For Immediate Release:

Average MDS Completion Time Just Over 5 Hours; Education and Location Drivers of NAC Compensation

Denver, Colo. May 4, 2017 – The American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination (AANAC) released the 2017 AANAC Nurse Assessment Coordinator Time Work Study and Salary Report today at the AANAC Annual Conference in St. Louis. Sent to 14,700 AANAC members, the biennial study documents the amount of time spent on various job duties by nurse assessment coordinators (NACs)/MDS coordinators, tracks NAC job satisfaction, and benchmarks NAC compensation.

According to this year’s report, NACs spend an average of five hours and five minutes per resident completing a comprehensive assessment. This includes averages of 80 minutes on the OBRA Comprehensive Assessment, 54 minutes on care planning, and 171 minutes on Care Area Assessments (CAAs), with each comprehensive assessment resulting in an average of 8.9 triggered care areas per resident.

“The importance of an accurate, timely, comprehensive MDS has only grown more critical over time – the MDS process drives everything we do in long-term care,” explains Jane Belt, MS, RN, RAC-MT, QCP, AANAC Curriculum Development Specialist and co-author of the research report. “The key to accuracy of the MDSs is for the NAC to have enough time to do the job correctly and according to the requirements of participation. The time reported in the study is for completion of one MDS. The data can reveal if the MDS staffing is at an appropriate level for success.”

New data this year revealed that the addition of Section GG to the Medicare Part A assessments (effective October 1, 2016) added an additional 13.5 minutes to the completion time of the 5-day Medicare PPS Scheduled Assessment, so each 5-day PPS assessment now takes 60 minutes on average. Additionally, NACs reported spending an average of 11.6 hours a week participating in committees and attending meetings, not including care conferences. Furthermore, NACs report Medicare oversight and management accounts for an average of 14.6 hours per week.
“The MDS process can be overwhelming on a good day, let alone a day with six to nine admissions or readmissions and discharges of the same number,” states report co-author and AANAC curriculum development specialist, Jessie McGill RN, RAC-MT. “With more than 600 items on an MDS, the time to complete it accurately and to apply more than 1,100 pages of rules is no simple task.”

This year’s report includes the addition of salary benchmark data. NACs report compensation between $61,000-$70,000 per year or $26-$30 per hour. Forty-five percent (45%) report receiving an annual salary, while 55% of NACs report receiving an hourly rate. Education and facility location (urban vs. rural) appear to be top factors influencing NAC compensation.

About AANAC

The American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination (AANAC) is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to supporting long-term care professionals providing quality care for nursing home residents across the nation. Representing more than 14,700 members, AANAC has earned the reputation as the premier resource and network for long-term care professionals.

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