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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** RHCF Members

**FROM:** Patrick Cucinelli, Senior Financial Policy Analyst

**DATE:** April 8, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Update on MDS Roster Submissions Process

**ROUTE TO:** Administrator, CFO

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ABSTRACT: NYAHSA obtains additional information on MDS roster submission process.

### Introduction

[NYAHSA Doc. ID # N00003339](#) provided members with details of emerging concerns regarding the current minimum data set (MDS) roster submission process. NYAHSA has been in contact with the Department of Health (DOH) regarding these concerns and can provide members with the following additional clarifications.

### Additional Information

Please note the following:

- The current deadline for submission remains this Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, an extension from the previous deadline of April 3<sup>rd</sup>;
- Respite residents should **not** be included in the roster submission;
- DOH initially thought that the down coding resulting from the problems with the system recognizing projected therapy minutes on section T of the MDS (see NYAHSA Doc. ID # N00003339 referenced above for more details) was only occurring on an isolated basis. They now recognize that the problem is systemic and are exploring whether a system-wide correction is possible or whether they will need to deal with each case individually;

- The RUG-III classification program being used by DOH is automatically indexing individual RUG scores into the highest level score used for determining Medicaid case-mix. This is resulting in some degree of upcoding as the Medicaid weight for a particular RUG score may be higher than the Medicare weight;
- Any resident (regardless of payor) listed on the census submission that cannot be matched to a submitted MDS will default to a Medicaid PA1 score and will be used in calculating the Medicaid-only CMI;
- Both the January and July 2009 picture date submissions will be used to update facility case-mix scores for each of the relevant rate periods. The January 2010 picture date submission will occur, but will not be used to adjust rates for case-mix in the first quarter of 2010 (in anticipation of the implementation of regional pricing next year); and
- Facilities are permitted to resubmit their roster with corrections as many times as they deem necessary until the deadline. Despite the deadline extensions, the system is programmed to not allow subsequent resubmissions by a facility when seven days elapse after its most recent submission. However, DOH has indicated a willingness to override the lock-out for special circumstances.

Although DOH has advised NYAHSAs that they are seeking a systemic fix to the rehab down coding issue, NYAHSAs still recommend that providers cover themselves by notifying DOH of any discrepancies found. NYAHSAs are still recommending that members carefully review their post-submission validation reports and report any problems or discrepancies with their submission to DOH through the Resident Assessment Unit at 518-473-8910 or [PRIMail@health.state.ny.us](mailto:PRIMail@health.state.ny.us)

We are asking members to keep us informed regarding any significant problems encountered and to please contact me with any questions at [pcucinelli@nyahsa.org](mailto:pcucinelli@nyahsa.org) or call 518-449-2707 ext. 145; or Jennifer Pettis at [jpettis@nyahsa.org](mailto:jpettis@nyahsa.org), or ext. 146.