6. Click **OK** to save changes.
7. Complete the above steps for each task requiring progress wheels.
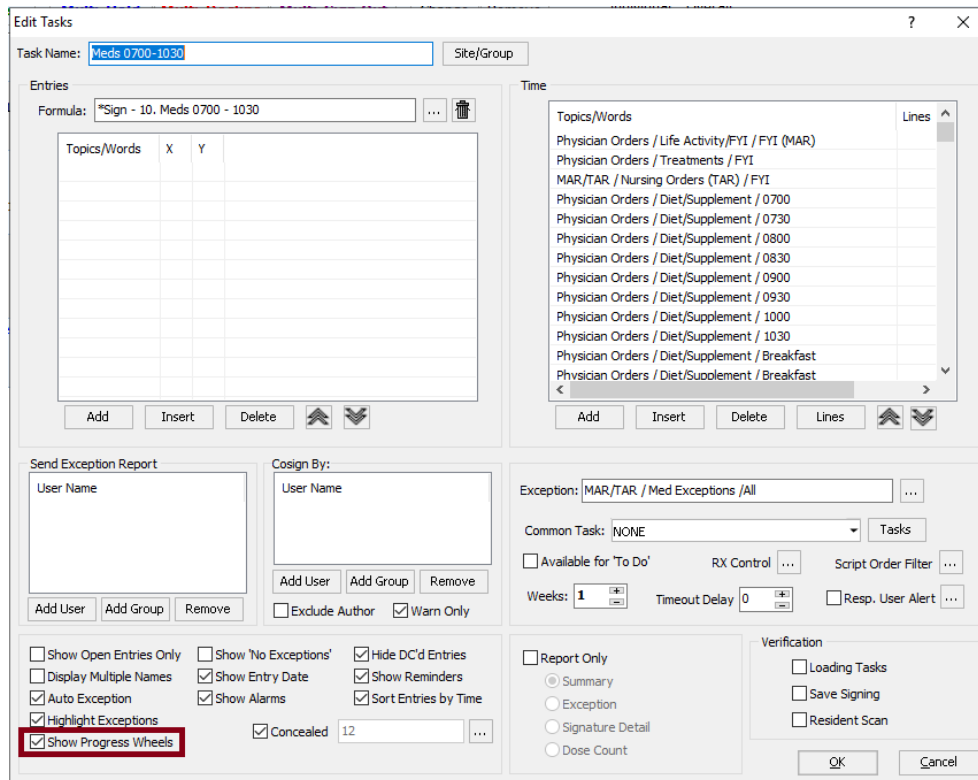
Q13. When does American Data release new updates? And how will I know when a new update has been released?

We try to release two large updates each year to correlate with when CMS releases their updates to the MDS. We aim for one update in the spring and one in the fall. All updates released in between are considered "patches" and are released with the intention of correcting any known issues. However, our two larger updates each year is when we plan for most of our enhancements.

When these updates are applied to your facility's ECS database will depend on whether you are hosted by American Data or not. If hosted by American Data, we apply windows updates, ECS updates, etc. once a month. Currently this is being completed on the third Tuesday of the month with an outage expected from 10pm-11pm CST. If your facility hosts your own servers, then your IT department may apply the updates whenever they would like.

To notify facilities that updates are available, we post on our website, and we also send an email out to all clients who have opted in for update related emails. Our updates page is in the Client Sign On section of our website. Access to this site is managed internally by your facility. If you are unsure who manages these user accounts, you may contact the clinical or marketing department and we can assist you. If you are not receiving update emails, but would like to, you can email cares@american-data.com and ask to receive update emails. We do typically post the update to the site for a few days and let it "soak" before sending the email. If you want to be an early adopter of the latest versions, keep a close eye on our website.

Q14. How do I know when American Data builds new setups or modules? Where can I learn more about what is available?

When new features become available, there are a few different areas that we promote these.

1. Our newsletter
2. Client Sign On > ECS User's Forum > New and Notable Items in ECS discussion thread
3. Webinars

When new modules are developed within our default database, these setups cannot be automatically sent into all ECS databases as we have so many different configurations and uses of ECS (i.e., adult daycare, nursing homes, jails, etc.) Because of this, all new modules are available to our clients on a request basis. Meaning that if you are interested in getting a module setup in your facility's ECS, you will want to send an email to clinical@american-data.com to request it and approve of any billable time. You may also email us to request an estimate for receiving a module.

Q15. Does my state still get to choose whether it collects PDPM information on OBRA assessments? (N/A for Wisconsin Facilities)

Yes, to some extent. Most of these items are now mandatory, however, items which are still optional for states to collect include, Primary Medical Condition Category (I0020), ICD Code (I0020B), and Recent Surgery Requiring Active SNF Care (J2100). If your state is changing its status for collecting these items, do the following:

Note: Does not apply to Wisconsin or any state where PDPM is used for Medicaid/OBRA payments.

1) Go to your American Data – ECS Drop-down menu and choose *Setup*, then *Settings*, and then *Site*.
2) Use the drop-down menu at the top of the dialog box to choose the site where the changes will take effect.
3) Select the *MDS* tab, just below the drop-down menu.
4) Place a check in the box next to "Calculate PDPM for OBRA"
5) Click Apply and OK to complete the change.

Q16. Do I need to combine my PPS and OBRA discharge assessments after 10/01/23?

Yes. IF a resident discharges from Medicare A on the same day or one day prior to leaving the facility, the OBRA and PPS discharge assessments must be combined. Previously, these assessments could be either combined or left separate at the facility's discretion.

Q17. Will I need to complete section GG for unplanned discharges?

Yes. CMS has changed this requirement so that GG Discharge items in GG0170 and GG0130 must be completed for both planned and unplanned discharge assessments.

Q18. Are there changes to section 'O' therapy date requirements?

Yes, there is now an exception for therapy dates when there is an interrupted stay. In the case of an interrupted stay, the therapy start date entered in O0400A5, O0400B5, and/or O0400C5 must reflect a date on or after the date in A2400B. Although the therapy

start date occurred prior to the interrupted stay, the data specifications only accept a therapy start date that is on or after the date entered in A2400B. Previously, these dates had to be on or after the most recent entry (A1600) and were not able to go back to the beginning of the Medicare A stay in the event of an interrupted stay.

Q19. Where is the therapy Functional Abilities and Goals topic?

In an effort to streamline both the documentation and data retrieval processes, American Data has centralized the location of most assessments. If your facility uses the "New Nursing Module," you will notice that all assessments, including those for departments like social services and dietary, are in the same section. The therapy Functional Abilities and Goals topics are now also located in the 'assessments' section and shared with nursing. In this manner, users can be confident that when they view the documentation for this topic, they are seeing all of the information available, regardless of who charted it.

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