

About the Author

Carol Maher, RN-BC, RAC-CT, RAC-MT, CPC, Director of Education for Hansen Hunter & Co. is a Board Certified Gerontological Registered Nurse and a Certified Professional Coder with over 30 years long term care experience. She has worked in long term care in many roles. Beginning as a nursing assistant, she later became a charge nurse, Nurse Manager and then RNAC/MDS Coordinator. Carol has worked as an MDS Coordinator since the early 1990s in a Case Mix state. Managing the Case Mix and Medicare PPS processes was her specialty along with ensuring that the residents were correctly assessed and resident-centered care was planned and provided. She currently provides MDS and Medicare classes to Hansen Hunter & Co. clients. She also presents monthly educational webinars and completes compliance audits.

Prior to her role with Hansen Hunter & Co. she was the Senior VP of Utilization Services and Director of Reimbursement for large multi-facility organizations. In those roles, she taught MDS intensive classes, Medicare PPS assessment scheduling and compliance with Medicare regulations. She assisted the California QIO, Lumetra, as their MDS expert for two years.

Ms. Maher has worked as one of the Gold Standard nurses for MDS 3.0. She also served on the CMS RAP workgroup as the chair for the New RAPS and Format committees. The CMS RAP workgroup provided input to CMS to assist them to prepare the way for the CAAs for MDS 3.0. Carol also participated on a number of Technical Expert Panels related to MDS including the RTI Technical Expert Panel to develop Quality Measures for MDS 3.0 and the CMS TEP to improve care planning. A sought after speaker, she has given presentations at AANAC, AHCA and Leading Age national conferences as well as many state organization presentations. She is also a frequent author of articles related to the RAI process and PPS.

Carol served as a member of the AANAC (American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination) Board of Directors for 9 years. She is presently serving on the AANAC Expert Advisory Panel and as an AANAC Master Teacher.

She enjoys traveling and spending time with her family when not working. She is the proud mother of 3 amazing daughters who have all been professional ballet dancers and are now preparing for second careers in the health care industry. She is also the grandmother of 4 adorable grandchildren.