MDS 3.0 Frequency Data Methodology

The MDS 3.0 Frequency Report summarizes information for active residents currently in nursing homes. The source of these counts is the resident's MDS assessment record. The MDS assessment information for each active nursing home resident is consolidated to create a profile of the most recent standard information for the resident.

Active Resident. An active resident is a resident whose most recent assessment transaction is not a discharge and whose most recent transaction has a target date (assessment reference date for an assessment record or entry date for an entry record) less than 150 days old. If a resident has not had a transaction for 150 days, then that resident is assumed to have been discharged.

Inactive Resident. Inactive residents are not included in these reports. An inactive resident is one whose most recent transaction is a discharge or whose most recent transaction is more than 150 days old.

Only current active residents are maintained on the MDS 3.0 Frequency Report. If there is no activity for a resident in the last 150 days, then the resident is assumed to have been discharged (this allows for 93 days between quarterly assessments, 14 days for completion, 14 days for submission after completion, and about one month grace period for late assessments).

The active resident information represents a composite of MDS items taken from the active nursing home episode for a resident. An episode represents care in one nursing home and consists of one or more stays (contiguous days in the nursing home). Stays separated by temporary discharges are linked together to form an episode. An episode begins with an admission entry record, may include one or more brief (30 day or less) gaps outside of the facility, and ends with either a discharge with return to the nursing home not anticipated, or a gap of more than 30 days outside of the nursing home. An episode is active if the last record is not a discharge and no more than 150 days have passed since the last record. The MDS items are taken from all types of MDS records with the most recent value in the episode being taken for each item. Only values from the last 440 days are used for all items, except items from the initial admission record. Different items may come from different assessments. Different items may come from different stays within the episode. The intention is to create a profile with the most recent standard information for an active resident, regardless of source of information.

Items used from a quarterly or PPS assessment are limited to the federally required items. Additional items added to the quarterly or PPS assessment by a specific state are ignored. This insures comparability among states.

The percentages included for the responses to each item only include normal, valid values. When the most recent value for an item is a "missing" value, then that value is not included in the tabled percentages. Missing values are null (the item was not active during the last 440 days of the episode), "-" (item not assessed), and "^" (item skipped). If the value for the item is null in the database, N/A will display for the State and National Count and Percentage cells in the file.