

April 7, 2006

## **Illinois MDS Section S - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

**Q: How will vendors be notified of software vendor specifications for Section S?**

**A:** Specifications and update notices will be posted on the CMS website:  
<https://www.qtso.com/vendor.html> Facilities are notified on the State MDS Submission Site.

**Q: Is there an effective date based on the Assessment Reference Date (ARD) for implementation of Section S?**

**A:** The effective date is May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006. This is based on assessments submitted with an ARD on or after May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006. The ARD is the last day of the observation period for the assessment.

The Iowa Foundation for Medical Care (IFMC) makes the necessary programmatic changes to the MDS system and RAVEN software for Illinois' implementation of Section S. The changes go into effect immediately after the regularly scheduled downtime on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006. All submissions after that date are subject to the new edits described in the specifications. With that being said, we are aware that some assessments completed prior to May 21<sup>st</sup>, but not yet transmitted will result in validation warning messages.

**Q: S1 is listed on the specs as a required field. If an assessment is sent without a valid entry, will the assessment be rejected and will errors be generated?**

**A:** The system will check the S1 field for a "0" or "1". If the field is not complete, a warning message will be generated stating that the field has not been completed. The assessment will not be rejected for this warning.

**Q: Will the system generate fatal (rejection) errors due to Section S edits.**

**A:** Edits will be checked by the system and only warning messages will be generated due to incomplete or out of range values. If S1 is answered as a "0" (No), edits on the remaining fields will be bypassed.

**Q: Will a facility be considered in compliance if they are not submitting a Section S?**

**A:** If a resident meets subpart S criteria (S1=1, "Yes") with an ARD date on or after May 21, then an omission of Section S would make the facility out of compliance.

**Q: Could a facility be cited by a state surveyor for Section S being incomplete on an assessment with an ARD date on or after May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006?**

**A:** Yes, non-compliance citations may apply.

**Q: Will field S1 always trigger only a warning message or do you plan to make this a fatal error at a later date?**

**A:** Presently, there are no plans to make the omission or improper coding of S1 a fatal error.

**Q: If S1= 1 (YES), is a space "sp" a viable option for fields S2-8?**

**A:** No, if S1=1 (Yes), the system will expect a value within the edit range or a “-“ (meaning information is not available). For reimbursement purposes, it is important that all questions are answered for residents meeting subpart S criteria. Absent data may have future ramifications with respect to rate setting.

**Q: Will a resident name line be added to the top of the form?**

**A:** Yes, the form has been modified to include a line at the top of the form for a resident name. However, this data is not stored in the Section S table space.

**Q: If S1 = 0 (No) then should the MHAPs be 0 (not triggered) or a space?**

**A:** If S1 = 0 (No), MHAPS are not required to be completed. They can be set to a space “sp”.

**Q: If S1 = 0 (No), can a facility still work the MHAPs even though the resident does not meet subpart S criteria?**

**A:** When S1 = 0, no further edits are enabled. The facility may however, complete Section S and address the MHAPs and plan care if desired.

**Q: If an MHAP (SA1, SA2 or SA3) has only one trigger question and that trigger question is marked as "-" (unknown or n/a), is the MHAP then coded as "-"?**

**A:** If no other fields would result in the triggering of the associated MHAP, then a dash (“-“) should be placed in the triggered MHAP. If any items trigger an MHAP, a “1” (Yes) should replace the “-”.

**Q: It is our understanding that the data may be used for provider rate setting. Are there consequences to facilities not submitting Section S in this regard?**

**A:** Extracts from this data will be pulled routinely to establish rates based on particular fields. Post editing of this data will check the assessment for S1=’1’ (Yes) and evaluated whether section S contains valid values. Incomplete or invalid items will not be considered in the rate setting process.

**Q: Can a facility address MHAPs even though the resident does not meet the criteria for subpart S (S1 = 0)?**

**A:** Yes, edits are turned off for Section S when S1 is set to “0”

**Q: Is Section S required for quarterly assessments?**

**A:** Yes, Section S is required as part of the OBRA full quarterly assessment.

**Q: Are MHAPs required for non-comprehensive assessments?**

**A:** MHAPS, like RAPS are required on OBRA full comprehensive assessments (01,02,03, or 04 in AA8a). Due to clinical concerns, MHAPs will be required on all quarterly assessments in addition to the comprehensive assessments.

**Q: Illinois customers will need to submit test files to know if their system works OK. Do you have any information on when those test files can be submitted?**

**A:** IFMC provides a testing area within the vender area of [www.qtso.com](http://www.qtso.com) Presently, we don't have exact timelines on when they will be able to provide for testing; hopefully, a few weeks before the implementation date.

**Q. What are the expectations for the treatment of MHAPs?**

**A:** The MHAP section of the Section S form is the equivalent of Section V for RAPS. Processing of triggered MHAPs will consist of denoting the trigger, the location of supporting documents and care planning decisions on the Section S form and filing supporting and follow-up (care plan) documents for review by state surveyors.

When working the MHAPS, the same type of documentation and criteria is required as that for triggered RAPS in the RAI process.