

MDS Alert

MDS Coding: Stay In Tune With Residents Moving Up And Down The Mood Scale

The incidence-based depression QM looks at these key areas.

Make sure to track and care plan residents with a growing case of the blues measured by the MDS-generated Mood Scale.

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** will be switching out the current prevalence-based depression measure for an incidence-based one. The latter identifies residents who have more indicators of sad mood and anxiety from one assessment to the next. So check out these MDS items in Sections E and K to see how the resident is doing.

1. Any verbal expression of distress (E1a>0, E1c>0, E1e>0, E1f>0, E1g>0, or E1h>0).
2. Shows signs of crying, tearfulness (E1m>0).
3. Motor agitation (E1n>0).
4. Leaves food uneaten (K4c=checked) on target or last full assessment. The K4c value from the last full assessment is only considered if the target assessment is a quarterly assessment and the state quarterly assessment does not include K4c.
5. Repetitive health complaints (E1h>0).
6. Repetitive/recurrent verbalizations (E1a>0, E1c>0, or E1g>0).
7. Negative statements (E1a>0, E1e>0, or E1f>0).
8. Mood symptoms not easily altered (E2=2).