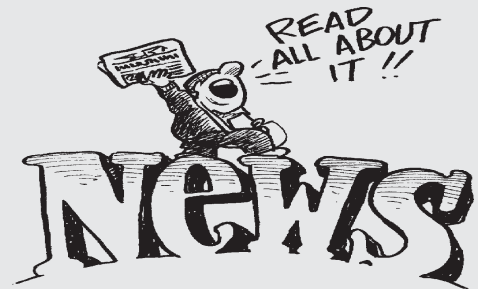


Division of Medical Assistance

North Carolina



Current Information on North Carolina Case Mix Reimbursement

SPECIAL BULLETIN - January 2008

The *North Carolina News* is a publication produced under contract with The North Carolina Division of Medical Assistance by Myers and Stauffer LC 9265 Counselors Row, Ste. 200 Indianapolis, IN 46240

The *North Carolina News* is published to keep all interested parties current on North Carolina Case Mix Reimbursement. Its goal is to provide information on major issues, work groups, and upcoming activities. The articles presented here are only a synopsis of the topics and are not intended to present a complete analysis of the issues.



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Medical Record Correction Policy for MDS Validation Reviews

Effective Immediately

The Division of Medical Assistance has adopted a new policy for medical record corrections related to acceptance of supporting documentation for MDS validation reviews. This policy allows for minor changes or corrections to previously recorded documentation in the resident's status in accordance with standards of clinical practice and documentation.

Such monitoring and documentation is a part of the facility's responsibility to provide necessary care and services. However, it is important to remember that the medical record is the legal assessment. Changes made to the electronic or paper record maintained in the medical record after data transmission are not recognized as proper corrections.

Therefore, the Division of Medical Assistance has made provisions to allow proper corrections for the electronic record or paper record maintained in the medical record as follows:

- a) If an error is discovered on or after but within 7 days of the Assessment Reference Date (A3a) of an MDS and before submission to the State MDS database, the response may be corrected using standard editing procedures on the hard copy (cross out, enter correct response, initial, and date) and correction of the MDS record in the facility database. The resident's care plan should also be reviewed for any needed changes.
- b) Any corrections made, including but not limited to, the Activities of Daily Living (ADL) grid must have an associated note of explanation **per occurrence**.
- c) If an error is discovered in a record in the State MDS database, modification or inactivation procedures must be implemented by the facility to assure that the database information is corrected.
- d) Clinical corrections must also be undertaken as necessary to assure that the resident is accurately assessed, the care plan is accurate, and the resident is receiving the care needed.
- e) A quarterly or summary note will not substitute for an occurrence correction.

This policy is effective immediately.