SimpleLTC Analytics
MDS Scrubber

*How to capture opportunities and improve outcomes
using the MDS scrubber in SimpleLTC*

SIMPLELTC™

A BRIGGS HEALTHCARE COMPANY

Overview

On the heels of Medicare payment reform, MDS scrubbing has become more popular and necessary than ever before. Indeed, pre-transmission scrubbing is your first line of defense for avoiding costly mistakes and capturing opportunities that impact reimbursement and outcomes. However, it is important to understand that scrubbing can also be a double-edged sword.

SimpleLTC's MDS scrubber is designed to maximize the impact of pre-transmission validation by combating notification fatigue with outcome-driven alerts, allowing organizations the flexibility to choose impactful rules, combined with workflows that enforce compliance.

As you configure your organization's rules, keep the following tips in mind:

Cut Through the Noise

If MDS staff had an excess of time to resolve a large quantity of issues for every assessment, the best approach to your pre-transmission workflow would be to flag as many as possible. But the reality is that there isn't an abundance of time, nor does resolving every issue result in higher reimbursement or have any positive impact on outcomes. Furthermore, if notification fatigue leads staff to ignore flags or find workarounds to get their job done, the value of pre-transmission analysis can be lost.

Scrubbing MDSs can often turn into a burdensome, time-consuming process. SimpleLTC's scrubber was built with this in mind. We focus on quality over quantity with rules that are directly tied to outcomes that staff at every level truly care about.

The 5-Day Assessment sets the baseline rate, NTA multipliers, and receding adjustments for a resident's PPS stay. Help your staff identify opportunities with rules that have a meaningful impact on financial outcomes.

For example, the "Bubble Rules" in the scrubber will help you identify opportunities that may have been overlooked in the shuffle of gathering information. When your assessment indicates a function score or NTA comorbidity score within one point of the next case-mix group, the system can pause the transmission process and allow staff to explore a little more before setting the baseline rate for the stay.

Moreover, quality measures are logically complex and require close attention. It is crucial to know as early as possible when a resident is going to negatively impact your QM performance. Therefore the scrubber will be your first indicator of a decline, and MDS accuracy on transmission will benefit all stakeholders when monitoring performance for each QM and facility Five-Star trends on the post-validation analytics dashboard.

Select Rules to Meet your Objectives

Within SimpleLTC's set of pre-transmission rules, you might find some that are more relevant to your organization's needs at any given time. SimpleLTC allows SNF organizations to identify rules as "critical", ensuring analyses reports highlight these during the approval process.

SimpleLTC allows SNF organizations to select rules to enable. From there, you can choose to set the rules as:
- Warning - Notify your staff when a rule triggers
- Critical - Stop a batch from being submitted

In long-term care, priorities can change rapidly, and easy customization of your scrubber rules will help you meet those goals.

Are you seeing decreased performance in a particular quality measure? Enable that specific QM rule and mark it as "critical," ensuring that every new resident who triggers that QM is flagged before transmission.

Are you trying to improve the collection of PDPM related comorbidities? Discuss with your team the PDPM rules that might help identify gaps in data collection on the 5-day assessment.

Scrub Assessments to Enforce Compliance

SimpleLTC provides quality and financial reporting to help you measure strengths as well as areas for improvement. As you identify these improvement opportunities or develop QAPI initiatives, make sure to include the scrubber as a mechanism to drive compliance, and provide feedback on your progress.

You also have control over how the scrubber interacts with your transmission workflow. If you would like every batch to be approved before transmission, your transmission policy can be set to "Always Review." You could also opt to track the enabled scrubber rules, while only requiring approval for critical rules with the "Review Critical" transmission policy.

Quality improvement thrives when there are clear expectations and accountability. As you make changes to the rules configuration it is important that regional staff, management, and MDS Coordinators are on the same page about what the changes are and why they are important.

Conclusion

SimpleLTC's MDS scrubber helps maximize the impact of pre-transmission validation by combating notification fatigue with outcome-driven alerts, allowing organizations the flexibility to choose impactful rules and develop workflows that enforce compliance.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the options for transmission policy settings?

a. Always Transmit - batches sent to CMS without requiring approval
b. Review Critical - only batches with critical flags are stopped until approved
c. Review Flags - batches with any flags are stopped until approved
d. Review All - all batches are stopped until approved

The pre-transmission analysis report and reports in the workflow section of the Analyzer tab are available for all transmitted batches, regardless of transmission policy.

How do I change our transmission policy?

Reach out to us at support@simpleltc.com to change your transmission policy or discuss which option would work best for your organization.

What happens when I mark a rule as critical?

A critical rule will be highlighted in red on each analysis report and will be tracked on the reports in the workflow section of the Analyzer. Depending on your transmission policy, a critical rule could stop transmission and require approval.

Is there a recommended configuration?

One of the strengths of SimpleAnalyzer's pre-transmission scrubber is that it can be customized to your needs and adjusted based on the changing priorities at your organization. That said, below are a few best practices that we have seen from customers.

The **Review Critical** transmission policy tends to strike a good balance between notification fatigue and meaningful alerts. With this policy you can track many flags but only disrupt the transmission workflow for those rules considered most critical. This helps draw the attention of the MDS staff to the highest priority flags without overwhelming them with superfluous issues to resolve just before transmission.

The PDPM, QRP, and Quality Measure categories are most often marked critical. Within the Quality Measure category you may choose to focus on Five Star QMs or special focus areas that your organization is trying to address.

Questions about specific rules, customizing your rules, setting transmission policies, or have feedback?
Contact us at support@simpleltc.com or 469-916-2803.