

5.1 Transmitting MDS Data

All Medicare and/or Medicaid-certified nursing homes and swing beds, or agents of those facilities, must transmit required MDS data records to CMS' Internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (iQIES). Required MDS records are those assessments and tracking records that are mandated under OBRA and SNF PPS.

Assessments that are completed for purposes other than OBRA or SNF PPS reasons are not to be submitted to iQIES, examples include, but are not limited to, private insurance and Medicare Advantage Plans (i.e., Medicare Part C). After completion of the required assessment and/or tracking records, each provider must create electronic transmission files that meet the requirements detailed in the current MDS 3.0 Data Submission Specifications available on the CMS MDS 3.0 website at:

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality/nursing-home-improvement/minimum-data-set-technical-information>.

The provider indicates the certification or licensure of the unit on which the resident resides in item A0410, Unit Certification or Licensure Designation. In addition to reflecting certification or licensure of the unit, this item indicates the submission authority for a record.

- Value = 1 Unit is neither Medicare nor Medicaid certified and MDS data is not required by CMS or the State.
- Value = 2 Unit is neither Medicare nor Medicaid certified but MDS data is required by the State.
- Value = 3 Unit is Medicare and/or Medicaid certified.

See Chapter 3, Section A for details concerning the coding of item A0410, Unit Certification or Licensure Designation. Note: CMS certified non-CAH Swing Bed unit assessments are always Value 3, Unit is Medicare and/or Medicaid certified.

When the transmission file is received by iQIES, the system performs a series of validation edits to evaluate whether or not the data submitted meet the required standards. MDS records are edited to verify that clinical responses are within valid ranges and are consistent, dates are reasonable, and records are in the proper order with regard to records that were previously accepted by iQIES for the same resident. The provider is notified of the results of this evaluation by error and warning messages on a Final Validation Report. All error and warning messages are detailed and explained in the *iQIES MDS Error Message Reference Guide* *available at:* <https://qtso.cms.gov/providers/nursing-home-mdsswing-bed-providers/reference-manuals>.