

CMS Informal Review Questions - MD 0023 R06 01

May 10, 2016

CMS Questions:

The State identified coordinators complete the HRST. Additionally, the State has revised nurse provider qualifications to include HRST training requirements. There needs to be more language describing or connecting the coordinator to the rater activity and the nurse to reviewer activities for the HRST. It's not clear why nurses would need to be trained on the HRST if they do not complete the HRST.

MD Response:

The Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST) was designed to be completed by those who do not have a clinical background. As part of the person-centered planning process, the Coordinators of Community Services are to complete the HRST. The Coordinator will complete the initial HRST, when there are changes in health status, and annually as part of the person-centered planning process.

Coordinators must complete the required HRST training (10 hour online) and have been certified as a "Rater" to administer the HRST. As a certified "Rater", the waiver participant's Coordinator completes the HRST as they are familiar with the individual and currently facilitate the development of the person-centered plan. Though a formal meeting to complete the screening is optional, the individual, the family, and the people who know the person best are always encouraged to contribute. The Coordinator (HRST Rater) will then use this gathered information to answer a series of Yes and No questions about each of the 22 rating items to arrive at an item score. The accumulation of these scores results in the assignment of a Health Care Level.

Individuals with an HRST level score of 3 or higher are considered higher risk thus require increased monitoring and supervision. If an individual's HRST Health Care Level becomes a score of 3 or higher, a Registered Nurse must complete a Clinical Review of the HRST as per the standard process with this national tool. The HRST contains a comments section where the Coordinator (HRST Rater) can give reasons for why a score was selected. This will allow the certified Nurse "Reviewer", to evaluate the appropriateness of the score. The Nurse (HRST Reviewer) performs interviews and record reviews to validate each HRST rating and score computation. All clarifying information about a rating area entered by the Nurse (HRST Reviewer) is written in the "Comments" section for the appropriate item. The Nurse (HRST Reviewer) also reviews and revises as necessary, the Evaluation/Service and Training Recommendations. Therefore, to maintain validity and reliability of the tool, it is necessary that the Nurse, who will be reviewing the HRST, be trained and certified.