July 2019

Final Specifications for SNF QRP Quality Measures and Standardized Patient Assessment Data Elements (SPADEs)

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Chapter 1 IMPACT ACT Measures Beginning with the FY 2022 SNF QRP

Section 1. Cross-Setting Measures Development Work: An Introduction

The Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation Act of 2014 (IMPACT Act), enacted October 6, 2014, directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to "specify quality measures on which post-acute care (PAC) providers are required under the applicable reporting provisions to submit standardized patient assessment data" in several quality measure domains, including incidence of major falls, skin integrity and changes in skin integrity, medication reconciliation, functional status, transfer of health information and care preferences when an individual transitions, and resource use and other measures. The IMPACT Act requires the implementation of quality measures to address these measure domains in inpatient rehabilitation facilities (IRFs), long-term care hospitals (LTCHs), skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), and home health agencies (HHAs).

The IMPACT Act also requires, to the extent possible, the submission of such quality measure data through the use of a PAC assessment instrument and the modification of the instrument as necessary to enable such use. This requirement refers to the collection of such data by means of the IRF Patient Assessment Instrument (IRF-PAI) for IRFs, the LTCH Continuity Assessment Record and Evaluation Data Set (LTCH CARE Data Set or LCDS) for LTCHs, the Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0 for SNFs, and the Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS) for HHAs.

For more information on the statutory history of the IRF, LTCH, or SNF Quality Reporting Program (QRP), please refer to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 final rules, and for the HH QRP, please refer to the Calendar Year (CY) 2016 final rule. More information on the IMPACT Act is available at https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr4994.

In this document, we present specifications for the standardized patient assessment data elements (SPADEs) and two measures finalized for adoption for the SNF QRP through the FY 2020 SNF Prospective Payment System (PPS) final rule.

The Transfer of Health Information measure concept consists of two companion measures:

1. Transfer of Health Information to the Provider–Post-Acute Care Measure
2. Transfer of Health Information to the Patient–Post-Acute Care Measure

We also provide updated specifications for the previously adopted Discharge to Community measure.

Section 2. Cross-Setting Measure: Transfer of Health Information to the Provider–Post-Acute Care Measure

Measure Description

This measure, the Transfer of Health Information to the Provider, assesses for and reports on the timely transfer of health information, specifically transfer of a reconciled medication list. This measure evaluates for the transfer of information when a patient/resident is transferred or discharged from their current setting to a subsequent provider. For this measure, the subsequent provider is defined as a short-term general hospital, a SNF, intermediate care, home under care of an organized home health service organization or hospice, hospice in an institutional facility, an IRF, an LTCH, a Medicaid nursing facility, an inpatient psychiatric facility, or a critical access hospital.

This measure, developed under the IMPACT Act, has been developed conceptually for the IRF, LTCH, SNF, and HHA settings. This measure is calculated by one standardized data element that asks, "at the time of discharge, did the facility provide the patient's/resident's current reconciled medication list to the subsequent provider?" It also includes one data element that asks the route of transmission of the reconciled medication list (Appendix A). In order to track discharge to a subsequent provider, the MDS 3.0 will be used to track discharge location status. Guidance for what is considered a reconciled medication list is discussed in greater detail in the section below. The measure is conceptualized uniformly across the PAC settings. The measure is calculated using data from the IRF-PAI for IRF patients, the LCDS for LTCH patients, the MDS 3.0 assessment instrument for SNF residents, and the OASIS for HHA patients. Data are collected and calculated separately in each of the four settings using standardized data elements. The collection of this measure and the components tied to the standardized data element used to calculate this measure are described in Appendix A.

The Reconciled Medication List

The Transfer of Health Information measures serve as a check to ensure that a reconciled medication list is provided as the patient changes care settings at discharge. Defining the completeness of that medication list is left to the discretion of the providers and patient who are coordinating this care.

An example of items that could be on a reconciled medication list can be but are not limited to a list of the current prescribed and over-the-counter medications, nutritional supplements, vitamins, and/or homeopathic and herbal products administered by any route at the time of discharge or transfer. A reconciled medication could also include important information about: (1) the patient/resident, including their name, date of birth, active diagnoses, known medication and other allergies, and known drug sensitivities and reactions; and (2) each medication, including the name, strength, dose, route of medication administration, frequency or timing, purpose/indication, and/or any special instructions. However, this information serves as guidance and as stated prior, the completeness of the medication list is left to the discretion of the providers and patient.

Documentation sources for reconciled medication list information include electronic and/or paper records. Some examples of such records are discharge summary records, a Medication Administration Record, an Intravenous Medication Administration Record, a home medication list, and physician orders.

The guidance on what to include in a reconciled medication list is aligned to the provisions in the proposed Discharge Planning for Hospitals, Critical Access Hospital, and HHAs regulation, which outlines discharge planning and the documentation of medications (https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2015/11/03/2015-27840/medicare-and-medicaid-programs-revisions-to-requirements-for-discharge-planning-for-hospitals). In addition, this guidance follows the requirements finalized in the Reform of Requirements for Long-Term Care Facilities (https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/10/04/2016-23503/medicare-and-medicaid-programs-reform-of-requirements-for-long-term-care-facilities).

Purpose/Rationale for the Quality Measure

In 2013, 22.3 percent of all acute hospital discharges were discharged to PAC settings, including 11 percent who were discharged to home under the care of a home health agency (HHA), and 9 percent who were discharged to SNFs.[1] The proportion of patients being discharged from an acute care hospital to a PAC setting was greater among beneficiaries enrolled in fee-for-service (FFS) Medicare. Among FFS patients discharged from an acute hospital, 42 percent went directly to PAC settings. Of those, 20 percent were discharged to a SNF, 18 percent were discharged to an HHA, 3 percent were discharged to an IRF, and 1 percent were discharged to an LTCH.[2] Of the Medicare FFS beneficiaries with a SNF stay in FY 2017, an estimated 21 percent were discharged or transferred to an acute care hospital, 11 percent were discharged home with home health services, and 2 percent were discharged or transferred to another PAC setting (for example, an IRF, a hospice, or another SNF).[3]

The transfer and/or exchange of health information from one provider to another takes several forms, including verbal (e.g., clinician-to-clinician communication by telephone or in-person), paper-based (e.g., faxed or printed copies of records), and electronic communication (e.g., via health information exchange network, using an electronic health/medical record, secure messaging). Health information, such as medication information, that is incomplete or missing increases the likelihood of a patient/resident safety risk, often life-threatening.[4] Poor communication and coordination across health care settings contributes to patient complications, hospital readmissions, emergency department visits, and medication errors.[5] Communication has been cited as the third-most-frequent root cause in sentinel

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[1] Tian, W. (2016, May). An all-payer view of hospital discharge to postacute care. Retrieved from https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb205-Hospital-Discharge-Postacute-Care.jsp.

[2] Ibid.

[3] RTI International analysis of Medicare claims data for index stays in SNF 2017. (RTI program reference: IB55).

[4] Kwan, J. L., Lo, L., Sampson, M., & Shojania, K. G. (2013). Medication reconciliation during transitions of care as a patient safety strategy: A systematic review. *Annals of Internal Medicine, 158*(5 Pt 2), 397–403. https://doi.org/10.7326/0003-4819-158-5-201303051-00006

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[5] Barnsteiner, J. H. (2005). Medication reconciliation: Transfer of medication information across settings-keeping it free from error. *The American Journal of Nursing, 105*(3, Suppl), 31–36. https://doi.org/10.1097/00000446-200503001-00007

Arbaje, A. I., Kansagara, D. L., Salanitro, A. H., Englander, H. L., Kripalani, S., Jencks, S. F., & Lindquist, L. A. (2014). Regardless of age: Incorporating principles from geriatric medicine to improve care transitions for patients with complex needs. *Journal of General Internal Medicine, 29*(6), 932–939. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11606-013-2729-1

Jencks, S. F., Williams, M. V., & Coleman, E. A. (2009). Rehospitalizations among patients in the Medicare fee-for-service program. *The New England Journal of Medicine, 360*(14), 1418–1428. https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMsa0803563

Institute of Medicine. (2007). *Preventing Medication Errors.* Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. https://doi.org/10.17226/11623

Kitson, N. A., Price, M., Lau, F. Y., & Showler, G. (2013). Developing a medication communication framework across continuums of care using the Circle of Care Modeling approach. *BMC Health Services Research, 13*(1), 418. https://doi.org/10.1186/1472-6963-13-418

Mor, V., Intrator, O., Feng, Z., & Grabowski, D. C. (2010). The revolving door of rehospitalization from skilled nursing facilities. *Health Affairs, 29*(1), 57–64. https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2009.0629

events, which The Joint Commission defines as a patient safety event that results in death, permanent harm, or severe temporary harm.[6] Failed or ineffective patient handoffs are estimated to play a role in 20 percent of serious preventable adverse events.[7] When care transitions are enhanced through care coordination activities, such as expedited patient information flow, these activities can reduce duplication of care services and costs of care, resolve conflicting care plans, and prevent medical errors.[8] The rising incidence of preventable adverse events, complications, and hospital readmissions have drawn national attention to the importance of the timely transfer of health information and care preferences at transitions. However, there is limited information about the route or mode (for example, paper-based, verbal, and electronic) of transmission used by PAC providers to transfer health information. PAC provider health information exchange supports the goals of high-quality, personalized, and efficient health care; care coordination and person-centered care; and real-time, data-driven clinical decision making.

PAC patients often have complicated medication regimens and require efficient and effective communication and coordination of care between settings, including transfer of detailed medication information.[9] Individuals in PAC settings may be vulnerable to adverse health outcomes because of insufficient medication information on the part of their health care providers, and their higher likelihood for multiple comorbid chronic conditions, polypharmacy, and complicated transitions between care

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[6] The Joint Commission. (2017, June 29). Sentinel event policy and procedures. Retrieved from https://www.jointcommission.org/sentinel_event_policy_and_procedures/

[7] The Joint Commission. (2016, March 2). Sentinel event statistics updated, released through end of 2015. Retrieved from https://www.jointcommission.org/assets/1/23/jconline_Mar_2_2016.pdf

[8] Mor, Intrator, Feng, & Grabowski, 2010.

Institute of Medicine, 2007.

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[9] Starmer, A. J., Spector, N. D., Srivastava, R., West, D. C., Rosenbluth, G., Allen, A. D., . . . Landrigan, C. P., & the I-PASS Study Group. (2014). Changes in medical errors after implementation of a handoff program. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *371*(19), 1803–1812. https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMsa1405556

Kruse, C. S., Marquez, G., Nelson, D., & Polomares, O. (2018). The use of health information exchange to augment patient handoff in long-term care: A systematic review. *Applied Clinical Informatics*, *9*(4), 752–771. https://doi.org/10.1055/s-0038-1670651

Brody, A. A., Gibson, B., Tresner-Kirsch, D., Kramer, H., Thraen, I., Coarr, M. E., & Rupper, R. (2016). High prevalence of medication discrepancies between home health referrals and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services home health certification and plan of care and their potential to affect safety of vulnerable elderly adults. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, *64*(11), e166–e170. https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.14457

settings.[10] Preventable adverse drug events (ADEs) occur after hospital discharge in a variety of settings, including PAC.[11]

Patients in PAC settings are often taking multiple medications. Consequently, PAC providers regularly are in the position of starting complex new medication regimens with little knowledge of the patient or their medication history upon admission. Furthermore, inter-facility communication barriers delay resolving medication discrepancies during transitions of care.[12] The transfer of a medication list between providers is necessary for medication reconciliation interventions, which have been shown to be a cost-effective way to avoid ADEs by reducing errors,[13] especially when medications are reviewed by a pharmacist and when it is done in conjunction with the use of electronic medical records.[14]

Denominator

The denominator is the number of SNF Medicare Part A covered resident stays ending in discharge to a short-term general hospital, another SNF, intermediate care, home under care of an organized home health service organization or hospice, hospice in an institutional facility, a swing bed, an IRF, an LTCH, a Medicaid nursing facility, an inpatient psychiatric facility, or a critical access hospital. Discharge to one of these providers is based on response to the discharge location item, A2105, of the MDS assessment, shown below. A stay is defined as the time from resident admission or reentry to the facility (identified by a 5-day PPS assessment) to Part A PPS discharge.

[10] Chhabra, P. T., Rattinger, G. B., Dutcher, S. K., Hare, M. E., Parsons, K. L., & Zuckerman, I. H. (2012). Medication reconciliation during the transition to and from long-term care settings: A systematic review. *Research in Social & Administrative Pharmacy*, *8*(1), 60–75. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sapharm.2010.12.002

Levinson, D. R. (2014). *Adverse events in skilled nursing facilities: national incidence among Medicare beneficiaries.* Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General. Retrieved from https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-06-11-00370.pdf

[11] Battles J., Azam I., Grady M., & Reback K. (2017, August). Advances in patient safety and medical liability. AHRQ Publication No. 17-0017-EF. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Retrieved from https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/publications/files/advances-complete_3.pdf

[12] Patterson, M. E., Foust, J. B., Bollinger, S., Coleman, C., & Nguyen, D. (2019). Inter-facility communication barriers delay resolving medication discrepancies during transitions of care. *Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy*, *15*(4), 366–369. https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.sapharm.2018.05.124

[13] Boockvar, et al., 2011.

Kwan, Lo, L., Sampson, & Shojania, 2013.

Chhabra et al., 2012.

