



State of California—Health and Human  
Services Agency  
**California Department of  
Public Health**



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor

August 24, 2017

AFL 17-14

**TO:** Nursing Facilities  
Skilled Nursing Facilities  
Intermediate Care Facilities  
Swing Bed Hospitals

**SUBJECT:** Update to MDS 3.0 California Section S, Effective October 1, 2017

**All Facilities Letter (AFL) Summary.**

This AFL notifies all certified Medicare and/or Medicaid nursing facilities of the California Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0 Section S.

The updated MDS California Section S form, effective October 1, 2017, reflects the changes on the California Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (CA POLST) form dated January 1, 2016. The CA POLST remains an option for residents to designate end-of-life choices with their health care provider. The current CA POLST form (effective January 1, 2016) is available at <http://capolst.org/>

The updated Section S form is available on the California Department of Public Health website at:  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/Minimum-Data-Set.aspx>

Nursing facilities submitting MDS 3.0 need to obtain the updated software specification for California Section S from Quality Improvement and Evaluation System Technical Support Office (QTSO) website at: [www.qtso.com](http://www.qtso.com)

The changes in S9040A and S9040E are underlined on the table below:

MDS 3.0 Section S item	Item Question	Response Value
S9040A	Does resident have a California POLST form in chart?	0. No 1. Yes 2. <u>In Process</u>
S9040E	CA-POLST Section D- signature of Physician, <u>Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant</u>	0. No 1. Yes

MDS Section S completion is required on MDS comprehensive assessments, quarterly assessments, discharge assessments, and tracking records. Facilities are not required to complete section S on Medicare Part A Prospective Payment System (PPS) assessments.

If you have additional questions, please contact the MDS/OASIS Help Desk by email at [mdsoasis@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:mdsoasis@cdph.ca.gov) or by phone at (916) 324-2362.

Please distribute copies to MDS Coordinators, Directors of Nursing, and Facility Administrators.

Sincerely,

**Original signed by Jean Iacino**

Jean Iacino  
Deputy Director

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