

State of New Hampshire
Nursing Home Person-Centered Transition to Community Living
MDS 3.0 Section Q Referral

**Statement of Understanding
Between NH Nursing Facilities and NH Section Q Local Contact Agency**

Purpose

This Statement of Understanding is between New Hampshire Qualified Nursing Facilities and New Hampshire Local Contact Agency Network concerning the roles and responsibilities when generating and processing a MDS 3.0 Section Q referral.

Background

The State of New Hampshire strives to ensure that all individuals have the right to receive long-term services and supports in the least restrictive and most integrated settings. This right became law under the American with Disabilities Act (1990) and in 1999 was further interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court in the Olmstead vs. L.C. decision. New Hampshire's journey to rebalance its long-term care system for older adults began in 1995 when the State legislature enacted a moratorium on new nursing home beds.

On October 1, 2010, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) launched MDS 3.0. This newly revised resident assessment tool is a very different document both in substance and in philosophy. It approaches the nursing facility resident assessment from a more person-centered planning perspective in which residents are able to take a more active role in determining their individual service plan. One of the major changes to MDS 3.0 is Section Q, or the "referral" section. The original Section Q was dependent on others to respond to the question. The MDS 3.0 Section Q actively engages residents to determine their goals in pursuing going back to a community residence or remaining in a nursing facility setting.

In support of the MDS 3.0, all states were asked by CMS to identify LCA(s) for nursing home staff to refer individuals who (answer "Yes") are interested in learning more about their community living options. ServiceLink, NH's statewide network of community-based connection for elders, adults with disabilities and their families serves as the Local Contact Agency for NH nursing facilities for Section Q Referrals. ServiceLink staff will provide community resource information for individuals interested in transitioning back to the community. The State of New Hampshire identifies Granite State Independent Living (GSIL) as a resource to ServiceLink. GSIL is a statewide nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote life with independence for people with disabilities and those experiencing the natural process of aging through advocacy, information, education and support.

Nursing Home Person-Centered Transition to Community Living Goals:

- Goal 1: Stakeholders will collaborate to share best practices, leverage existing networks, review current practices and resources, share expertise and perspectives with the aim of creating a seamless referral process for nursing home resident referrals and transitions to the community
- Goal 2: Develop policy and protocols that foster established systems pathways and generate new ones for MDS Section Q referrals that will be standardized for use by all qualified nursing facilities and Local Contact Agency
- Goal 3. Strengthen the education and awareness of community service supports, and resources available to residents in the local community of their choice by educating nursing home discharge planners through increased outreach efforts to nursing facilities discharge planners who will be making MDS Section Q referrals to the Local Contact Agency.
- Goal 4: Create a process that will foster communication and sustain on-going partnerships between nursing homes and Local Contact Agency to get residents the available resources they need to live in the community.