

## HCS Brings Clients Up to Date on MDS 3.0: Functionality and Training Delivered Ahead of Schedule

### MDS 3.0 Deadline Concerns

The announcement by CMS that MDS 2.0 would be replaced by 3.0 sent an unsettling wave through the LTC industry. The revision of the federal mandate would demand considerable resources in terms of software programming, technical and staff training at LTC facilities nationally. And, since compliance has a direct impact on Medicare reimbursement, the ramification for missing the deadline or inefficiencies in the applications of MDS 3.0 would have direct and significant impact on facilities' bottom lines.

*"Two factors allowed HCS to alleviate its clients' concerns and get them ready ahead of schedule,"* states Carrie O'Connell, Vice President of Clinical Development at HCS. The first factor was the existing fully integrated nature of the HCS **INTERACTANT** system and the second was an early, proactive approach to the challenge.

### Existing Integration Helps MDS 3.0 Transition

*"Because the modules of **INTERACTANT** are fully integrated, it was easier for us to adjust to the changes,"* continues O'Connell. *"A series of prompts, that ensure coding for care provided to each resident is done correctly, allows accurate information to flow to the financial modules and ensures correct reimbursements."*

### Proactive Approach Pays Off

The direction for those built-in prompts and other new functionality came in part from HCS's team and their understanding of LTC workflows, but also to a large degree from HCS's effort to proactively involve their clients early on in the transition process.

*"Moving to MDS 3.0 was unusual because it's a change that affects everybody, so we started early,"* says O'Connell. *"In late 2009 we started arranging conference calls with our clients asking what functionality they*

### MDS 3.0: Built-in Tools Streamline Transition

Assisting clients not only with the transition to 3.0 but more importantly with its efficient, ongoing day-to-day use, **INTERACTANT** offers a number of built-in tools. The MDS functionality, typical of **INTERACTANT**, is intuitive with prompts and links that walk users through processes. There is also a MDS 3.0 home page for each resident. Including a resident photo, the page becomes one-stop shop from which users can access the clinical records, the A/R side, and then follow guided paths if something unusual is happening to that person.

loved and what they would like to see, so all our clients had some input.” HCS took this input along with the coming changes mandated by MDS 3.0 to develop an optimal blended solution.

In June, HCS was ready to preview the changes and began live demos of the new functionality. By late summer, with full MDS 3.0 functionality programmed into **INTERACTANT**, HCS began client training. *“The training is on-site,”* says O’Connell. *“Their hands are on the keyboard, we have a testing environment and they create scenarios and we work through it together.”*

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### HCS Results Par for the Course

HCS’s preparedness for MDS 3.0 can be seen as commendable, especially in light of the fact that a significant number of software solutions providers had to push back their delivery dates for their MDS 3.0 modifications and training. For HCS, however, this leadership role is par for the course. *“The care our clients provide to their residents; the processes they use and the management tools are always evolving,”* said HCS President Tom Fahey. *“Our software has always evolved too, proactively, to give HCS clients a decided advantage.”* With MDS 3.0 under control for HCS clients, the company is already looking at and preparing for other significant regulatory changes on the horizon such as 5010 and ICD-10. *“If it affects our clients, we’ll be ready for it,”* says Fahey.

### About HCS:

Since 1969, HCS has remained exclusively dedicated to the development, installation, conversion and ongoing support of healthcare information systems. HCS is recognized as a leader in providing integrated software solutions across the spectrum of care. Our focus is to provide comprehensive information system solutions to meet the ever-changing needs of diversified healthcare enterprises.



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Tom Fahey, HCS  
President