

Home Health: CMS To Require Electronic Submission Of OASIS.

PART 484--HOME HEALTH SERVICES

Section 484.20 Condition of participation: Reporting OASIS information.

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(a) Standard: Encoding and transmitting OASIS data. An HHA [home health agency] must encode and electronically transmit each completed OASIS assessment to the State agency or the CMS OASIS contractor, regarding each beneficiary with respect to which such information is required to be transmitted (as determined by the Secretary), within 30 days of completing the assessment of the beneficiary.

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(c) Standard: Transmittal of OASIS data. An HHA must--

(1) For all completed assessments, transmit OASIS data in a format that meets the requirements of paragraph (d) of this section.

(2) Successfully transmit test data to the State agency or CMS OASIS contractor.

(3) Transmit data using electronics communications software that provides a direct telephone connection from the HHA to the State agency or CMS OASIS contractor.

(4) Transmit data that includes the CMS-assigned branch identification number, as applicable.

On December 23, 2005 the US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that effective June 21, 2006, home health agencies must, as a condition of Medicare participation, follow CMS's procedures for electronic collection, encoding and transmission of Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS) patient data.

HCFA adopted OASIS in January, 1999, and in June, 1999, began working on a proposal for electronic transmission.

The electronic collection, encoding and transmission requirement finally does become mandatory on June 21, 2006.

Further information is available on the CMS website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/oasis>. That web page contains information for downloading or obtaining a CD with the necessary software. The same information is contained in CMS's 12/23/05 announcement published in the Federal Register, which we have placed on our website at <http://www.nursinglaw.com/oasis3.pdf>.

The complex history of this development can be reviewed by looking at <http://www.nursinglaw.com/oasis.htm> and <http://www.nursinglaw.com/oasis2.htm>.

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