The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced changes to the Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0 Assessments which will be effective on October 1, 2018. As a result, Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) has made applicable changes to the Medical Necessity and Level of Care (MN/LOC) Assessment.

These changes will affect MN/LOC assessments submitted on October 1, 2018, including assessments saved as a draft prior to October 1 but not submitted until after October 1, 2018.

A complete list of the changes affecting the MNLOC assessment are noted below. Fields have been added, modified or deleted. Please Note: the updated MN/LOC Item by Item Guide will not be available on October 1, 2018. Providers and health plans may access the CMS MDS 3.0 RAI Manual MDS 3.0 RAI Manual v1.16 October 1, 2018 for coding instructions and tips.

**Added, Modified or Deleted Fields:**

**Section C Items:**
Modified: **C1310B.** B. Inattention – Did the individual have difficulty focusing attention, for example, being easily distractible or having difficulty keeping track of what was being said?

Modified: **C1310C.** C. Disorganized Thinking - Was the individual's thinking disorganized or incoherent (rambling or irrelevant conversation, unclear or illogical flow of ideas, or unpredictable switching from subject to subject)?

Modified: **C1310D.** D. Altered Level of Consciousness - Did the individual have altered level of consciousness, as indicated by any of the following criteria?

**Section J Items:**
New: **J2000.** Prior Surgery
Did the individual have major surgery during the 100 days prior to this assessment?

  0. No
  1. Yes
  8. Unknown

**Section M Items**
Modified: **Section M Intro Note** – Report based on highest stage of existing ulcers/injuries at their worst; do not "reverse" stage

Modified: **M0100.** Determination of Pressure Ulcer/Injury Risk
Modified: **M0100A.** – A. Individual has a pressure ulcer/injury, a scar over bony prominence, or a non-removable dressing/device

Modified: **M0150.** Risk of Pressure Ulcers/Injuries
Is this individual at risk of developing pressure ulcers/injuries?

Modified: **M0210.** Unhealed Pressure Ulcers/Injuries
Does this individual have one or more unhealed pressure ulcers/injuries?
0. No: Skip to M1030, Number of Venous and Arterial Ulcers
1. Yes: Continue to M0300, Current Number of Unhealed Pressure Ulcers/Injuries at Each Stage

Modified: **M0300.** Current Number of Unhealed Pressure Ulcers/Injuries at Each Stage

Modified: **M0300A.** Stage 1: Intact skin with non-blanchable redness of a localized area usually over a bony prominence. Darkly pigmented skin may not have a visible blanching; in dark skin tones only it may appear with persistent blue or purple hues
   1. Number of Stage 1 pressure injuries

Deleted: **M0300B3**

Modified: **M0300D1.** 1. Number of Stage 4 pressure ulcers - If 0 Skip to M0300E, Unstageable - Non-removable dressing/device

Modified: **M0300E.** E. Unstageable - Non-removable dressing/device: Known but not stageable due to non-removable dressing/device
   1. Number of unstageable pressure ulcers/injuries due to non-removable dressing/device - If 0 Skip to M0300F, Unstageable - Slough and/or eschar

Modified: **M0300G.** Unstageable - Deep tissue injury:
   1. Number of unstageable pressure injuries presenting as deep tissue injury - If 0 Skip to M1030, Number of Venous and Arterial Ulcers

Deleted: **M0610**

Deleted: **M0700**

Modified: **M1200.** Skin and Ulcer/Injury Treatments

Modified: **M1200E.** E. Pressure ulcer/injury care

**Section O Items**
Modified: **O0100F.** F. Invasive Mechanical Ventilator (ventilator or respirator)

Modified: **O0100G.** G. Non-Invasive Mechanical Ventilator (BiPAP/CPAP)

For more information, call the Long Term Care Help Desk at 1-800-626-4117, Option 1.