[14] Agrawal, A., & Wu, W. Y. (2009). Reducing medication errors and improving systems reliability using an electronic medication reconciliation system. *Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety*, *35*(2), 106–114. https://doi.org/10.1016/S1553-7250(09)35014-X

A2105. Discharge Status Complete only if A0310F = 10, 11, or 12	
Enter Code ☐☐	01. **Home/Community** (e.g., private home/apt., board/care, assisted living, group home, transitional living, other residential care arrangements) 02. **Nursing home** (long-term care facility) 03. **Skilled Nursing Facility** (SNF, swing bed) 04. **Short-term general hospital** (acute hospital, IPPS) 05. **Long-Term Care Hospital** (LTCH) 06. **Inpatient rehabilitation facility** (IRF, free standing facility or unit) 07. **Inpatient psychiatric facility** (psychiatric hospital or unit) 08. **Intermediate care facility** (ID/DD facility) 09. **Hospice** (home/non-institutional) 10. **Hospice** (institutional facility) 11. **Critical Access Hospital** (CAH) 12. **Home under care of organized home health service organization** 13. **Deceased** 99. **Not Listed**

Numerator

The numerator is the number of stays for which the MDS 3.0 indicated that the following is true:

At the time of discharge, the facility provided a current reconciled medication list to the subsequent provider (A2121 = [1]).

Measure Time Window

The measure will be calculated quarterly. All SNF stays during the quarter will be included in the denominator and are eligible for inclusion in the numerator. For residents with multiple stays during the quarter, each stay is eligible for inclusion in the measure.

Items Included in the Quality Measure

One data element will be included to calculate the measure. One data element will be collected to inform internal measure consistency logic.

Provision of Current Reconciled Medication List to Subsequent Provider at Discharge

A2121. Provision of Current Reconciled Medication List to Subsequent Provider at Discharge At the time of discharge to another provider, did your facility provide the resident's current reconciled medication list to the subsequent provider?	
Enter Code ☐	0. **No** – Current reconciled medication list not provided to the subsequent provider 1. **Yes** – Current reconciled medication list provided to the subsequent provider

Route of Current Medication List Transmission to Subsequent Provider

A2122. Route of Current Reconciled Medication List Transmission to Subsequent Provider Indicate the route(s) of transmission of the current reconciled medication list to the subsequent provider.	
Route of Transmission	**Check all that apply** ↓
A. Electronic Health Record	☐
B. Health Information Exchange Organization	☐
C. Verbal (e.g., in-person, telephone, video conferencing)	☐
D. Paper-based (e.g., fax, copies, printouts)	☐
E. Other Methods (e.g., texting, email, CDs)	☐

Risk Adjustment

This measure is not risk-adjusted or stratified.

Quality Measure Calculation Steps

The following steps are used to calculate the measure:

Step 1. Calculate the denominator count

Calculate the total number of patient stays with discharge to a subsequent provider based on discharge location item A2105.

Step 2. Calculate the numerator count

Calculate the total number of stays where a reconciled medication list was transferred: A2121 = [1]

Step 3. Calculate the facility observed score

Divide the facility's numerator count by its denominator count; in other words, divide the results of Step 2 by the results of Step 1. Multiply by 100.

Quality Measure Coding Steps

The following steps are used to code the measure:

1. **At discharge, code for the patient's discharge location.**

   Identify discharge location with item A2105.

2. **At discharge, code for whether the facility provided the reconciled medication list to the subsequent provider.**

   A valid response for item A2105 would trigger the coder to complete item A2121.

3. **At discharge, code for the route of transmission.**

   A valid response for item A2121 [A2121 = 1] would send the coder to item A2122. This item is used for internal measure consistency logic.

Section 3. Cross-Setting Measure: Transfer of Health Information to the Patient–Post-Acute Care Measure

Measure Description

This measure, the Transfer of Health Information to the Patient, assesses for and reports on the timely transfer of health information, specifically transfer of a medication list. This measure evaluates for the transfer of information when a patient/resident is discharged from their current setting of PAC to a private home/apartment, board and care home, assisted living, group home, transitional living, or home under the care of an organized home health service organization or hospice.

This measure, developed under the IMPACT Act, has been developed conceptually for the IRF, LTCH, SNF, and HHA settings. This measure is calculated by one standardized data element that asks, "at the time of discharge, did the facility provide the patient's/resident's current reconciled medication list to the patient/resident, family, and/or caregiver?" It also includes one data element that asks the route of transmission of the reconciled medication list (Appendix A). In order to track discharge to home, the MDS will be used to track discharge location status. The measure is conceptualized uniformly across the PAC settings. The measure is calculated using data from the IRF-PAI for IRF patients, the LCDS for LTCH patients, the MDS 3.0 assessment instrument for SNF residents, and the OASIS for HHA patients. Data are collected and calculated separately in each of the four settings using standardized data elements. The collection of this measure and the components tied to the standardized data element used to calculate this measure are in Appendix A.

The Reconciled Medication List

Discussion related to what is a reconciled medication list is located in Chapter 1, Section 2. The Transfer of Health Information measures serve as a check to ensure that a reconciled medication list is provided as the patient changes care settings at discharge. Defining the completeness of that medication list is left to the discretion of the providers and patient who are coordinating this care.

Purpose/Rationale for the Quality Measure

In 2013, 22.3 percent of all acute hospital discharges were discharged to PAC settings, including 11 percent who were discharged to home under the care of an HHA.[15] Of the Medicare FFS beneficiaries with a SNF stay in FY 2017, an estimated 11 percent were discharged home with home health services, 41 percent were discharged home with self-care, and 0.2 percent were discharged with home hospice services.[16]

The communication of health information, such as a reconciled medication list, is critical to ensuring safe and effective patient transitions from health care settings to home and other community settings. Incomplete or missing health information, such as medication information, increases the likelihood of a patient safety risk, often life-threatening.[17] Individuals who use PAC settings are particularly vulnerable to adverse health outcomes because of their higher likelihood of multiple comorbid chronic conditions, polypharmacy, and complicated transitions between care settings.[18] Upon discharge to home, individuals in PAC settings may be faced with numerous medication changes, new

[15] Tian, 2016.

[16] RTI International analysis of Medicare claims data for index stays in IRF 2016/2017. (RTI program reference: MM150).

[17] Kwan et al., 2013.
Boockvar et al., 2011.
Bell et al., 2011.
Basey, Krska, Kennedy, & Mackridge, 2014.
Desai, Williams, Greene, Pierson& Hansen, 2011.

[18] Brody et al., 2016.
Chhabra et al., 2012.

medication regimes, and follow-up details.[19] The efficient and effective communication and coordination of medication information may be critical to prevent potentially deadly adverse effects. When care coordination activities enhance care transitions, these activities can reduce duplication of care services and costs of care, resolve conflicting care plans, and prevent medical errors.[20]

The transfer of a patient's medication information to the patient, family, or caregiver is common practice and supported by discharge planning requirements for participation in Medicare and Medicaid programs.[21] However, there is limited information about the route or mode (for example, paper-based, verbal, and electronic) of transmission used by PAC providers to transfer health information. PAC provider health information exchange with patients, families, and caregivers supports the goals of high-quality, personalized, and efficient health care; care coordination and person-centered care; and real-time, data-driven clinical decision making.

Most PAC electronic health record systems generate a discharge medication list. Interventions to promote patient participation in medication management have been shown to be acceptable and potentially useful for improving patient outcomes and reducing costs.[22] Furthermore, provision of a reconciled medication list to patients/residents and their caregivers can improve transitional care.[23]

Some clinical practice guidelines state the importance of medication safety and communicating accurate medication information to the patient. For example, The Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Goals #4 and #5 for Home Care Accreditation (NPSG.03.06.01) are as follows:[24]

4. Provide the patient (or family as needed) with written information on the medications the patient should be taking when leaving the organization's care (for example, name, dose, route, frequency, purpose).
5. Explain the importance of managing medication information to the patient.

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Project Re-Engineered Discharge (RED) Toolkit includes several medication-related strategies (e.g., active medication reconciliation,

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[19] Brody et al., 2016.
Bell et al., 2011.
Sheehan, O. C., Kharrazi, H., Carl, K. J., Leff, B., Wolff, J. L., Roth, D. L., . . . Boyd, C. M. (2018). Helping older adults improve their medication experience (HOME) by addressing medication regimen complexity in home healthcare. *Home Healthcare Now*, *36*(1), 10–19. https://doi.org/10.1097/NHH.0000000000000632

[20] Mor et al., 2010.
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[21] Director, Survey and Certification Group, CMS. (2013, May 17). Revision to state operations manual (SOM), Hospital Appendix A - Interpretive Guidelines for 42 CFR 482.43, Discharge Planning. Retrieved from https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-13-32.pdf.
The State Operations Manual Guidance to Surveyors for Long-Term Care Facilities (Guidance §483.21(c)(1) Rev. 11-22-17) for discharge planning. Retrieved from https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/som107ap_pp_guidelines_ltcf.pdf

[22] Greene, J., & Hibbard, J. H. (2012). Why does patient activation matter? An examination of the relationships between patient activation and health-related outcomes. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, *27*(5), 520–526. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11606-011-1931-2
Phatak, A., Prusi, R., Ward, B., Hansen, L. O., Williams, M. V., Vetter, E., . . . Postelnick, M. (2016). Impact of pharmacist involvement in the transitional care of high-risk patients through medication reconciliation, medication education, and postdischarge call-backs (IPITCH Study). *Journal of Hospital Medicine*, *11*(1), 39–44. https://doi.org/10.1002/jhm.2493

[23] Toles, M., Colón-Emeric, C., Naylor, M. D., Asafu-Adjei, J., & Hanson, L. C. (2017). Connect-home: Transitional care of skilled nursing facility patients and their caregivers. *Journal of the American Geriatric Society*, *65*(10), 2322–2328. https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.15015

[24] The Joint Commission. (2018). National patient safety goals Effective January 2018: Home Care Accreditation Program. Retrieved from https://www.jointcommission.org/assets/1/6/NPSG_Chapter_OME_Jan2018.pdf

medication teaching for patients and caregivers, development of medication list for patients and their health care providers).[25]

Denominator

The denominator for this measure is the total number of SNF Medicare Part A covered resident stays ending in discharge to a private home/apartment, board/care, assisted living, group home, transitional living, or home under care of an organized home health service organization or hospice. Discharge to one of these locations is based on response to the discharge location item, A2105, of the MDS assessment, shown below. A stay is defined as the time period from resident admission or reentry to the facility (identified by a 5-day PPS assessment) to Part A PPS discharge.

A2105. Discharge Status Complete only if A0310F = 10, 11, or 12	
Enter Code ☐☐	01. **Home/Community** (e.g., private home/apt., board/care, assisted living, group home, transitional living, other residential care arrangements) 02. **Nursing home** (long-term care facility) 03. **Skilled Nursing Facility** (SNF, swing bed) 04. **Short-term General Hospital** (acute hospital, IPPS) 05. **Long-Term Care Hospital** (LTCH) 06. **Inpatient rehabilitation facility** (IRF, free standing facility or unit) 07. **Inpatient psychiatric facility** (psychiatric hospital or unit) 08. **Intermediate care facility** (ID/DD facility) 09. **Hospice** (home/non-institutional) 10. **Hospice** (institutional facility) 11. **Critical Access Hospital (CAH)** 12. **Home under care of organized home health service organization** 13. **Deceased** 99. **Not Listed**

Numerator

The numerator is the number of stays for which the MDS 3.0 indicated that the following is true:

At the time of discharge, the facility provided a current reconciled medication list to the resident, family, and/or caregiver (A2123 = [1]).

Measure Time Window

The measure will be calculated quarterly. All SNF stays during the quarter are included in the denominator and are eligible for inclusion in the numerator. For residents with multiple stays during the quarter, each stay is eligible for inclusion in the measure.

Items Included in the Quality Measure

One data element will be included to calculate the measure. One data element will be collected to inform the internal measure consistency logic.

[25] Jack, B., Paasche-Orlow, M., Mitchell, S., Forsythe, S., Martin, J., & Brach, C. (n.d.). *Re-Engineered Discharge (RED) toolkit*. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Retrieved from https://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/systems/hospital/red/toolkit/index.html, Last accessed November, 28, 2018.

Provision of Current Reconciled Medication List to Resident at Discharge

A2123. Provision of Current Reconciled Medication List to Resident at Discharge At the time of discharge, did your facility provide the resident's current reconciled medication list to the resident, family and/or caregiver?	
Enter Code ☐	0. **No** – Current reconciled medication list not provided to the resident, family and/or caregiver 1. **Yes** – Current reconciled medication list provided to the resident, family and/or caregiver

Route of Current Medication List Transmission to Resident

A2124. Route of Current Reconciled Medication List Transmission to Resident Indicate the route(s) of transmission of the current reconciled medication list to the resident/family/caregiver.	
Route of Transmission	**Check all that apply ↓**
A. Electronic Health Record (e.g., electronic access to patient portal)	☐
B. Health Information Exchange Organization	☐
C. Verbal (e.g., in-person, telephone, video conferencing)	☐
D. Paper-based (e.g., fax, copies, printouts)	☐
E. Other Methods (e.g., texting, email, CDs)	☐

Risk Adjustment

This measure is not risk-adjusted or stratified.

Quality Measure Calculation Steps

The following steps are used to calculate the measure:

Step 1. Calculate the denominator count

Calculate the number of patient stays with discharge to home using discharge location item A2105.

Step 2. Calculate the numerator count

Calculate the number of stays where a reconciled medication list was transferred: A2123 = [1]

Step 3. Calculate the facility observed score

Divide the facility's numerator count by its denominator count; in other words, divide the results of Step 2 by the results of Step 1. Multiply by 100.

Quality Measure Coding Steps

The following steps are used to code the measure:

1. **At discharge, code for the patient's discharge location.**

   Identify discharge location with item A2105.

2. **At discharge, code for whether the facility provided the reconciled medication list to the patient, family, and/or caregiver.**

   A valid response for item A2105 would trigger the coder to complete item A2123.

3. **At discharge, code for the route of transmission.**

   A valid response for item A2123 [A2123 = 1] would send the coder to item A2124. This item is used for internal measure consistency logic.

Section 4. Update to the Discharge to Community–Post Acute Care (PAC) Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) Measure

Measure Update

The Discharge to Community–Post Acute Care (PAC Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) measure was adopted for the SNF QRP in the FY 2017 SNF Prospective Payment System (PPS) final rule (81 FR 52021 through 52029) to meet the requirement of the IMPACT Act. Measure specifications were first published in July 2016.[26] These draft specifications include a new measure exclusion for baseline nursing facility (NF) residents; there are no other changes to measure specifications.

