

Reliability and Prediction of Case Mix Changes in Ohio Nursing Homes

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Research Content: In recent years, nursing home resident acuity as measured by the MDS+ and MDS 2.0 has increased. Because Medicaid prospective reimbursement is based on RUGSIII categories derived from the MDS, these increases have significant budgetary impacts for Ohio's Medicaid program. This project examines the reliability of MDS assessments in a sample of Ohio nursing homes by conducting independent MDS assessments on a sample of residents and comparing them with information reported by nursing facilities on the MDS. It also examines the process that nursing homes use to complete the MDS in order to understand where and how improvements in training and or practices should occur. This project first analyzes existing statewide MDS data to explore the presence of trends in case mix scores. After appropriate modeling, nursing facilities (NFs) will be classified as having case mix scores that were higher, lower or about equal to predictions from the model. This grouping was then used to stratify the population of NFs to define the frame for sampling. Independent MDS assessors were trained and sent to the selected NFs. The concordance between NF and independent raters provides data on the inter-rater reliability of the MDS scores. In addition, the results of the process survey suggest that most nurse assessment coordinators have positive opinions about the MDS and conduct MDS assessment carefully and thoroughly.

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