

The CMS Data Element Library (DEL)

The CMS Data Element Library (DEL) is a centralized resource for CMS assessment data elements (e.g., **questions and response pairs**), and their associated mappings to nationally accepted **health information technology (HIT) standards**.

IMPACT ACT OF 2014:

The Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation Act (IMPACT) of 2014 is a bi-partisan bill passed on September 18, 2014, and signed into law October 6, 2014.

The Act requires *standardized* patient assessment data elements for:

- ✓ Long-Term Care Facilities: LCDS
- ✓ Skilled Nursing Facilities: MDS
- ✓ Home Health Agencies: OASIS
- ✓ Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities: IRF-PAI

The Act specifies that data "... be standardized and interoperable so as to allow for the exchange of such data among such post-acute care providers and other providers and the use by such providers of such data that has been so exchanged, including by using common standards and definitions in order to provide access to longitudinal information for such providers to facilitate coordinated care and improved Medicare beneficiary outcomes.

[Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation \(IMPACT\) Act of 2014](#)

The DEL:

- Supports provider exchange of electronic health information for better care coordination.
- Enables more seamless/less costly health information exchange.
- Reduces overall provider burden through use and exchange of health care data.
- Promotes high quality, personalized, efficient health care.
- Supports real-time, data driven, clinical decision making.

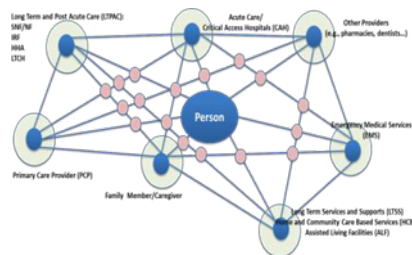
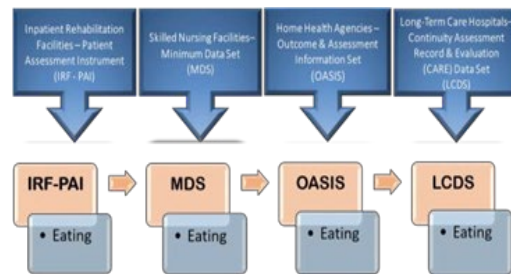
STANDARDIZATION - Standardized patient assessment data is patient or resident assessment questions and response options that are identical and to which identical standards and definitions apply.

INTEROPERABILITY – “with respect to health information technology, means such health information technology that (A) enables the secure exchange of electronic health information with, and use of electronic health information from, other health information technology without special effort on the part of the user; (B) allows for complete access, exchange, and use of all electronically accessible health information for authorized use under applicable State or Federal law; and (C) does not constitute information blocking as defined in section 3022(a)”(ONC, 2018).

Important Note: The DEL does NOT include Patient-Specific Data

DEL Contents:

- Post-Acute Care (PAC) Assessments and versions
- Data Element label (e.g., GG0170)
- Data Element status (Published, Active, Inactive)
- Copyright information
- Identification of skip pattern triggers and lookback periods
- Measure information
- Health IT standards (e.g., LOINC)
- Report capabilities



IMPACT ACT OF 2014:

Calls for standardization and interoperability of PAC assessment data elements. Standardization and Interoperability of data elements to support:

- ✓ Quality Measurement
- ✓ Payment Transformation
- ✓ Care Planning
- ✓ Survey and Certification
- ✓ Promotion of Health Information Exchange (HIE) to support care coordination and health care efficiency, improve patient outcomes, and reduce costs.

The DEL:

Allows for the access to and enables:

- ✓ Reuse and exchange of Data Elements
- ✓ The Maintenance of consistency in format, intent, and use of Assessment Instrument data elements.
- ✓ Hit standard mapping provisions, including: Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC) and Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine Clinical Terms (SNOMED-CT)

Data Element Library

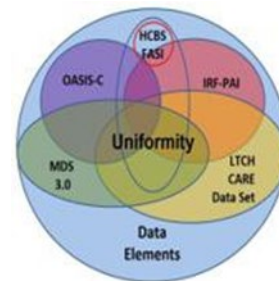
The vision of the DEL is to support standardization and interoperability of data, to promote health information exchange and improve care coordination.

- Serves as a resource for CMS assessment data elements.
- Promotes sharing of CMS assessment data sets and health IT standards.
- Influences and supports industry efforts to promote electronic health records (EHRs) and interoperability.

Why Should Vendors/Providers use the DEL?

Centralized location for CMS assessment content mapped to health IT standards (when feasible) that support:

- Interoperable health information exchange and patient care coordination
- Health information exchange use with and by:
 - Acute care hospitals and primary care providers
 - Long-term and post-acute care providers
 - Home and community-based providers (HCBS)
 - Patients and their caregivers
 - Other providers
 - Health Information Exchange Organizations
- Use and re-use of assessment data for a variety of document types, including, but not limited to:
 - Transfer and referral documents
 - Care plans
 - Long-Term Post-Acute Care (LTPAC) assessment summary



- Free resource that may be used by providers, vendors, researchers, and the public.
- Search and generate reports on current CMS PAC assessments, including questions, response options, relevant details, and their associated health IT standards **all in one location**.

For questions or comments – DEL-Support@terpventuretech.com

DEL Website – <https://del.cms.gov>