Measure Description

This measure assesses successful discharge to the community from a PAC setting, with successful discharge to the community including no unplanned rehospitalizations and no death in the 31 days following discharge. Specifically, this measure reports a SNF's risk-standardized rate of Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) residents who are discharged to the community after a SNF stay, do not have an unplanned readmission to an acute care hospital or LTCH in the 31 days following discharge to community, and remain alive during those 31 days. Community, for this measure, is defined as home/self-care, with or without home health services, based on Patient Discharge Status Codes 01, 06, 81, and 86 on the Medicare FFS claim.[27,28]

We adopted four discharge to community measures for IRF, LTCH, SNF, and home health (HH) settings, respectively. These measures are conceptualized uniformly across the PAC settings in terms of the definition of the discharge to community outcome, the approach to risk adjustment, and the measure calculation, with some differences where needed due to setting-specific considerations. It is important to note that each measure is specific to the particular PAC setting (i.e., IRF, LTCH, SNF, or HH); we do not pool PAC patients/residents across settings in the measure development and calculation.

Purpose/Rationale for the Measure

Discharge to a community setting is an important health care outcome for many patients/residents for whom the overall goals of PAC include optimizing functional improvement, returning to a previous level of independence, and avoiding institutionalization. Returning to the community is also an important outcome for many patients/residents who are not expected to make functional improvement during their PAC stay, and for patients/residents who may be expected to decline functionally because of their medical condition. By assessing whether patients remain alive in the community without acute complications for 31 days following discharge, the Discharge to Community–PAC SNF QRP measure is a meaningful patient- and family-centered measure of successful community discharge.

In addition to being an important outcome from a patient/resident and family perspective, patients/residents discharged to community settings, on average, incur lower costs over the recovery

[26] The original measure specifications are available at https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/Downloads/Measure-Specifications-for-FY17-SNF-QRP-Final-Rule.pdf.

[27] American Hospital Association. (2017). National Uniform Billing Committee Official UB-04 Data Specifications Manual 2018 (Version 12). Chicago, IL: Author.

[28] Patient discharge status codes 81 and 86 are intended for use on acute care claims only. However, because these codes have sometimes been reported on PAC claims, we include them in our definition of community to credit the PAC provider for discharging the patient to a community setting. This definition is not intended to suggest that group homes, foster care, or other residential care settings included in the definition of "community" for the purpose of this measure are the most integrated setting for any particular individual or group of individuals under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504.

episode, compared with those discharged to institutional settings.[29] Given the high costs of care in institutional settings, encouraging PACs to prepare patients for discharge to community, when clinically appropriate, may have cost-saving implications for the Medicare program.[30] Also, providers have found that successful discharge to community was a major driver of their ability to achieve savings, where capitated payments for PAC were in place.[31] For patients/residents who require long-term care due to persistent disability, discharge to community could result in lower long-term care costs for Medicaid and for patients'/residents' out-of-pocket expenditures.[32]

Analyses conducted by the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) using 2013 PAC data demonstrate the substantially higher costs of institutional PAC stays compared with HH stays.[33] Average costs of HH stays ranged from $1,790 to $2,699 depending on the position of the HH stay in a sequence of PAC care. Average costs of institutional PAC stays (including IRF, LTCH, and SNF stays) ranged from $13,948 to $17,506, depending on the position of the institutional PAC stay in a sequence of PAC care.[34]

Analyses conducted for the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) on PAC episodes, using a 5 percent sample of 2006 Medicare claims, revealed that relatively high average, unadjusted Medicare payments are associated with discharge to institutional settings from IRFs, SNFs, LTCHs, or HHAs, as compared with payments associated with discharge to community settings.[35] Average, unadjusted Medicare payments associated with discharge to community settings ranged from $0 to $4,017 for IRF discharges, $0 to $3,544 for SNF discharges, $0 to $4,706 for LTCH discharges, and $0 to $992 for HHA discharges. In contrast, payments associated with discharge to non-community settings were considerably higher, ranging from $11,847 to $25,364 for IRF discharges, $9,305 to $29,118 for SNF discharges, $12,465 to $18,205 for LTCH discharges, and $7,981 to $35,192 for HHA discharges.[36] These expenditure estimates only include Medicare expenditures related to the immediate discharge destination following SNF, LTCH, IRF or HH care, and not expenditures related to any subsequent discharge destinations.

Measuring and comparing facility-level discharge-to-community rates is expected to help differentiate among facilities with varying performance in this important domain and to help avoid disparities in care across patient/resident groups. Variation in discharge-to-community rates has been reported within and across post-acute settings; across a variety of facility-level characteristics, such as geographic location (for example, region, urban or rural location), ownership (for example, for-profit or nonprofit), and freestanding or hospital-based units; and across patient-level characteristics, such as race

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[29] Dobrez, D., Heinemann, A. W., Deutsch, A., Manheim, L., & Mallinson, T. (2010). Impact of Medicare's prospective payment system for inpatient rehabilitation facilities on stroke patient outcomes. *American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation*, *89*(3), 198–204. https://doi.org/10.1097/PHM.0b013e3181c9fb40

Gage, B., Morley, M., Spain, P., Ingber, M. (2009). *Examining post acute care relationships in an integrated hospital system.* Final Report. Research Triangle Park, NC: RTI International.

[30] Gage, Morley, Spain, & Ingber, 2009.

[31] Doran, J. P., & Zabinski, S. J. (2015). Bundled payment initiatives for Medicare and non-Medicare total joint arthroplasty patients at a community hospital: Bundles in the real world. *The Journal of Arthroplasty*, *30*(3), 353–355. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.arth.2015.01.035

[32] Newcomer, R. J., Ko, M., Kang, T., Harrington, C., Hulett, D., & Bindman, A. B. (2016). Health care expenditures after initiating long-term services and supports in the community versus in a nursing facility. *Medical Care*, *54*(3), 221–228. https://doi.org/10.1097/MLR.0000000000000491

[33] Medicare Payment Advisory Commission. (2018, June). Chapter 4: Paying for sequential stays in a unified prospective payment system for post-acute care. In *June 2018 Report to the Congress: Medicare and the Health Care Delivery System*. Retrieved from http://www.medpac.gov/docs/default-source/reports/jun18_ch4_medpacreport_sec.pdf?sfvrsn=0

[34] Ibid.

[35] Gage et al., 2009.

[36] Ibid.

and gender.[37] Discharge to community rates in the IRF setting have been reported to range from about 60 to 80 percent.[38] Longer-term studies show that rates of discharge to community from IRFs have decreased over time as IRF length of stay has decreased.[39] Greater variation in discharge-to-community rates is seen in the SNF setting, with rates ranging from 31 to 65 percent.[40] In the SNF Medicare FFS population, using national unadjusted data from calendar years 2015 and 2016, we found that approximately 43 percent of residents were discharged to the community. Facility-level observed discharges to community ranged from 0 percent to 100 percent, with an interquartile range of 26 percentage points. A multicenter

[37] Reistetter, T. A., Karmarkar, A. M., Graham, J. E., Eschbach, K., Kuo, Y. F., Granger, C. V., . . . Ottenbacher, K. J. (2014). Regional variation in stroke rehabilitation outcomes. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, *95*(1), 29–38. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2013.07.018

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Bhandari, V. K., Kushel, M., Price, L., & Schillinger, D. (2005). Racial disparities in outcomes of inpatient stroke rehabilitation. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, *86*(11), 2081–2086. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2005.05.008

Chang, P. F., Ostir, G. V., Kuo, Y. F., Granger, C. V., & Ottenbacher, K. J. (2008). Ethnic differences in discharge destination among older patients with traumatic brain injury. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, *89*(2), 231–236. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2007.08.143

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[38] Galloway, R. V., Granger, C. V., Karmarkar, A. M., Graham, J. E., Deutsch, A., Niewczyk, P., . . . Ottenbacher, K. J. (2013). The Uniform Data System for Medical Rehabilitation: Report of patients with debility discharged from inpatient rehabilitation programs in 2000-2010. *American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation*, *92*(1), 14–27. https://doi.org/10.1097/PHM.0b013e31827441bc

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[39] Galloway et al., 2013.

Mallinson, T., Deutsch, A., Bateman, J., Tseng, H. Y., Manheim, L., Almagor, O., & Heinemann, A. W. (2014). Comparison of discharge functional status after rehabilitation in skilled nursing, home health, and medical rehabilitation settings for patients after hip fracture repair. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, *95*(2), 209–217. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2013.05.031

[40] El-Solh, Saltzman, Ramadan, & Naughton, 2000.

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Wodchis, W. P., Teare, G. F., Naglie, G., Bronskill, S. E., Gill, S. S., Hillmer, M. P., . . . Fries, B. E. (2005). Skilled nursing facility rehabilitation and discharge to home after stroke. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, *86*(3), 442–448. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2004.06.067

study of 23 LTCHs demonstrated that 28.8 percent of 1,061 patients who were ventilator dependent on admission were discharged to home.[41] A single-center study found that 31 percent of LTCH hemodialysis patients were discharged to home.[42] One study noted that 64 percent of beneficiaries who were discharged from the HH episode did not use any other acute or post-acute services paid by Medicare in the 30 days after discharge.[43] However, significant numbers of patients were admitted to hospitals (29 percent) and lesser numbers to SNFs (7.6 percent), IRFs (1.5 percent), HHAs (7.2 percent), or hospices (3.3 percent).[44]

Discharge to community is an actionable health care outcome, as targeted interventions have been shown to successfully increase discharge-to-community rates in a variety of post-acute settings.[45] Many of these interventions involve discharge planning; communication and care coordination; specific rehabilitation strategies, such as addressing discharge barriers and improving medical and functional status; or community-based transitional care services and supports.[46] The effectiveness of these interventions suggests that improvement in discharge-to-community rates among PAC patients/residents is possible through modifying provider-led processes and interventions.

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[41] Scheinhorn, D. J., Hassenpflug, M. S., Votto, J. J., Chao, D. C., Epstein, S. K., Doig, G. S., . . . Petrak, R. A., & the Ventilation Outcomes Study Group. (2007). Post-ICU mechanical ventilation at 23 long-term care hospitals: A multicenter outcomes study. *Chest*, *131*(1), 85–93. https://doi.org/10.1378/chest.06-1081

[42] Thakar, C. V., Quate-Operacz, M., Leonard, A. C., & Eckman, M. H. (2010). Outcomes of hemodialysis patients in a long-term care hospital setting: A single-center study. *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*, *55*(2), 300–306. https://doi.org/10.1053/j.ajkd.2009.08.021

[43] Wolff, J. L., Meadow, A., Weiss, C. O., Boyd, C. M., & Leff, B. (2008). Medicare home health patients' transitions through acute and post-acute care settings. *Medical Care*, *46*(11), 1188–1193. https://doi.org/10.1097/MLR.0b013e31817d69d3

[44] Ibid.

[45] Kushner, Peters, & Johnson-Greene, 2015a.
Wodchis et al., 2005.
Berkowitz, R. E., Jones, R. N., Rieder, R., Bryan, M., Schreiber, R., Verney, S., & Paasche-Orlow, M. K. (2011). Improving disposition outcomes for patients in a geriatric skilled nursing facility. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, *59*(6), 1130–1136. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1532-5415.2011.03417.x
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O'Brien, S. R., & Zhang, N. (2018). Association between therapy intensity and discharge outcomes in aged Medicare skilled nursing facilities admissions. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, *99*(1), 107–115. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2017.07.012

[46] Kushner, Peters, & Johnson-Greene2015a.
Wodchis et al., 2005.
Berkowitz et al., 2011.
Kushner, Peters, & Johnson-Greene, 2015b.
Jung, H. Y., Trivedi, A. N., Grabowski, D. C., & Mor, V. (2016). Does more therapy in skilled nursing facilities lead to better outcomes in patients with hip fracture? *Physical Therapy*, *96*(1), 81–89. https://doi.org/10.2522/ptj.20150090
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Buttke, D., Cooke, V., Abrahamson, K., Shippee, T., Davila, H., Kane, R., & Arling, G. (2018). A Statewide Model for assisting nursing home residents to transition successfully to the community. *Geriatrics*, *3*(2), 18. https://doi.org/10.3390/geriatrics3020018
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Rodakowski, J., Rocco, P. B., Ortiz, M., Folb, B., Schulz, R., Morton, S. C., . . . James, A. E., III. (2017). Caregiver integration during discharge planning for older adults to reduce resource use: A metaanalysis. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, *65*(8), 1748–1755. https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.14873

Denominator

The denominator for the discharge-to-community measure is the risk-adjusted expected number of discharges to community. This estimate includes risk adjustment for resident characteristics with the facility effect removed. The "expected" number of discharges to community is the predicted number of risk-adjusted discharges to community if the same residents were treated at the average facility appropriate to the measure.

The regression model used to calculate the denominator is developed using all non-excluded facility stays in the national data. The denominator is computed in the same way as the numerator, but the facility effect is set at the average. The descriptions of the discharge to community outcome, resident stays included in the measure, and numerator calculation are below.

Numerator

The measure does not have a simple form for the numerator and denominator—that is, the risk adjustment method does not make the *observed* number of community discharges the numerator, and a *predicted* number the denominator. The measure numerator is the *risk-adjusted estimate* of the number of residents who are discharged to the community, do not have an unplanned readmission to an acute care hospital or LTCH in the 31-day post-discharge observation window, and remain alive during the post-discharge observation window. This estimate starts with the observed discharges to community and is risk-adjusted for resident characteristics and a statistical estimate of the facility effect beyond case mix.

