

PRIVACY ACT NOTIFICATION STATEMENT

Skilled nursing facilities for Medicare and Medicaid are required to conduct comprehensive, accurate, standardized, and reproducible assessments of each resident's functional capacity and health status. As of June 22, 1998, all skilled nursing and nursing facilities are required to establish a database of resident assessment information and to electronically transmit this information to the state. The state is then required to transmit the data to the federal Central Office Minimum Data Set (MDS) repository of the Health Care Financing Administration. These data are protected under the requirements of the Federal Privacy Act of 1974 and the MDS Long Term Care System of Records. The Health Care Financing Administration is authorized to collect these data by Sections 1819(f), 1919(f), 1819(b)(3)(A), and 1864 of the Social Security Act.

The purpose of this data collection is to aid in the administration of the survey and certification of Medicare/Medicaid long term care facilities, and to study the effectiveness and quality of care given in those facilities. This system will also support regulatory, reimbursement, policy, and research functions. This system will collect the minimum amount of personal data needed to accomplish its stated purpose.

The information collected will be entered into the Long Term Care Minimum Data Set (LTC MDS) system of records, System No. 09-70-1516. Information from this system may be disclosed, under specific circumstances, to: (1) a Congressional office from the record of an individual in response to an inquiry from the Congressional office made at the request of that individual; (2) the Bureau of Census; (3) the Department of Justice; (4) an individual or organization for a research, evaluation, or epidemiological project related to the prevention of disease or disability, or the restoration of health; (5) analyzing data, or to detect fraud or abuse; (6) an agency of a state government for effectiveness and/or quality of health care services provided in the state; (7) another benefits program funded in whole or in part with federal funds or to detect fraud or abuse; (8) peer review organizations to perform Title XI or Title XVIII functions; (9) services for preventing fraud or abuse under specific conditions.

You should be aware that P.L. 100-603, the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988, permits the government to verify information by way of computer matches.

Collection of the Social Security Number is voluntary; however, failure to provide this information may result in the loss of Medicare benefits provided by the nursing home. The Social Security Number will be used to verify the association of information to the appropriate individual.

For nursing home residents residing in a certified Medicare/Medicaid nursing facility, the requested information is mandatory because of the need to assess the effectiveness and quality of care given in certified facilities and to assess the appropriateness of provided services. If a nursing home does not submit the required data, it cannot be reimbursed for any Medicare/Medicaid services.