

**SENIOR AND LONG TERM CARE DIVISION  
(FAQ'S) ON MDS 3.0 SECTION Q EFFECTIVE  
OCTOBER 1, 2010**

**WHAT IS MDS 3.0?**

Changes to the federal minimum data set (MDS) tool (Version 3.0 assessment), went into effect on October 1, 2010. One of these changes relates to Nursing Facilities (SNFs/NFs), States, and other qualified entities to identify individuals that are interested in returning to the community.

**WHAT IS MDS SECTION Q?**

Section Q is administered to all SNF/NF residents. This expanded assessment in the facilities will assist Skilled Nursing Facilities and Nursing Facilities (SNFs/NFs), State Medicaid Programs, and other entities to identify individuals that are interested in returning to the community. The purpose is to explain the resident's ability to choose, provide the resident and their family with community services contacts, provide residents a voice in terms of placement options, and increase communication and collaboration between providers of community services.

**WHAT ARE FACILITY REQUIREMENTS TO A "YES" RESPONSE ON SECTION Q?**

Section Q is administered to all SNF/NF residents, and those residents that respond "YES" they are "interested in speaking with someone about the possibility of returning to the community" will be referred to a local contact agency (LCA).

**WHAT ARE LOCAL CONTACT AGENCIES (LCA'S)?**

In the past Montana has worked to expand Medicaid waiver for individuals who can receive long-term care (LTC) services and supports in the community to support an optimum quality of life and function. Our goal is to continue to compliment these on-going activities, and collaborate new efforts with entities state-wide that can provide a bridge for residents to return to the community.

**WHO ARE THE LOCAL CONTACT AGENCIES IN MONTANA?**

Montana has identified that the following local contacts are appropriate referral entities for individuals and their families that respond "YES" on Section Q and would like more information on community options that may be available in their local community.

✓ **Regional Program Officers (RPO):**

Regional Program Officers are Community Services Bureau (Senior and Long Term Care, DPHHS) staff located throughout the State, who administer the following programs,

- Personal Assistance Services,
- Self-Directed Personal Assistance Services,
- Home and Community-Based Waiver,
- Home Health, and
- Hospice

The attached list provides the contact information for your local RPO, and on-line at,

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/SLTC/csb/RPO>

For Medicaid residents, the RPOs would be an appropriate contact to learn about available resources.

✓ **Area Agencies on Aging.**

Montana's Area Agencies on Aging are public or private non-profit agencies, designated by the Aging Services Bureau to address the needs and concerns of older Montanans at the local level. Every Area Agency on Aging is required to have an advisory council, comprised primarily of older persons, to review and comment on all programs affecting the elderly at the community level.

The attached map and contact list will provide you information about the local AAA contact, and can be found on-line at:

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/SLTC/aging/areaagenciesonaging>

Area Agencies on Aging can provide community care information and transition services to the resident for services available in the local area.

**Area Agency Toll Free Number:**

1- (800) 551-3191

This number is available state wide and rings at the local Area Agency office in the area from which the call is originated.

✓ **Other Referral Sources:**

Where available in the State, these other referral entities would be appropriate:

**Aging and Disability Resource Centers,**

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/SLTC/aging/adrc>

**Centers for Independent Living,**

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/detd/independentlivingservices>

**HOW DO I MAKE A REFERRAL TO A LCA?**

MDS 3.0 states that the nursing facility must provide the information on how to access Local Contact Agencies to the resident or family member if they request it. Also the family or family member can request the nursing facility staff to contact the LCA to request that someone call or visit the resident to inform them about what services and supports may be available to them.

There are instructions to nursing facilities in the MDS 3.0 Instructors Guide for a “YES” response to item Q0500A to trigger follow-up care planning and recommends that the facility make contact with the designated local contact agency about the residents’ request within 10 business days of a “YES” response being given.

MDS 3.0 training Information for the October 1, 2010, implementation, including the MDS 3.0 Instructors Guide, can be found at the following link:

[http://www.cms.gov/NursingHomeQualityInits/45\\_NHQIMDS30TrainingMaterials.asp](http://www.cms.gov/NursingHomeQualityInits/45_NHQIMDS30TrainingMaterials.asp)

**DO I NEED TO FOLLOW-UP ON A REFERRAL TO A LCA?**

The goal of follow-up action is to initiate and maintain collaboration between the nursing facility and the local contact agency to support the individual’s expressed interest in the possibility of being transitioned to community living. It is recommended that if the local contact agency does not contact the individual resident within 10 business days, facility staff should make a follow-up call to the designated local contact agency as necessary.

**WHO IS THE MONTANA POINT OF CONTACT (POC) FOR SECTION Q?**

State Medicaid Agencies have designated a State point of contact (POC) for the Section Q implementation and responsible for coordinating efforts in designating LCAs for nursing facilities. In Montana the POC, is Shaunda Hildebrand, and she can be contacted at [shildebrand2@mt.gov](mailto:shildebrand2@mt.gov) or 406-444-4209.