



**Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/ Quality, Safety & Oversight Group**

**Admin Info: 18-14-HHA**

**DATE:** July 06, 2018

**TO:** State Survey Agency Directors

**FROM:** Director  
Quality, Safety & Oversight Group (*formerly Survey & Certification Group*)

**SUBJECT:** Home Health Agency (HHA) – Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS) Education Coordinator and OASIS Automation Coordinator Funding and Support

**Memorandum Summary**

- **OASIS Education Coordinators (OECs):** Each State Survey Agency (SA) designates an employee as its OEC. These coordinators provide training and support to home health providers on the OASIS data set administration.
- **OASIS Automation Coordinators (OACs):** Each SA designates an employee as its OAC. These coordinators provide support to home health agencies on OASIS data entry.
- **Funding:** The funding for these positions is included in the annual SA survey and certification budget.
- **Technical Support:** The Division of Chronic and Post-Acute Care (DCPAC) has assumed responsibility for technical support to OECs. The Division of Quality Systems for Assessments and Surveys (DQSAS) will provide technical support to the OASIS OACs.
- **Webinar:** To facilitate the transition of the technical support for OECs, CMS will coordinate a webinar on **July 19, 2018 from 3:00pm to 4:00pm EDT**.

**Background**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) uses data collected through the OASIS to report quality measures on Home Health Compare (HHC), generate payment for home health agencies, and evaluate compliance with certain regulatory requirements for home health agencies.

CMS provides HHAs with training and support on the OASIS data set administration through OASIS OECs and OASIS OACs located within SAs. The Quality Safety & Oversight Group (QSOG) has historically provided that support and the annual funding for the OECs and OACs through the survey and certification budget.

While the HHA Conditions of Participation (CoPs) in regards to OASIS have not changed, the clinical coding component and complexity of the OASIS instrument that supports the quality measures have expanded since the instrument was first introduced. This change has necessitated increased technical support for the OECs outside the technical expertise of QSOG.

Accordingly, QSOG is transitioning the technical support for the OECs to the Division of Chronic and Post-Acute Care (DCPAC). QSOG will continue to provide funding for an OEC in each SA through the annual survey and certification budget.

QSOG will also continue to fund an OAC in each SA through the annual survey and certification budget. Technical support for the OACs has been provided by DQSAS and will continue to be provided by that Division.

### **Discussion**

Support for OECs will consist of the following:

- Funding for OECs will continue to be provided by QSOG. The OEC role and responsibilities, as well as the provision of CMS support of OEC activities, will continue to be addressed in the QSOG Mission and Priority Document.
- QSOG will continue to maintain the list of OECs and OACs at each SA on the CMS website. Changes to OEC and OAC contact information should be sent to the following mailbox: [hhasurveyprotocols@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:hhasurveyprotocols@cms.hhs.gov).
- DCPAC will provide technical support to the OECs for interpretation of clinical coding requirements for the OASIS instrument as well as supporting the training needs for the OECs.
- Inquiries to CMS from OECs will be submitted to the Home Health Quality Health Desk at [homehealthqualityquestions@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:homehealthqualityquestions@cms.hhs.gov). This help desk is maintained by DCPAC.

To facilitate the transition of the technical support for OECs, QSOG will coordinate a webinar on **July 19, 2018 from 3:00pm to 4:00pm EDT**. During this webinar, OECs will learn of upcoming training opportunities and resources available to assist them in responding to questions pertaining to OASIS items. Additional details on the webinar will be disseminated via email directly to OECs in the coming weeks.

Effective immediately, all questions regarding completion of the OASIS data set are to be directed to the following resource mailbox: [homehealthqualityquestions@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:homehealthqualityquestions@cms.hhs.gov)

**Contact:** For questions regarding the information in this memorandum, please contact James Cowher at [james.cowher@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:james.cowher@cms.hhs.gov).

**Effective Date:** Immediately. This information should be communicated with all survey and certification staff, their managers, State Agency Directors, and OASIS Education and Automation Coordinators.

/s/

David R. Wright

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management