The numerator uses a model estimated on full national data specific to the SNF setting; it is applied to the facility's resident stays included in the measure and includes the estimated effect of that facility. The prediction equation is based on a logistic statistical model with a two-level hierarchical structure. The resident stays in the model have an indicator of the facility they are discharged from; the effect of the facility is measured as a positive or negative shift in the intercept term of the equation. The facility effects are modeled as belonging to a normal (Gaussian) distribution centered at 0 and are estimated along with the effects of resident characteristics in the model. Numerator details are provided below.

Numerator details: discharge to community

Discharge to community is based on the Patient Discharge Status Code from the SNF claim. Discharge to community is defined as discharge to home/self-care with or without home health services.[47] Table 1 lists the Patient Discharge Status Codes used to define community.

Table 1
Patient Discharge Status Codes Used to Determine Discharge to a Community Setting

Discharge Status Codes Indicating Discharge to a Community Setting	
01	Discharged to home/self-care (routine discharge)
06	Discharged/transferred to home under care of organized home health service organization
81	Discharged to home or self-care with a planned acute care hospital readmission
86	Discharged/transferred to home under care of organized home health service organization with a planned acute care hospital inpatient readmission

[47] American Hospital Association, 2017.

Patient discharge status codes 81 and 86 are intended for use on acute care claims only. However, because these codes have sometimes been reported on PAC claims, we include them in our definition of community to credit the PAC provider for discharging the patient to a community setting.

Numerator details: unplanned readmissions in the 31-day post-discharge observation window

A resident who is discharged to the community is not considered to have a successful discharge to community outcome for this measure if they have a subsequent unplanned readmission to an acute care hospital or LTCH in the post-discharge observation window, which includes the day of discharge and the 31 days following day of discharge. We only assess the first readmission encountered in the post-discharge window. Our definition of acute care hospital includes hospitals paid under the Inpatient PPS (IPPS), critical access hospitals (CAH), and psychiatric hospitals or units. Using acute care and LTCH claims, we identify unplanned readmissions based on the CMS planned readmissions algorithm[48] used in the following PAC readmission measures, endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF) and used in several CMS programs: (1) NQF #2510: Skilled Nursing Facility 30-Day All-Cause Readmission Measure (SNFRM); (2) NQF #2502: All-Cause Unplanned Readmission Measure for 30 Days Post Discharge from Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities; (3) NQF #2512: All-Cause Unplanned Readmission Measure for 30 Days Post Discharge from Long-Term Care Hospitals; and (4) NQF #2380: Rehospitalization During the First 30 Days of Home Health.[49] These readmission measures are based on the Hospital-Wide All-Cause Readmission Measure (HWR) (CMS/Yale) (NQF #1789),[50] with some additions made for the SNF, IRF, and LTCH setting measures.[51] The CMS planned readmission definition is based on the claim from the readmission having a code for a diagnosis or procedure that is considered planned; however, if a planned procedure is accompanied by a principal diagnosis in a specified list of acute diagnoses, the readmission is reclassified as unplanned. Readmissions to psychiatric hospitals or units are classified as planned readmissions. We use the most current available version of the CMS planned readmission algorithm from the HWR measure specifications for measure calculation and make necessary updates to the additions made for PAC settings to ensure the algorithm corresponds to our measurement period.

This measure was developed with International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) procedure and diagnosis codes, and it has been transitioned using the ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM crosswalk.

Numerator details: death in the 31-day post-discharge observation window

Residents who are discharged to the community are not considered to have a successful discharge to community outcome for this measure if they die in the post-discharge window, which includes the day

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[48] Yale New Haven Health Services Corporation – Center for Outcomes Research & Evaluation (YNHHSC/CORE). (2018, March). Appendix E. Planned Readmission Algorithm. In *2018 All-Cause Hospital Wide Measure Updates and Specifications Report: Hospital-Level 30-Day Risk-Standardized Readmission Measure – Version 7.0*. Prepared for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Retrieved from https://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier4&cid=1219069855841

[49] NQF #2510: Skilled Nursing Facility 30-Day All-Cause Readmission Measure (SNFRM). www.qualityforum.org/QPS/2510

NQF #2502: All-Cause Unplanned Readmission Measure for 30 Days Post Discharge from Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities. www.qualityforum.org/QPS/2502

NQF #2512: All-Cause Unplanned Readmission Measure for 30 Days Post Discharge from Long-Term Care Hospitals. www.qualityforum.org/QPS/2512

NQF #2380: Rehospitalization During the First 30 Days of Home Health. www.qualityforum.org/QPS/2380

[50] NQF #1789: Hospital-Wide All-Cause Readmission Measure (HWR) (CMS/Yale). www.qualityforum.org/QPS/1789

[51] RTI International. (2016, July). *Measure specifications for measures adopted in the FY 2017 IRF QRP Final Rule*. Retrieved from https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/IRF-Quality-Reporting/Downloads/Measure-Specifications-for-FY17-IRF-QRP-Final-Rule.pdf.

Note: The ICD-9 codes listed in Table 2-9 were updated with ICD-10-CM codes for data starting October 1, 2015.

of discharge and the 31 days following day of discharge. Death in the post-discharge window is identified using date of death from Medicare eligibility files.

Target Population and Measure Exclusions

The target population for the measure is the group of Medicare FFS residents who are not excluded for the reasons listed below.

Measure exclusions

Exclusions for the discharge to community measure are listed below, along with the rationale and data source for each exclusion. Baseline long-term nursing facility residence is based on data from the Minimum Data Set (MDS). All other measure exclusion criteria are determined by processing Medicare claims and eligibility data to determine whether the individual exclusion criteria are met. Only SNF stays that are preceded by a short-term acute care stay in the 30 days before the SNF admission date are included in the measure. Stays ending in transfers to the same level of care are excluded.

1) *Age under 18 years*

Rationale:

a. There is limited literature on discharge destination outcomes in this age group.

b. Residents in this age group represent a different cohort, likely living with their parents, and may be expected to have higher discharge-to-community rates than the rest of the Medicare population.

c. Residents in this age group represent a small proportion of the post-acute Medicare FFS population.

Data source: Birth date and SNF admission date from the Medicare Provider and Analysis Review (MedPAR*)* File.

2) *No short-term acute care stay within the 30 days preceding SNF admission*

Rationale: Acute care claims from the 30 days before SNF admission provide the principal diagnosis and other important resident data for risk adjustment. Residents without a short-term acute care discharge within the 30 days before PAC admission are excluded from the measure, because important risk adjustment data are missing.

Data source: Hospital discharge date in MedPAR acute care claims in the 30 days before SNF admission.

3) *Discharges to psychiatric hospital*

Rationale: Residents discharged to psychiatric hospital are excluded from the measure because community living at the time of discharge may be potentially inappropriate or unsafe for them because of their mental health or psychiatric condition.

Data source: Patient discharge status code from MedPAR SNF claim.

4) *Discharges against medical advice*

Rationale: Residents who discharge themselves against medical advice are excluded because their care plan may not have been fully implemented, and the discharge destination may not reflect the facility's discharge recommendation. Additionally, residents discharged against medical advice may

be at higher risk of post-discharge readmissions or death, depending on their medical condition or because of potential nonadherence or noncompliance with care recommendations.

Data source: Patient discharge status code from MedPAR SNF claim.

5) *Discharges to disaster alternative care sites or federal hospitals*

Rationale: Residents discharged to disaster alternative care sites are excluded because these discharges are likely influenced by external emergency conditions and may not represent discretionary discharges by the SNF provider. Discharges to federal hospitals are also excluded.

Data source: Patient discharge status code from MedPAR SNF claim.

6) *Discharges to court/law enforcement*

Rationale: Residents who are discharged to court or law enforcement are likely ineligible for discharge to the community because of legal restrictions.

Data source: Patient discharge status code from MedPAR SNF claim.

7) *Residents discharged to hospice or those with a hospice benefit in the 31-day post-discharge window*

Rationale:

a. Residents discharged to hospice care and those with a hospice benefit in the post-discharge observation window are terminally ill and have very different goals of care than non-hospice residents. For non-hospice residents, the primary goal of PAC is to return to baseline, independent living in the community; death is an undesirable outcome in the non-hospice population. For residents on hospice, the goal is to give them the opportunity to die comfortably, at home or in a facility.

b. A large proportion of residents on hospice care die in the 31-day window following discharge from the post-acute setting.

c. The hospice agency, not the PAC setting, makes the final decision of discharge to hospice-home or hospice-facility.

Data source: Discharge to hospice is based on the MedPAR SNF claim. Post-discharge hospice benefit is based on hospice enrollment dates (start and termination dates) in the Enrollment Database (EDB).

8) *Residents not continuously enrolled in Part A FFS Medicare for the 12 months before SNF admission date, and at least 31 days after SNF discharge date*

Rationale: Residents not continuously enrolled in Part A FFS Medicare for the 12 months before the SNF admission date are excluded because risk adjustment for certain comorbidities requires information on acute inpatient bills for one year before SNF admission. Residents not continuously enrolled in Part A FFS Medicare for at least 31 days after SNF discharge are excluded because readmissions and death must be observable in the 31-day post-discharge period. Residents without Part A coverage or those who are enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans will not have complete inpatient claims in the system.

Data source: EDB and Denominator Files.

9) *Residents whose prior short-term acute care stay was for non-surgical treatment of cancer*

Rationale: Residents whose prior short-term acute care stay was for non-surgical treatment of cancer are excluded because they have a different trajectory for recovery after discharge, with a high mortality rate.[52] Exclusion of these residents is consistent with the HWR and PAC readmission measures.

Data source: Diagnosis codes from the MedPAR SNF claim.

10) *SNF stays that end in transfer to the same level of care*

Rationale: SNF stays that end in transfer to the same level of care are excluded because their SNF episode has not ended. For a SNF episode that involves transfer to the same level of care, only the final SNF provider is included in the measure.

Data source: Patient discharge status code from MedPAR SNF claim.

11) *SNF stays with claims data that are problematic (e.g., anomalous records for stays that overlap wholly or in part, or are otherwise erroneous or contradictory; stays not matched to the denominator or EDB files; claims not paid)*

Rationale: This measure requires accurate information from the SNF stay and prior short-term acute care stay in the elements used for risk adjustment. No-pay SNF stays involving exhaustion of Part A benefits are also excluded.

Data source: MedPAR claims, EDB and denominator files.

12) *Planned discharges to an acute or LTCH setting*

Rationale: Planned discharges to an acute care hospital or LTCH are excluded because these patients had a planned return to higher level of care, and discharge to community is not appropriate for these patients.

Data source: The planned readmission algorithm is applied to diagnosis and procedure codes found on the first acute care or LTCH claim, if any, on the day of or day after index SNF discharge.

13) *Medicare Part A benefits exhausted*

Rationale: Residents who have exhausted their Medicare Part A coverage during the SNF stay are excluded because the discharge destination decision may be related to exhaustion of benefits.

Data source: MedPAR SNF claim.

14) *Residents who received care from a facility located outside of the United States, Puerto Rico, or a U.S. territory*

Rationale: Residents who received care from foreign facilities may not have complete inpatient claims in the system, and these facilities may not be subject to policy decisions related to this quality measure.

Data source: CMS Certification Number from the MedPAR SNF claim.

[52] NQF #1789: Hospital-Wide All-Cause Readmission Measure (HWR) (CMS/Yale). www.qualityforum.org/QPS/1789

15) Swing Bed Stays in Critical Access Hospitals

Rationale: Critical access hospital (CAH) swing bed stays are excluded because CAH swing bed facilities are not required to submit quality data under the SNF QRP and are exempt from the SNF PPS. Note that non-CAH swing bed stays are included in the measure, because non-CAH swing bed facilities are required to submit quality data under the SNF QRP and are subject to the SNF PPS.

Data source: CMS Certification Number from the MedPAR SNF claim.

16) ***New exclusion:*** *Residents who had a long-term NF stay in the 180 days preceding their hospitalization and SNF stay, with no intervening community discharge between the long-term NF stay and qualifying hospitalization for measure inclusion (i.e., baseline NF residents)*

Rationale: Baseline long-term NF residents did not live in the community before their SNF stay, and discharge to a community setting may not be a safe or expected outcome for these residents.

Data source: We examine historical MDS data in the 180 days preceding the qualifying prior acute care admission and index SNF stay. Presence of an Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA)-only assessment (a non SNF PPS assessment) with no intervening community discharge between the OBRA assessment and acute care admission date flags the index SNF stay as a baseline long-term NF resident.

Data Sources

This measure is based on Medicare FFS administrative claims and uses data in the Medicare eligibility files, inpatient claims, and MDS. The eligibility files provide information such as date of birth, date of death, sex, reasons for Medicare eligibility, periods of Part A coverage, and periods in the Medicare FFS program. The data elements from the Medicare FFS claims are those basic to the operation of the Medicare payment systems and include data such as date of admission, date of discharge, diagnoses, procedures, indicators for use of dialysis services, and indicators of whether the Part A benefit was exhausted. The inpatient claims data files contain resident-level PAC and other hospital records. Historical MDS data are used to identify baseline NF residents. No data beyond those submitted in the normal course of business are required from SNF providers for the calculation of this measure.

The following are the specific files used for measure calculation with links to their documentation:

- *Medicare Inpatient Claims (MedPAR Research Identifiable File [RIF]), Index SNF Claims:* Documentation for the Medicare claims data is provided online by Research Data Assistance Center. The following web page includes data dictionaries for the MedPAR RIF: https://www.resdac.org/cms-data/files/medpar
- *Medicare Enrollment Database*: Information about the EDB may be found at http://aspe.hhs.gov/datacncl/datadir/cms.htm
- *Medicare Denominator File*: Information and documentation are available at https://aspe.hhs.gov/report/data-health-and-well-being-american-indians-alaska-natives-and-other-native-americans-data-catalog/medicare-denominator-file and ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/health_statistics/nchs/datalinkage/Denominator%20(edited).pdf.
- *MDS*: Documentation available at https://www.resdac.org/cms-data/files/mds-3.0

Measure Time Window

The measure is calculated using two years of data. All SNF stays during the two-year time window, except those that meet the exclusion criteria, are included in the measure. For residents with

multiple stays during the two-year time window, each stay is eligible for inclusion in the measure. Data from calendar year (CY) 2012–2013 were used to develop this measure. The analyses in this document are based on CY 2015–2016 data.

