



Nursing Facility MDS Section Q Informational Sheet

1. Contact Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) with any section Q referrals: 1-800-383-1173. **(Referrals to IME can be made ANY TIME, not just during the MDS assessment period).** Referrals are accepted M-F 8-4:30.

2. Contact the Lifelong Links Aging and Disability Resource Center (Lifelong Links) after your call to IME. Alert them to your upcoming referral, which they will receive from IME. Lifelong Links services are completed by: The Heritage Agency: 1-800-332-5934 and Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging: 1-877-538-0508. (See table below for counties served by the respective agencies.)
 - IME shall make the referral to Lifelong Links within 4 business days. If you have not received a call from Lifelong Links within 2 weeks, contact IME to check on the status of the referral.

The following Counties are served by The Heritage Agency

Adair	Davis	Jones	Monroe	Taylor
Adams	Decatur	Keokuk	Montgomery	Union
Appanoose	Des Moines	Lee	Muscatine	Van Buren
Benton	Fremont	Linn	Page	Wapello
Boone	Harrison	Louisa	Plymouth	Warren
Cass	Henry	Lucas	Polk	Washington
Cedar	Ida	Madison	Pottawattamie	Wayne
Cherokee	Iowa	Mahaska	Ringgold	Woodbury
Clarke	Jasper	Marion	Scott	
Clinton	Jefferson	Mills	Shelby	
Dallas	Johnson	Monona	Story	

The following Counties are served by Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (NEI3A)

Allamakee	Cerro Gordo	Fayette	Howard	Palo Alto
Audubon	Chickasaw	Floyd	Humboldt	Pocahontas
Black Hawk	Clay	Franklin	Jackson	Poweshiek
Bremer	Clayton	Greene	Kossuth	Sac
Buchanan	Crawford	Grundy	Lyon	Sioux
Buena Vista	Delaware	Guthrie	Marshall	Tama
Butler	Dickinson	Hamilton	Mitchell	Webster
Calhoun	Dubuque	Hancock	O'Brien	Winnebago
Carroll	Emmet	Hardin	Osceola	Winneshiek

When is a section Q referral appropriate? (non-inclusive list)

- If there are accessibility needs and discharge planner has exhausted options.
- If the resident has complicated medical or mental health needs.
- If the resident wants to move to a different county and the facility discharge planner is not aware of community options available in that area.
- If the resident wants to explore discharge options, but a guardian or legal decision maker does not favor this option.

When is a section Q referral not appropriate? (non-inclusive list)

- When there is already a discharge plan in place.
- If the resident is in the facility for a skilled stay and already has a discharge plan.
- For residents whose discharge services and supports can easily be arranged to an established home. Section Q is not meant to replace the facility's discharge planning responsibilities.
- If the resident is court committed to the nursing home. In this case, contact the mental health advocate. The Long-Term Care Ombudsman can provide the phone number for the mental health advocate, if needed: 1-866-236-1430.

To obtain detailed information about the section Q referral process, visit:

<http://www.iowaaging.gov>

For questions, contact IME Provider Services Unit at: 1-800-338-7909 or e-mail:

imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us