

## MDS Alert

### MDS News to Use

CMS issued blanket waivers in response to Hurricane Sandy. These waive certain requirements for healthcare providers in areas in New York and New Jersey affected by the storm. This includes SNFs.

These blanket waivers authorize the states of New York and New Jersey to process facility requests for certified bed increases. For SNFs, CMS has waived the three-day prior hospitalization requirement for a qualified stay. Additionally, CMS has waived the timeframe requirements for MDS assessments and transmission.

Note: If you're a facility in this area, you do not need to apply to CMS to take advantage of these and other approved blanket waivers. For more information, go to:

[www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/Downloads/1135-Blanket-Waivers-Approved-for-NY-NJ.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/Downloads/1135-Blanket-Waivers-Approved-for-NY-NJ.pdf)).