Statistical Risk Model and Risk Adjustment Covariates

We used a hierarchical logistic regression method to predict the probability of discharge to community. Resident characteristics related to discharge and a marker for the specific discharging facility are included in the equation. The equation is hierarchical in that both individual resident characteristics are accounted for, as well as the clustering of resident characteristics by facility. The statistical model estimates both the average predictive effect of the resident characteristics across all facilities, and the degree to which each facility has an effect on discharge to community that differs from that of the average facility. The facility effects are assumed to be randomly distributed around the average (according to a normal distribution). When computing the facility effect, hierarchical modeling accounts for the known predictors of discharge to community, on average, such as resident characteristics, the observed facility rate, and the number of facility stays eligible for inclusion in the measure. The estimated facility effect is determined mostly by the facility's own data if the number of resident discharges is relatively large (as the estimate would be relatively precise), but is adjusted toward the average if the number of resident discharges is small (as that would yield a less-precise estimate).

We used the following model:

Let Y_{ij}, denote the outcome (equal to 1 if resident *i* is discharged to community, 0 otherwise) for a resident *i* at facility *j*; Z_{ij} denotes a set of risk adjustment variables. We assume the outcome is related to the risk adjusters via a logit function with dispersion:

$$\text{logit}(\text{Prob}(Y_{ij} = 1)) = \alpha_j + \beta * Z_{ij} + \varepsilon_{ij} \quad (1)$$
$$\alpha_j = \mu + \omega_j ; \ \omega_j \sim N(0, \tau^2)$$

where $Z_{ij} = (Z_1, Z_2, \ldots Z_k)$ is a set of *k* resident-level risk adjustment variables; α_j represents the facility-specific intercept; μ is the adjusted average outcome across all facilities; τ^2 is the between-facility variance component; and $\varepsilon \sim N(0,\sigma^2)$ is the error term. The hierarchical logistic regression model is estimated using SAS software (PROC GLIMMIX: SAS/STAT User's Guide, SAS Institute Inc.).

The estimated equation is used twice in the measure. The sum of the probabilities of discharge to community of all residents in the facility measure, including both the effects of resident characteristics and the facility, is the "predicted number" of discharges to community after adjusting for the facility's case mix. The same equation is used without the facility effect to compute the expected number of discharges to community for the same residents at the average facility. The ratio of the predicted to expected number of discharges to community is a measure of the degree to which discharges to community are higher or lower than what would otherwise be expected. This standardized risk ratio (SRR) is then multiplied by the mean discharge-to-community rate for all facility stays for the measure, yielding the risk-standardized discharge-to-community rate for each facility. Please note that the estimation procedure is recalculated for each measurement period. Re-estimating the models for each measurement period allows the estimated effects of the resident characteristics to vary over time as resident case mix and medical treatment patterns change.

Risk adjustment variable descriptions are below. See Appendix B, Table B-1, for the full list of variables in the risk adjustment models.

1. Age and sex groups.
2. End-stage renal disease (ESRD) or disability as original reason for entitlement.
3. Principal diagnosis (Clinical Classifications Software (CCS) groups) from the prior acute stay in the past 30 days. The principal diagnosis codes from the prior acute claim are grouped clinically

using the CCS groupings developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).[53]

4. Surgical procedure categories (if present) based on the prior acute stay in the past 30 days. The procedures are grouped using the CCS groupings of procedures developed by AHRQ.[54]
5. Indicator for ESRD status.
6. Dialysis in prior acute stay where ESRD not indicated.
7. Length of prior acute hospital stay in days for residents whose prior acute stay was in a non-psychiatric hospital (categorical variables are used to account for nonlinearity); indicator of prior psychiatric hospital stay for residents whose prior acute stay was in a psychiatric hospital.
8. Ventilator use during the SNF stay.
9. Comorbidities based on prior acute stay in the past 30 days or based on a one-year look-back, depending on the specific comorbidity. Comorbidities are clustered using the Hierarchical Condition Categories (HCC) groups used by CMS.[55]
10. Number of prior acute hospital discharges in the past year, not including the hospitalization in the 30 days before the SNF stay.

Measure Calculation Algorithm

The following steps describe the calculation algorithm/measure logic for the discharge-to-community measures:

Step 1: Identify residents meeting the criteria for the target population, after applying measure exclusions.

Step 2: Identify residents meeting the numerator criteria (i.e., discharge to community, no unplanned readmissions on the day of discharge or in the 31 days following discharge, and no death on the day of discharge or in the 31 days following discharge).

Step 3: Identify presence or absence of risk adjustment variables for each resident.

Step 4: Calculate the predicted and expected number of discharges to community for each facility using the hierarchical logistic regression model.

The predicted number of discharges to community for each facility is calculated as the sum of the predicted probability of discharge to community for each resident discharged from the facility and included in the measure, including the facility-specific effect.

[53] Documentation of the AHRQ Clinical Classifications Software groupings of ICD-9 codes is available at http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/ccs/ccs.jsp.
Documentation of the AHRQ Clinical Classifications Software groupings of ICD-10 codes is available at https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/ccs10/ccs10.jsp.

[54] Ibid.

[55] CMS-HCC Mappings of ICD-9 and ICD-10 Codes are included in the software at the following website: http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Health-Plans/MedicareAdvtgSpecRateStats/Risk-Adjustors.html.

To calculate the predicted number of discharges to community, $pred_j$, for index facility stays at $facility_j$, we used the following equation:

$$pred_j = \Sigma logit^{-1}(\mu + \omega_i + \beta * Z_{ij}) \quad (2)$$

where the sum is over all stays in $facility_j$, and ω_i is the random intercept.

To calculate the expected number, exp_j, we used the following equation:

$$exp_j = \Sigma logit^{-1}(\mu + \beta * Z_{ij}) \quad (3)$$

Step 5: Calculate the SRR for each facility as the ratio of the predicted to expected number of discharges to community.

To calculate the facility-wide SRR, SRR_j, we used the following equation:

$$SRR_j = pred_j / exp_j \quad (4)$$

Step 6: Calculate the risk-standardized discharge-to-community rate for each facility.

To aid interpretation, the facility-wide SRR_j, obtained from equation (4), is then multiplied by the overall national raw discharge-to-community rate for all facility stays, $\bar{Y}$, to produce the facility-wide risk-standardized discharge-to-community rate (RSR_j).

To calculate the risk-standardized discharge-to-community rate for each facility, we used the following equation:

$$RSR_j = SRR_j * \bar{Y} \quad (5)$$

NOTE: Because the statistic described in Step 6 is a complex function of parameter estimates, re-sampling using bootstrapping may be necessary to derive a confidence interval estimate for the final risk-standardized rate to characterize the uncertainty of the estimate.

See **Appendix B** for risk adjustment model results and providers' observed and risk-standardized score distributions.

Chapter 2 Standardized Patient Assessment Data Elements

Section 1: Introduction

The Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation Act of 2014 (IMPACT Act) requires CMS to develop, implement, and maintain standardized patient assessment data elements (SPADEs) for PAC settings. The four PAC settings specified in the IMPACT Act are HHAs, IRFs, LTCHs, and SNFs. The goals of implementing cross-setting SPADEs are to facilitate care coordination and interoperability and to improve Medicare beneficiary outcomes.

Existing PAC assessment instruments (i.e., OASIS for HHAs, IRF-PAI for IRFs, LCDS for LTCHs, and the MDS for SNFs) often collect data elements pertaining to similar concepts, but the individual data elements—questions and response options—vary by assessment instrument. With a few exceptions, the data elements collected in these assessment instruments are not currently standardized or interoperable; therefore, patient responses across the assessment instruments cannot be compared easily.

The IMPACT Act further requires that the assessment instruments described above be modified to include core data elements on health assessment categories and that such data be standardized and interoperable. Implementation of a core set of standardized assessment items across PAC settings has important implications for Medicare beneficiaries, families, providers, and policymakers. CMS is adopting SPADEs for five categories specified in the IMPACT Act:

1. Cognitive function (e.g., able to express ideas and to understand normal speech) and mental status (e.g., depression and dementia)
2. Special services, treatments, and interventions (e.g., need for ventilator, dialysis, chemotherapy, and total parenteral nutrition)
3. Medical conditions and comorbidities (e.g., diabetes, heart failure, and pressure ulcers)
4. Impairments (e.g., incontinence; impaired ability to hear, see, or swallow)
5. Other categories as deemed necessary by the Secretary

Background

In the following sections, we present additional information on the SPADEs finalized in the FY 2020 SNF PPS final rule. We outline how each SPADE is relevant to the care of residents in the SNF, review its current use in existing PAC assessment item sets, and summarize any prior testing of the data elements. For SPADEs that were included in the National Beta Test, which was conducted by RAND between November 2017 and August 2018, we present detailed information on data element performance.

Evidence supporting these SPADEs comes from several sources, including the Post-Acute Care Payment Reform Demonstration (PAC PRD), MDS 3.0 testing, and the National Beta Test. The most relevant metrics for evaluation of SPADE performance (i.e., feasibility and reliability) include the amount of missing data, time to administer the data element, and interrater reliability (IRR). IRR is the level of agreement between two raters; that is, the extent to which two different individuals would code the same response when presented with the same information. Typically, percent agreement and the kappa statistic—or weighted kappas, for ordinal data—are used to represent IRR. The kappa statistic is preferred in most cases because there are agreed-upon conventions for its interpretation and it corrects for chance agreement between raters. However, kappa is sensitive to prevalence rates; when prevalence rates are extremely high or low, the resulting kappa statistic does not accurately convey the level of agreement.[56]

[56] Cicchetti, D. V., & Feinstein, A. R. (1990). High agreement but low kappa: II. Resolving the paradoxes. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, *43*(6), 551–558. https://doi.org/10.1016/0895-4356(90)90159-M

In those cases, percent agreement is preferred. The evidence offered for the SPADEs in the sections below follow standard conventions in reporting both percent agreement and kappas or weighted kappas to describe IRR.

Post-Acute Care Payment Reform Demonstration (PAC PRD)

Some prior evidence for these SPADEs comes from the PAC PRD. The PAC PRD was mandated by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 to examine the relative costliness and outcomes of similar types of Medicare beneficiaries discharged to different PAC settings (i.e., HHAs, IRFs, LTCHs, and SNFs). To meet these aims, the study collected standardized assessment data, using the Continuity Assessment Record and Evaluation (CARE) across PAC settings to measure patient severity and case mix across settings at more than 200 providers in 11 geographically diverse markets. The standardized assessment data allowed cross-setting comparisons of the factors associated with costs and outcomes, as well as service substitution among post-acute providers, all else being equal about the patient. Further information on the design and methods of the PAC PRD can be found at https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Reports/Research-Reports-Items/PAC_Payment_Reform_Demo_Final.html.

Testing of the Minimum Data Set 3.0 (MDS 3.0)

Additional testing information comes from the national testing of the MDS 3.0.[57] During a 6-year period starting in 2003, CMS engaged in a national project to create an improved version of the MDS 2.0. A joint RAND/Harvard team employed an iterative development process that culminated in the national testing of the MDS 3.0 in 2006 and 2007. The national validation and evaluation testing of the MDS 3.0 included 71 community nursing homes (3,822 residents) and 19 Veterans Health Administration nursing homes (764 residents), distributed throughout the regions of the United States. The evaluation was designed to test and analyze IRR, validity of key items, response rates for interview items, feedback on changes from participating nurses, and time to complete the MDS assessment. In addition, the national test design allowed comparison of item distributions between MDS 3.0 and MDS 2.0. Further information on the design and methods of MDS 3.0 testing can be found at https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/downloads/MDS30FinalReport.pdf.

National Beta Test

Purpose and goals

The National Beta Test was conducted to evaluate the reliability and validity of candidate SPADEs and to support the identification of data elements for standardization across PAC settings, in accordance with the mandates of the IMPACT Act. To test SPADE performance within each setting, sufficient numbers of patients/residents needed to be included in each of the four settings to enable setting-specific performance estimates. Further, the participating patients/residents needed to represent adequate coverage of the clinical range of patients/residents receiving care nationally in each of the four PAC settings. To evaluate the suitability of the SPADEs for cross-setting use, sufficient numbers of

Xu, S., & Lorber, M. F. (2014). Interrater agreement statistics with skewed data: Evaluation of alternatives to Cohen's kappa. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, *82*(6), 1219–1227. https://doi.org/10.1037/a0037489

Byrt, T., Bishop, J., & Carlin, J. B. (1993). Bias, prevalence and kappa. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, *46*(5), 423–429. https://doi.org/10.1016/0895-4356(93)90018-V

McHugh, M. L. (2012). Interrater reliability: The kappa statistic. *Biochemia Medica*, *22*(3), 276–282. https://doi.org/10.11613/BM.2012.031

[57] Saliba, D., & Buchanan, J. (2008a). *Development and validation of a revised nursing home assessment tool: MDS 3.0*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation. Retrieved from https://www.cms.hhs.gov/NursingHomeQualityInits/Downloads/MDS30FinalReport.pdf

facilities/agencies of each setting type needed to be included in the test. These facilities/agencies needed to reflect a reasonable range of geographic diversity relative to PAC settings nationally.

Many large national studies of patients and health conditions are designed to generate estimates and make comparisons of rates of conditions or severity of patients on one or more clinical characteristics (e.g., cognitive status). To do this, these studies seek to recruit a proportionally balanced representative sample, and employ case-mix models and/or sampling weights to the data. In contrast, the National Beta Test was designed to generate valid and robust national SPADE performance estimates (i.e., time to complete and IRR), which fundamentally requires acceptable geographic diversity, sufficient sample size, and reasonable coverage of the range of clinical characteristics. To meet these requirements, the National Beta Test was carefully designed so data could be collected from a wide range of environments, allowing for thorough evaluation of candidate SPADE performance in all PAC settings. These analyses included extensive checks on the sampling design (e.g., generating results by market and by urbanicity) to identify possible limitations to the generalizability of results. Results of these sensitivity analyses are not included in this document, but will be described in detail in the forthcoming volumes of the National Beta Test Final Report (see https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Post-Acute-Care-Quality-Initiatives/IMPACT-Act-of-2014/IMPACT-Act-Downloads-and-Videos.html).

