



# Isolation and MDS Coding in LTC

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has been working long hours to provide guidance and information about waivers and exemptions given the ongoing pandemic, but currently there have been no changes issued to the Oct. 1, 2019 version of the *RAI User's Manual*.

While understanding that facilities are making necessary changes to accommodate the needs of their residents, the MDS coding guidelines are to be followed in coding item **O0100M**.

## M. Isolation or quarantine for active infectious disease (does not include standard body/fluid precautions)

### MDS O0100M, Isolation for active infectious disease (does not include standard precautions)

*RAI User's Manual*, page O-5

Code for "**single room isolation**" only when all of the following conditions are met:

1. The resident has active infection with highly transmissible or epidemiologically significant pathogens that have been acquired by physical contact or airborne or droplet transmission.
2. Precautions are over and above standard precautions. That is, transmission-based precautions (contact, droplet, and/or airborne) must be in effect.
3. The resident is in a room alone because of active infection and cannot have a roommate. This means that the resident must be in the room alone and not cohorted with a roommate regardless of whether the roommate has a similar active infection that requires isolation.
4. The resident must remain in his/her room. This requires that all services be brought to the resident (e.g., rehabilitation, activities, dining, etc.).



For residents that have been chosen for cohorting, there is no item on the MDS to accommodate this provision. **Cohorting is a form of isolating infected residents, but does NOT meet the definition in O0100M to be coded on MDS.**

### According to the CDC:

**Cohorting** is the practice of grouping together patients who are infected with the same organism to confine their care to one area and prevent contact with other patients. **Cohorts** are created based on clinical diagnosis, microbiologic confirmation when available, epidemiology, and mode of transmission of the infectious agent. **When single patient rooms are not available, patients with confirmed COVID-19 may be placed in the same room.** Cohorting patients could minimize respirator use when extended wear of respirators is implemented.

