

MDS 3.0 Submission file format requirements

With MDS 3.0, there will be a major change in the submission file format. MDS 2.0 utilized fixed-format ASCII submission files with different submission record types (header, body, and trailer records). Each submission file could contain records for one or more assessments. MDS 3.0 will use files in Extensible Markup Language (XML). Each XML submission file must contain data for one and only one assessment.

Only a single assessment may be included in a submission file. If a facility wishes to submit data for multiple assessments during an upload session, separate files must be created for each assessment. These separate files should be zipped together into a single zip file which can then be uploaded.

The ASAP system will process only zip files. Any submitted file that is not a zip file will be rejected. All submission files must be 5 MB or less in size. Any submission file exceeding this size limitation will be rejected by the system. If a ZIP file contains multiple XML files, the ASAP system will sort the data within the ZIP file before processing. This allows proper processing of MDS records when multiple records are submitted for the same resident, as long as those multiple records are included in the same ZIP file. If multiple records for the same resident and target date are being submitted at the same time, these records should therefore be included in the same ZIP file. If they are spread across two or more ZIP files, unexpected timing errors may occur.

The following rules must be followed for naming XML and ZIP submission files:

- File names for ZIP files cannot exceed 260 characters, including the file extension. A file extension of “.zip” is recommended, but is not required.
- File names for XML files cannot exceed 260 characters, including the file extension. A file extension of “.xml” is recommended, but is not required.

Complete details on the MDS 3.0 Technical Specifications can be found at:

https://www.cms.gov/NursingHomeQualityInits/30_NHQIMDS30TechnicalInformation.asp