To help readers interpret evidence from the National Beta Test that is included for some SPADEs, we include an abridged description of the National Beta Test design and methods below. An in-depth technical discussion of the design and methods of the National Beta Test can be found in the document titled "Development and Evaluation Candidate Standardized Patient Assessment Data Elements: Findings from the National Beta Test (Volume 2)," available at https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Post-Acute-Care-Quality-Initiatives/IMPACT-Act-of-2014/IMPACT-Act-Downloads-and-Videos.html.

Design and sampling

The National Beta Test included PAC providers in 14 geographic/metropolitan areas, or "markets," across the country. This number was chosen to be similar to the design used for the PAC PRD. A multistage stratified random sampling plan was used to obtain the sample of 14markets in the United States, and then a sample of eligible PAC facilities was compiled from those markets. To be eligible for selection, markets had to meet the following criteria:

- Sampled markets would yield a predefined number of PAC facilities/agencies of each type for the sample (12 SNFs, 10 HHAs, at least four LTCHs *or* IRFs, *and* at least one LTCH)
- The predefined number of facilities/agencies within the markets were expected to have flow rates large enough to obtain the targeted number of assessments per facility
- The predefined number of facilities/agencies had to be located within 2 hours of one another to facilitate completion of assessments in a timely manner

Of 306 markets in the United States, 64 were deemed eligible. The random sampling of the 14 markets was stratified by U.S. Census division to enhance geographic representation, yielding the following 14 markets: Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Dallas, TX; Durham, NC; Fort Lauderdale, FL; Harrisburg, VA; Houston, TX; Kansas City, MO; Los Angeles, CA; Nashville, TN; Philadelphia, PA; Phoenix, AZ; St. Louis, MO; and San Diego, CA. Because these markets are a random sample, they are expected to be representative of the set of 64 eligible facilities and findings are therefore generalizable to the set of eligible facilities.

The target numbers of providers by setting within these 14 markets were 28 IRFs, 28 LTCHs, 84 SNFs, and 70 HHAs, totaling 210 PAC providers. The number of settings was determined based on standard sample size calculations, which included the numbers of facilities and patients rather than the

proportions of the populations they represented. The power calculations indicated that 28 providers per setting type (two in each market) would yield enough admissions during the field period to obtain robust estimates of candidate SPADE performance. This minimum number was adopted as the recruitment target for IRFs and LTCHs; additional SNFs and HHAs were targeted to enhance sample diversity in light of the larger proportion of these setting types nationally. A total of 143 PAC facilities (35 HHAs, 22 IRFs, 26 LTCHs, 60 SNFs) were successfully recruited across 14 U.S. markets to participate in the National Beta Test. Although this number falls short of targets both overall and by setting, this shortfall was offset by extending the field period, allowing for the accrual of more eligible patient/resident admissions and discharges.

Eligibility

The National Beta Test SPADEs included in this rule were evaluated for performance among a sample of communicative patients/residents (who could make themselves understood through any means). All communicative patients/residents who were admitted to a participating provider site during the field period and were Medicare beneficiaries covered under one of the PAC PPSs were eligible for the admission assessment, and all those who completed an admission assessment and were discharged during the field period were eligible for the discharge assessment. National Beta Test enrollment of non-communicative patients/residents was not tied to an admission date so as to ensure availability of sufficient numbers within the field period for evaluation of three data elements developed specifically for non-communicative patients/residents (observational assessments of cognitive status, mood, and pain). Although this ensured availability of sufficient numbers of non-communicative patients/residents for testing of the non-communicative data elements, it precluded assessing these patients/residents with non-interview SPADEs at admission. The three data elements developed specifically for non-communicative patients/residents are not included in this rule; thus, the non-communicative sample from the National Beta Test is not described further here.

Section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act states that facilities that deliver PAC services under Medicare are required to provide qualified interpreters to their patients/residents with limited English proficiency.[58] Facilities have discretion in how they furnish qualified interpreters, including the use of remote interpreters (i.e., high-quality telephone or video services). As described above, the focus of the National Beta Test was to establish the feasibility and validity of the data elements within and across PAC settings. Including limited English proficiency patients/residents in the sample would have required the National Beta Test facilities to engage or involve translators during the test assessments. In planning the National Beta Test, we anticipated that this would have added undue complexity to what facilities/agencies were being asked to do, and would have undermined the ability of facility/agency staff to complete the requested number of assessments within the assessment window (e.g., Admission Days 3–7) and within the study field period. In light of the strong existing evidence for the feasibility of all patient/resident interview SPADEs included in this rule (Brief Interview for Mental Status [BIMS], Pain Interference, Patient Health Questionnaire [PHQ]) when administered in other languages, either through standard PAC workflow (e.g., as tested and currently collected in the MDS 3.0) and/or through rigorous translation and testing (e.g., PHQ), the performance of translated versions of these patient/resident interview SPADEs did not need to be further evaluated. In addition, because their exclusion did not threaten our ability to achieve acceptable geographic diversity, sufficient sample size, and reasonable coverage of the range of PAC patient/resident clinical characteristics, the exclusion of limited English proficiency patients/residents was not considered a limitation to interpretation of the National Beta Test results.

[58] For more information, see https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/section-1557/index.html

Data collection

Admission assessments were completed between admission days 3–7; discharge assessments could be completed from 2 days before discharge through the discharge date. Trained research nurses and staff at participating PAC facilities/agencies administered all assessments. A subset of the admission assessments was completed by research nurse/facility staff assessor pairs to allow for evaluation of IRR. Power analyses indicated that reliability estimates required a minimum of 194 paired assessments, time to complete estimates could be compared across settings for detection of small effect sizes with a minimum of 274 assessments per setting, and as few as 460 assessments would be sufficient to evaluate aspects of validity (e.g., group differences, associations with other clinical variables, etc.) with small to moderate effect sizes. Therefore, average assessment contributions per participating facility/agency were calculated for each of these goals (i.e., paired assessments, assessments completed by facility/agency staff, total admission assessments) and communicated throughout the study period to guide the data collection and track progress. These minimums were more easily attainable in SNFs and HHAs because of the larger number of participating facilities/agencies. However, participating LTCHs and IRFs also were able to collectively meet these targets by the end of the field period. The total number of admission assessments is shown in Appendix C, Table 1.1. This table also shows the number of assessments from which completion times were estimated, and the number of assessments that were conducted by paired raters and contributed to evaluation of IRR. In addition to meeting the minimum sample size requirements, the data collection yielded very small rates of missing data, speaking to the overall feasibility of the SPADEs. Table 1.2 in Appendix C shows completion rates by National Beta Test protocol module. Module completion rates ranged from 93.8 to 98.2 percent, and nearly 90 percent of the communicative admission sample completed all assessment modules. More information on the design and methods of the National Beta Test can be found in the document "Development and Evaluation Candidate Standardized Patient Assessment Data Elements: Findings from the National Beta Test (Volume 2)," available at https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Post-Acute-Care-Quality-Initiatives/IMPACT-Act-of-2014/IMPACT-Act-Downloads-and-Videos.html.

Section 2: Cognitive Function

Impairments in cognitive function can result from many underlying conditions, including dementia, Alzheimer's Disease, stroke, brain injury, side effects of medication, metabolic and endocrine imbalances, and delirium.[59] Cognitive impairments may affect a patient or resident's ability to recover from illness or injury, or they may be a sign of an acute condition (e.g., hypoxia) that requires immediate intervention. Cognitive impairment that manifests with behavioral symptoms—or that impairs a patient's ability to communicate, prompting behavioral disturbances—may put the patient or resident or others in the care setting at risk for injury or assault, or may signal unmet patient or resident needs (e.g., pain management). Screening for the presence of impairment can help ensure appropriate and timely intervention.

A substantial proportion of PAC patients and residents experience cognitive impairment, delirium, communication impairment, or behavioral distress. Testing from the PAC PRD found that about one-third of patients and residents in PAC settings were classified as having moderately or severely impaired cognitive function.[60] About one-third exhibited disorganized thinking and altered level of consciousness, and about one-half exhibited inattention. Fewer than 7 percent of patients and residents exhibited signs and symptoms of behavioral distress in the PAC PRD.

Therapeutic interventions can improve patient outcomes, and evidence suggests that treatment (e.g., drugs, physical activity) can stabilize or delay symptom progression in some patients, thereby improving quality of life.[61,] In addition, assessments help PAC providers better understand the needs of patients and residents by establishing a baseline for identifying changes in cognitive function and mental status (e.g., delirium), elucidating the patient's ability to understand and participate in treatments during their stay, highlighting safety needs (e.g., to prevent falls), and identifying appropriate support needs at the time of discharge. The standardized assessment of patient or resident cognition supports clinical decision making, early clinical intervention, person-centered care, and improved care continuity and coordination. The use of valid and reliable standardized assessments can aid in the communication of information within and across providers, enabling the transfer of accurate health information.

CMS has identified several data elements as applicable for cross-setting use in standardized assessment of cognitive impairment.

1. The BIMS
2. The Confusion Assessment Method (CAM)

The data elements involve different aspects of cognition (e.g., short-term memory, comprehension) and types of data (e.g., interview, performance-based). They are collected by various modes (e.g., clinician assessed, patient reported).

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[59] National Institute on Aging. (2013). *Assessing cognitive impairment in older patients*. Retrieved from https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/assessing-cognitive-impairment-older-patients

[60] This estimate is based on responses to the BIMS in a study of patient/residents in the PAC PRD: Gage, B., Morley, M., Smith, L., Ingber, M. J., Deutsch, A., Kline, T., ... & Kelleher, C. (2012). *Post-acute care payment reform demonstration: Final report* (Vol 4). Research Triangle Park, NC: RTI International. Retrieved from https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Reports/Research-Reports-Items/PAC_Payment_Reform_Demo_Final.html.

[61] Casey, D. A., Antimisiaris, D., & O'Brien, J. (2010). Drugs for Alzheimer's disease: Are they effective? *P&T*, *35*(4), 208–211.

Bherer, L., Erickson, K. I., & Liu-Ambrose, T. (2013). A review of the effects of physical activity and exercise on cognitive and brain functions in older adults. *Journal of Aging Research*, *2013*, 657508. https://doi.org/10.1155/2013/657508

Langa, K. M., & Levine, D. A. (2014). The diagnosis and management of mild cognitive impairment: A clinical review. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *312*(23), 2551–2561. https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2014.13806

Brief Interview for Mental Status (BIMS)

The BIMS is a performance-based cognitive assessment developed to be a brief cognition screener with a focus on learning and memory. The BIMS evaluates repetition, recall with and without prompting, and temporal orientation.

Relevance to SNFs

The BIMS is currently a central component of the cognitive function data elements submitted by SNF providers through the MDS 3.0 and, as a screening tool, has been shown to accurately predict formal diagnoses of impaired cognitive function in nursing homes.[62] The assessment of cognitive function in SNF residents is essential due to the substantial number of residents affected by cognitive impairments and its potential to impact care, health, and cost outcomes. BIMS data from the PAC PRD[63] show that approximately 33 percent of Medicare FFS SNF residents are moderately to severely cognitively impaired. Furthermore, the BIMS has been shown to be an efficient assessment that is feasible to administer under the time constraints faced by nursing home staff, and suitable for use by all levels of staff that contribute to resident assessment, including paraprofessionals.[64] Results of the BIMS' screening for cognitive impairment can be used to initiate appropriate therapy in a timely fashion, to establish a baseline for identifying changes in cognitive function over time, and to inform staff about a resident's ability to understand and participate in treatments during their stay and about what supports and services will likely be needed at the time of discharge. The standardized assessment of cognitive function using the BIMS data elements would provide important information for care planning, care transitions, patient safety, and resource use in SNFs.

Data Elements for the Assessment of Cognitive Function: The BIMS

C0100. Should Brief Interview for Mental Status (C0200-C0500) be Conducted? Attempt to conduct interview with all residents	
Enter Code ☐	0.**No** (resident is rarely/never understood) → *Skip to XXXX* 1. **Yes** → *Continue to C0200, Repetition of Three Words*

[62] MacDougall, E. E., Mansbach, W. E., Clark, K., & Mace, R. A. (2014). The brief cognitive assessment tool (BCAT): cross-validation in a community dwelling older adult sample. International Psychogeriatrics, 13, 1–8. https://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S1041610214001458

[63] Gage, Morley, et al., 2012.

