


3.1 Using this Chapter

Throughout this chapter, MDS assessment sections are presented using a standard format for ease of review and instruction. In addition, screenshots of each section are available for illustration purposes. Note: There are images imbedded in this manual and if you are using a screen reader to access the content contained in the manual you should refer to the MDS 3.0 item set to review the referenced information. The order of the sections is as follows:

- **Intent.** The reason(s) for including this set of assessment items in the MDS.
- **Item Display.** To facilitate accurate resident assessment using the MDS, each assessment section is accompanied by screenshots, which display the item from the MDS 3.0 item set.
- **Item Rationale.** The purpose of assessing this aspect of a resident's clinical or functional status.
- **Health-related Quality of Life.** How the condition, impairment, improvement, or decline being assessed can affect a resident's quality of life, along with the importance of staff understanding the relationship of the clinical or functional issue related to quality of life.
- **Planning for Care.** How assessment of the condition, impairment, improvement, or decline being assessed can contribute to appropriate care planning.
- **Steps for Assessment.** Sources of information and methods for determining the correct response for coding each MDS item.
- **Coding Instructions.** The proper method of recording each response, with explanations of individual response categories.
- **Coding Tips and Special Populations.** Clarifications, issues of note, and conditions to be considered when coding individual MDS items.
- **Examples.** Case examples of appropriate coding for most, if not all, MDS sections/items.

Additional layout issues to note include: (1) the  symbol is displayed in all MDS 3.0 sections/items that require a resident interview, and (2) important definitions are highlighted in *text boxes*, and may be found, *along with other definitions of interest*, in *Appendix A: Glossary and Common Acronyms*.

CMS's RAI Version 3.0 Manual

CH 3: Overview of Guide to MDS Items