[64] Saliba, D., Buchanan, J., Edelen, M. O., Streim, J., Ouslander, J., Berlowitz, D., & Chodosh, J. (2012). MDS 3.0: Brief interview for mental status. *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*, *13*(7), 611–617. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jamda.2012.06.004

Brief Interview for Mental Status (BIMS)	
C0200. Repetition of Three Words	
Enter Code ☐	Ask resident: *"I am going to say three words for you to remember. Please repeat the words after I have said all three. The words are:* ***sock, blue and bed****. Now tell me the three words."* **Number of words repeated after first attempt** 0. **None** 1. **One** 2. **Two** 3. **Three** After the resident's first attempt, repeat the words using cues (*"sock, something to wear; blue, a color; bed, a piece of furniture").* You may repeat the words up to two more times.
C0300. Temporal Orientation (orientation to year, month, and day)	
Enter Code ☐	Ask resident: *"Please tell me what year it is right now."* **A. Able to report correct year** 0. **Missed by > 5 years** or no answer 1. **Missed by 2-5 years** 2. **Missed by 1 year** 3. **Correct**
Enter Code ☐	Ask resident: *"What month are we in right now?"* **B. Able to report correct month** 0. **Missed by > 1 month** or no answer 1. **Missed by 6 days to 1 month** 2. **Accurate within 5 days**
Enter Code ☐	Ask resident: *"What day of the week is today?"* **C. Able to report correct day of the week** 0. **Incorrect** or no answer 1. **Correct**
C0400. Recall	
Enter Code ☐	Ask resident: *"Let's go back to an earlier question. What were those three words that I asked you to repeat?"* If unable to remember a word, give cue (something to wear; a color; a piece of furniture) for that word. **A. Able to recall "sock"** 0. **No**- could not recall 1. **Yes, after cueing** ("something to wear") 2. **Yes, no cue required**
Enter Code ☐	**B. Able to recall "blue"** 0. **No**- could not recall 1. **Yes, after cueing** ("a color") 2. **Yes, no cue required**
Enter Code ☐	**C. Able to recall "bed"** 0. **No**- could not recall 1. **Yes, after cueing** ("a piece of furniture") 2. **Yes, no cue required**

C0500. BIMS Summary Score	
Enter Score ☐☐	**Add scores** for questions C0200-C0400 and fill in total score (00-15) **Enter 99 if the resident was unable to complete the interview**

Current use

The BIMS data elements are currently used in the MDS and the IRF-PAI.

Prior evidence supporting use of the BIMS

The BIMS data elements were tested in the PAC PRD, where they showed substantial to almost perfect reliability of 0.71 to 0.91 (weighted kappas) when used across all four PAC settings. The lowest agreement was on the "repetition of three words" memory data element, with a kappa of 0.71, which still falls within the range of substantial agreement. PAC PRD testing also demonstrated the feasibility of the BIMS for use in SNFs and found evidence of strong reliability of the BIMS data elements in the SNF setting. In addition, the BIMS data elements were found to be predictive of higher patient cost.[65] The BIMS data elements were also included in the national MDS 3.0 test in nursing homes and showed almost perfect reliability.[66] Agreement ranged from 0.86 to 0.99 (standard kappa). The BIMS data elements were found to be highly correlated (0.906) with a gold-standard measure of cognitive function, the Modified Mini-Mental Status (3MS) exam.[67]

Evidence supporting use of the BIMS from the National Beta Test

Assessing impairment: In the National Beta Test, the BIMS was administered at admission to 646 patients/residents in HHAs, 786 in IRFs, 496 in LTCHs, and 1,134 in SNFs (n = 3,062 overall). Overall, 5 percent of patients/residents met criteria for being severely impaired, 18 percent for being moderately impaired, and 76 percent for being intact. In the SNF setting, 7 percent were severely impaired, 22 percent were moderately impaired, and 72 percent were intact. SNF residents showed similar impairment levels to patients in the LTCH setting and somewhat greater impairment than those in an IRF or HHA. Setting-specific admission frequencies for BIMS data elements and the overall impairment category at admission are shown in Appendix C, Table 2.1.1.

Missing data: In general, there were low rates of missing data for BIMS items. Item-level missing data ranged from 0.4 to 1.7 percent overall and ranged from 0.3 to 1.1 percent in the SNF setting. For all settings, missing data rates were slightly higher for recall of current day of the week. In general, the low rate of missing data indicates feasibility of administration.

Time to complete: To assess feasibility of administration, the length of time to administer the BIMS was assessed among 445 patients/residents in HHAs, 537 in IRFs, 332 in LTCHs, and 494 in SNFs (n = 1,808 overall). Overall mean time to complete the BIMS was 2.2 minutes (standard deviation [SD] = 1.2 minutes). Time to complete in the SNF setting was 2.2 minutes (SD = 1.1 minutes).

Interrater reliability: The IRR was excellent for the BIMS, as measured by kappa and percent agreement of paired raters (n = 966 paired assessments across settings; n = 270 paired assessments in

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[65] Gage, Morley, et al., 2012.

[66] Saliba, D., & Buchanan, J. (2008). *Development and validation of a revised nursing home assessment tool: MDS 3.0: Appendices.* Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation. Retrieved from https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/NursingHomeQualityInits/downloads/MDS30FinalReportAppendix.pdf.

[67] Saliba, D., Buchanan, J., Edelen, M. O., Streim, J., Ouslander, J., Berlowitz, D., & Chodosh, J. (2012). MDS 3.0: Brief interview for mental status. *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*, *13*(7), 611–617. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jamda.2012.06.004

De, J., & Wand, A. P. (2015). Delirium screening: a systematic review of delirium screening tools in hospitalized patients. *The Gerontologist, 55*(6), 1079–1099.

SNFs). Across all settings and in the IRF setting, the kappa for the BIMS Impairment Category classification (based on the BIMS total score) was 0.91. The kappas for individual items within the BIMS ranged from 0.83 to 0.93 across all settings and ranged from 0.78 to 0.93 in the SNF setting. Overall kappa values were not estimated for two items within the BIMS because the proportion of patients across settings with correct responses was out of range for a stable kappa estimate. Percent agreement for the BIMS Impairment Category classification was 96 percent across all settings and 95 percent in the SNF setting. Percent agreement for the individual items ranged from 94 to 98 percent across settings and from 91 to 97 percent in SNFs. Please refer to Table 2.1.2 in Appendix C for kappa and percent agreement statistics for all BIMS items.

Confusion Assessment Method (CAM©)

The CAM is a widely used delirium screening tool.[68] Delirium, when undetected or untreated, can increase the likelihood of complications, rehospitalization, and death relative to patients/residents without delirium.[69]

Although multiple versions of the CAM have been developed, CMS finalized that the short version be adopted for SPADEs. The Short CAM contains only four items (i.e., items 1 to 4) from the original CAM (Long CAM). These items focus on an acute change in mental status, inattention, disorganized thinking, and altered level of consciousness.

Relevance to SNFs

The four-item Short CAM is currently used, in combination with other data elements, to assess SNF residents' mental status. The CAM allows trained facility staff to identify delirium with sensitivity and specificity, even in populations with a high prevalence of dementia.[70] As assessed in the PAC PRD using the CAM, many SNF residents showed signs or symptoms of delirium: 47.4 percent of residents in SNFs exhibited inattention, 34.9 percent had disorganized thinking, and 14.9 percent had an altered level of consciousness.[71] Assessing mental status of SNF residents has several benefits, including establishing a baseline for recognizing changes in mental status, highlighting threats to patient safety (e.g., risk of falls), and helping clinicians identify appropriate treatment and supports to be incorporated into care plans. SNF residents with delirium are more likely to experience new complications and be re-hospitalized, and less likely to be discharged to the community within 30 days.[72] The standardized assessment of cognitive impairment, including delirium and reversible confusion using the Short CAM data elements, would provide important information for care planning, care transitions, patient safety, and resource use in SNFs.

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[68] De & Wand, 2015.

[69] Marcantonio, E. R., Kiely, D. K., Simon, S. E., John Orav, E., Jones, R. N., Murphy, K. M., & Bergmann, M. A. (2005). Outcomes of older people admitted to postacute facilities with delirium. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, *53*(6), 963–969. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1532-5415.2005.53305.x

[70] Inouye, S. K., van Dyck, C. H., Alessi, C. A., Balkin, S., Siegal, A. P., & Horwitz, R. I. (1990). Clarifying confusion: the confusion assessment method. A new method for detection of delirium. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *113*(12), 941–948. https://doi.org/10.7326/0003-4819-113-12-941

[71] Unpublished data from the PAC PRD Public Comments sample, 2008-2010.

[72] Marcantonio et al., 2005.

Data Elements for the Assessment of Cognitive Function: CAM

C1310. Signs and Symptoms of Delirium (from CAM©)		
Code **after completing** the Brief Interview of Mental Status or Staff Assessment and reviewing medical record.		
A. Acute Onset Mental Status Change		
Enter Code ☐	**Is there evidence of an acute change in mental status** from the resident's baseline? 0. **No** 1. **Yes**	
Coding: 0. **Behavior not present** 1. **Behavior continuously present, does not fluctuate** 2. **Behavior present, fluctuates** (comes and goes, changes in severity)	↓	**Enter Code in Boxes**
	☐	**B. Inattention -** Did the resident have difficulty focusing attention, for example, being easily distractible or having difficulty keeping track of what was being said?
	☐	**C. Disorganized thinking -** Was the resident's thinking disorganized or incoherent (rambling or irrelevant conversation, unclear or illogical flow of ideas, or unpredictable switching from subject to subject)?
	☐	**D. Altered level of consciousness -** Did the resident have altered level of consciousness as indicated by any of the following criteria? ▪ **vigilant** - startled easily to any sound or touch ▪ **lethargic** - repeatedly dozed off when being asked questions, but responded to voice or touch ▪ **stuporous** - very difficult to arouse and keep aroused for the interview ▪ **comatose** - could not be aroused
Confusion Assessment Method. © 1988, 2003, Hospital Elder Life Program. All rights reserved. Adapted from: Inouye SK et al. Ann Intern Med. 1990; 113:941-8. Used with permission.		

Current use

The Short CAM data elements are currently collected in the MDS and the LCDS, and the scoring is based on staff observations of signs and symptoms of delirium. Although the Short CAM data elements are used in both assessment tools, the response options currently differ. The current version of the LCDS includes two response options (yes/no, indicating that the behavior is present or not present), whereas the MDS offers three response options (behavior continuously present, does not fluctuate; behavior present, fluctuates; behavior not present). The LCDS and MDS versions of the CAM also differ slightly in wording and criteria for the "Altered Level of Consciousness" item.

Prior evidence supporting use of the CAM

A version of the CAM with an item added to assess psychomotor retardation was tested in the national MDS 3.0 test in nursing homes. Reliabilities were substantial or almost perfect. Overall average kappa ranged from 0.85 to 0.89, and items ranged from 0.78 to 0.90 (standard kappa).[73] Based on a meta-analysis of diagnostic accuracy in nine studies, the CAM demonstrated moderate sensitivity (82 percent,

[73] Saliba & Buchanan, 2008b.

95 percent confidence interval: 69–91 percent) and high specificity (99 percent, 95 percent confidence interval: 87–100 percent), respectively, using a delirium diagnosis (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV) as the standard.[74]

Evidence supporting use of the CAM from the National Beta Test

Assessing impairment: In the National Beta Test, we administered the version of the CAM that is currently collected in the MDS 3.0, that is, the version with three response options. The CAM was administered at admission to 630 patients/residents in HHA, 771 in IRF, 471 in LTCH, and 1,101 in SNF (n = 2,973 overall). Overall, 5 percent of patients/residents had evidence of mental status change from baseline, 12 percent had difficulty focusing (3 percent continuously), 6 percent had disorganized thinking (1 percent continuously), and 4 percent had altered consciousness (1 percent continuously). In the SNF setting specifically, 4 percent of residents had evidence of mental status change from baseline, 11 percent had difficulty focusing (3 percent continuously), 7 percent had disorganized thinking (1 percent continuously), and 4 percent had altered consciousness (1 percent continuously). Setting-specific frequencies for CAM data elements at admission are shown in Appendix C, Table 2.2.1.

Missing data: Overall, there were very low rates of missing data for the CAM. Across all settings, item-level missing data did not exceed 0.4 percent for any of the four CAM items. Similarly, in the SNF setting, item-level missing data did not exceed 0.4 percent. For all settings, missing data rates were slightly higher for the change in mental status from baseline item (0.4 percent missing). In general, the low rate of missing data indicates feasibility of administration.

Time to complete: To assess feasibility of administration, time to complete was assessed for 375 patients/residents in HHAs, 472 in IRFs, 284 in LTCHs, and 405 in SNFs (n = 1,536 overall). Overall the mean time to complete the CAM was 1.4 minutes (SD = 0.7 minutes). In the SNF setting, the mean time to complete the CAM was 1.4 minutes (SD = 0.7 minutes).

Interrater reliability: The IRR was good for the CAM, as measured by kappa and percent agreement of paired raters (n = 914 paired assessments across settings; n = 257 paired assessments in SNFs). The kappa for the focusing attention item was good both overall (0.66) and in the SNF setting (0.70). Kappa was not estimated for the other three items within the CAM for the overall sample, or for two of these items within SNFs, because the proportion of patients/residents across settings with correct responses was out of range for a stable kappa estimate. For the disorganized thinking item, kappa was substantial/good (0.68) in SNF. Percent agreement for the CAM across settings was high for all four CAM items: evidence of change of mental status from baseline (96 percent) and whether the patient had difficulty focusing attention (91 percent), had disorganized thinking (94 percent), and had altered consciousness (96 percent). Percent agreement in the SNF setting was similarly high for the four CAM items (97 percent, 93 percent, 94 percent, and 96 percent, respectively). Please refer to Table 2.2.2 in Appendix C for kappa and percent agreement statistics for all CAM items.

Mental Status (Depressed Mood)

Depression is the most common mental health condition in older adults, yet underrecognized and thus undertreated. Existing data show that depressed mood is relatively common in patients and residents receiving PAC services. The PAC PRD found that about 9 percent of individuals in PAC were classified as likely to have depression.[75] The prevalence varied from a low of 7 percent of beneficiaries in SNFs to a

[74] Shi, Q., Warren, L., Saposnik, G., & Macdermid, J. C. (2013). Confusion assessment method: A systematic review and meta-analysis of diagnostic accuracy. *Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment, 9*, 1359–1370. https://doi.org/10.2147/NDT.S49520

[75] This estimate is based on patient responses to a question about being sad in the two weeks before the assessment interview in a study of patient/residents in the PAC PRD (Gage, Morley et al., 2012). If they responded "often" or "always," they were considered to have depression.

high of 11 percent of patients in IRFs.[76] Almost half of nursing home residents in the United States with an active diagnosis of depression at the time of admission are not receiving psychiatric treatment (medication or psychological therapy) for the condition.[77]

Older adults with depression may exhibit different symptoms than younger adults, including fatigue, insomnia, irritable mood, confusion, and lack of focus.[78] Some medications and medical conditions, such as heart disease, stroke, or cancer, may also cause depressive symptoms in older adults.[26] Diagnosis and treatment of depression can lead to significant improvement of symptoms, as measured on depression assessment scales. Depressive symptoms improve in 60 to 80 percent of elderly patients taking an antidepressant medication.[79] Psychosocial treatments of depression in older adults have been shown to be more effective than no treatment, according to self-rated and clinician-rated measures of depression.[80]

Assessments of the signs and symptoms of depression help PAC providers better understand the needs of their patients and residents by prompting further evaluation (i.e., to establish a diagnosis of depression); elucidating the patient's or resident's ability to participate in therapies for conditions other than depression during their stay; and identifying appropriate ongoing treatment and support needs at the time of discharge. The standardized assessment of depression among PAC patients and residents supports clinical decision making, early clinical intervention, person-centered care, and improved care continuity and coordination. The use of valid and reliable standardized assessments can aid in the communication of information within and across providers, further enabling the transfer of accurate health information.

Standardized Data Elements to Assess Depressed Mood

CMS has identified the Patient Health Questionnaire-2 to 9 (PHQ-2 to 9) data elements for standardized assessment of depressed mood.

Patient Health Questionnaire-2 to 9 (PHQ-2 to 9)

The PHQ-2 to 9 data elements use a summed-item scoring approach to first screen for signs and symptoms of depressed mood in patients and residents by assessing the two cardinal criteria for depression: depressed mood and anhedonia (inability to feel pleasure).[81] At least one of the two must be present for a determination of probable depression, which signals the need for continued assessment of the additional seven PHQ symptoms. The interview is concluded if a respondent screens negative for the first two symptoms.

Relevance to SNFs

Major depressive disorder is common in SNF residents, with a prevalence of 7.3 percent, as assessed in the PAC PRD.[82] When signs and symptoms of depression are identified, treatments are available to alleviate suffering and improve clinical outcomes, prevent recurrence of symptoms, and

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[76] Gage, Morley, et al., 2012.

[77] Ulbricht, C. M., Rothschild, A. J., Hunnicutt, J. N., & Lapane, K. L. (2017). Depression and cognitive impairment among newly admitted nursing home residents in the USA. *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, *32*(11), 1172–1181. https://doi.org/10.1002/gps.4723

[78] National Institute on Aging. (2011). *Depression and older adults*. Retrieved from https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/depression-and-older-adults

[79] Lebowitz, B. D., Pearson, J. L., Schneider, L. S., Reynolds, C. F., III, Alexopoulos, G. S., Bruce, M. L., . . . Parmelee, P. (1997). Diagnosis and treatment of depression in late life. Consensus statement update. *Journal of the American Medical Association, 278*(14), 1186–1190. https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.1997.03550140078045

[80] Scogin, F., & McElreath, L. (1994). Efficacy of psychosocial treatments for geriatric depression: A quantitative review. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, *62*(1), 69–74. https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-006X.62.1.69

Wei, W., Sambamoorthi, U., Olfson, M., Walkup, J. T., & Crystal, S. (2005). Use of psychotherapy for depression in older adults. *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, *162*(4), 711–717. https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ajp.162.4.711

[81] American Psychiatric Association. (1980). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (3rd ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Association.

[82] Gage, Morley, et al., 2012.

improve quality of life. The PHQ-2 is a subset of the PHQ-9, which is currently used by SNF providers to screen for the signs and symptoms of depression. The PHQ-9 is reported in the MDS 3.0. The standardized assessment of screening for the signs and symptoms of depression using the PHQ-2 would provide important information for care planning, care transitions, and resource use in SNFs. Note that the two items of PHQ-2 are the first two items in the PHQ-9.

Data Elements for the Assessment of Cognitive Function: PHQ-2 to 9

D0150. Resident Mood Interview (PHQ-2 to 9)			
Say to resident: ***"Over the last 2 weeks, have you been bothered by any of the following problems?***" If symptom is present, enter 1 (yes) in column 1, Symptom Presence. If yes in column 1, then ask the resident: "*About* ***how often*** *have you been bothered by this*?" Read and show the resident a card with the symptom frequency choices. Indicate response in column 2, Symptom Frequency.			
1. Symptom Presence 0. **No** (enter 0 in column 2) 1. **Yes** (enter 0-3 in column 2) 9. **No response** (leave column 2 blank)	**2. Symptom Frequency** 0. **Never or 1 day** 1. **2-6 days** (several days) 2. **7-11 days** (half or more of the days) 3. **12-14 days** (nearly every day)	**1. Symptom Presence**	**2. Symptom Frequency**
		↓ Enter Scores in Boxes ↓	
A. ***Little interest or pleasure in doing things***		☐	☐
B. ***Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless***		☐	☐
If either D0150A2 or D0150B2 is coded 2 or 3, CONTINUE asking the questions below. If not, END the PHQ interview.			
C. ***Trouble falling or staying asleep, or sleeping too much***		☐	☐
D. ***Feeling tired or having little energy***		☐	☐
E. ***Poor appetite or overeating***		☐	☐
F. ***Feeling bad about yourself – or that you are a failure or have let yourself or your family down***		☐	☐
G. ***Trouble concentrating on things, such as reading the newspaper or watching television***		☐	☐
H. ***Moving or speaking so slowly that other people could have noticed. Or the opposite – being so fidgety or restless that you have been moving around a lot more than usual***		☐	☐
I. ***Thoughts that you would be better off dead, or of hurting yourself in some way***		☐	☐
D0160. Total Severity Score			
Enter Score ☐☐	**Add scores for all frequency responses in column 2**, Symptom Frequency. Total score must be between 02 and 27. Enter 99 if unable to complete interview (i.e., Symptom Frequency is blank for 3 or more required items)		

Current use

The PHQ-2 data elements are currently in use in the OASIS. The PHQ-9 data elements, which include the two questions used in the PHQ-2 plus additional items, are in use in MDS.

Prior evidence supporting use of PHQ-2 and PHQ-9

The PHQ-2 is a brief, reliable screening tool for assessing signs and symptoms of depression. Among studies conducted in primary care centers with large samples of adults, the PHQ-2 has performed well as both a screening tool for identifying depression and an assessment of depression severity. [83] It has also been shown to be sensitive to changes in a patient's mood. Across 15 studies that assessed the diagnostic accuracy of the PHQ-2 against a recognized gold-standard instrument for the diagnosis of major depression in adults, sensitivity estimates (based on the summed-item approach to scoring and a cutoff score of 3) have varied, ranging between 39 percent and 97 percent (median value = 77 percent); specificity estimates (based on the summed-item approach to scoring and a cutoff score of 3) have been higher and more stable, ranging between 74 percent and 97 percent (median value = 90 percent).[84] [85] [86] [87] [88] [89] [90] [91] [92] [93] [94] [95] [96] [97] [98] It is thus a viable option for standardization, with the benefits of the shorter assessment counterbalancing the limitation of the lower sensitivity.

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[83] Löwe, B., Kroenke, K., & Gräfe, K. (2005). Detecting and monitoring depression with a two-item questionnaire (PHQ-2). *Journal of Psychosomatic Research*, *58*(2), 163–171. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpsychores.2004.09.006

[84] Arroll, B., Goodyear-Smith, F., Crengle, S., Gunn, J., Kerse, N., Fishman, T., ... & Hatcher, S. (2010). Validation of PHQ-2 and PHQ-9 to screen for major depression in the primary care population. *Annals of Family Medicine* 8(4): 348-353.

[85] Bhana, A., Rathod, S. D., Selohilwe, O., Kathree, T., & Petersen, I. (2015). The validity of the Patient Health Questionnaire for screening depression in chronic care patients in primary health care in South Africa. *BMC Psychiatry* 15(1): 118.

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[87] Chagas, M. H., Crippa, J. A., Loureiro, S. R., Hallak, J. E., Meneses-Gaya, C. D., Machado-de-Sousa, J. P., ... & Tumas, V. (2011). Validity of the PHQ-2 for the screening of major depression in Parkinson's disease: two questions and one important answer. *Aging & Mental Health* 15(7): 838-843.

[88] Chen, S., Chiu, H., Xu, B., Ma, Y., Jin, T., Wu, M., & Conwell, Y. (2010). Reliability and validity of the PHQ-9 for screening late-life depression in Chinese primary care. *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry* 25(11): 1127-1133.

[89] de Lima Osório, F., Vilela Mendes, A., Crippa, J. A., & Loureiro, S. R. (2009). Study of the discriminative validity of the PHQ-9 and PHQ-2 in a sample of Brazilian women in the context of primary health care. *Perspectives in Psychiatric Care* 45(3): 216-227.

[90] Hanwella, R., Ekanayake, S., & de Silva, V. A. (2014). The validity and reliability of the Sinhala translation of the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) and PHQ-2 Screener. *Depression Research and Treatment*, 2014.

[91] Inagaki, M., Ohtsuki, T., Yonemoto, N., Kawashima, Y., Saitoh, A., Oikawa, Y., ... & Yamada, M. (2013). Validity of the PHQ-9 and PHQ-2 in general internal medicine primary care at a Japanese rural hospital: a cross-sectional study. *General Hospital Psychiatry* 35(6): 592-597.

[92] Kroenke, K., Spitzer, R. L., & Williams, J. B. (2001). The PHQ-9. *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 16(9): 606-613.

[93] Anand, A., Li, Y., Wang, Y., Wu, J., Gao, S., Bukhari, L., ... & Lowe, M. J. (2005). Activity and connectivity of brain mood regulating circuit in depression: a functional magnetic resonance study. *Biological Psychiatry* 57(10): 1079-1088.

[94] Phelan, E., Williams, B., Meeker, K., Bonn, K., Frederick, J., LoGerfo, J., & Snowden, M. (2010). A study of the diagnostic accuracy of the PHQ-9 in primary care elderly. *BMC Family Practice* 11(1): 63.

[95] Suzuki, K., Kumei, S., Ohhira, M., Nozu, T., & Okumura, T. (2015). Screening for major depressive disorder with the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9 and PHQ-2) in an outpatient clinic staffed by primary care physicians in Japan: a case control study. *PloS One*, 10(3): e0119147.

[96] Thombs, B. D., Ziegelstein, R. C., & Whooley, M. A. (2008). Optimizing detection of major depression among patients with coronary artery disease using the patient health questionnaire: data from the heart and soul study. *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 23(12): 2014-2017.

[97] Xiong, N., Fritzsche, K., Wei, J., Hong, X., Leonhart, R., Zhao, X., ... & Fischer, F. (2015). Validation of patient health questionnaire (PHQ) for major depression in Chinese outpatients with multiple somatic symptoms: a multicenter cross-sectional study. *Journal of Affective Disorders* 174: 636-643.

[98] Zuithoff, N. P., Vergouwe, Y., King, M., Nazareth, I., van Wezep, M. J., Moons, K. G., & Geerlings, M. I. (2010). The PHQ-9 for detection of major depressive disorder in primary care: consequences of current thresholds in a cross-sectional study. *BMC Family Practice* 11(1): 98.

The PHQ-9 was also tested in the national MDS 3.0 test in nursing homes. For the two presence items in the PHQ-2 (little interest in doing things; feeling down, depressed, or hopeless), kappa statistics were almost perfect and ranged from 0.98 to 0.99.[99] The PHQ-9 was also found to have agreement with the Modified Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia (m-SADS), a gold-standard measure for mood disorder, in residents without severe cognitive impairment (weighted kappa = 0.69) and with the Cornell Depression Scale, a gold-standard measure for mood disorder, in residents with severe cognitive impairment (correlation = 0.63).[100] In addition, the Staff Time and Resource Intensity Verification (STRIVE) study, conducted in a national sample of nursing homes by CMS, concluded that the PHQ-9 used in the MDS 3.0 was the "best measure" for identifying individuals with higher wage-weighted staff time, defined as the time that nursing home staff spent caring for residents.[101]

Evidence supporting use of PHQ-2 to 9 from the National Beta Test

Assessing depressed mood: The PHQ-2 to 9 was administered to assess depressed mood in the National Beta Test. As a hybrid measure, the PHQ-2 to 9 uses the first two elements (PHQ-2) as a gateway item for the longer PHQ-9. The assessor only administers the full PHQ-9 if the initial score on the PHQ-2 passes a threshold indicating possible depression. A patient/resident who did not show signs of depression in the PHQ-2 would not receive the seven additional elements contained in the PHQ-9. In the National Beta Test, the PHQ-2 to 9 was administered to 646 patients/residents in HHAs, 786 in IRFs, 496 in LTCHs, and 1,134 in SNFs (n = 3,062 overall).

Across settings, 38 percent of patients/residents reported having little interest in doing things and 43 percent reported feeling down, depressed, or hopeless at some point in the last 14 days. Among SNF residents, 35 percent reported having little interest in doing things, and 42 percent reported feeling down, depressed, or hopeless. For each of these two symptoms, about 1 in 10 SNF residents had experienced them nearly every day over the past 2 weeks.

More than one in four patients/residents (28 percent) across settings passed the PHQ-2 to 9 threshold based on one or both of these symptoms, and continued to complete the remaining seven data elements. This positive screen rate was similar in the SNF setting (27 percent). Detailed symptom endorsement and frequency for the PHQ-2 to 9 is shown in Appendix C, Table 3.1.1. The average PHQ-2-only score across settings was 2.4 (SD = 1.7), and 2.4 (SD = 1.7) in the SNF setting. The average full PHQ-9 score across settings was 11.9 (SD = 5.3), and the average score in the SNF setting was 11.5 (SD = 5.1). The PHQ-9 has thresholds to indicate the severity of probable depression.[102] Across settings, the largest groups of patients/residents screening positive on the PHQ-2 and continuing on to complete the full PHQ-9 were the mild (31 percent) and moderate (32 percent) severity groups. The same trend was noted in SNF, with most patients/residents being classified in the mild (33 percent) or moderate (34 percent) severity group. The mean scores and severity threshold proportions are shown in Table 3.1.1 of Appendix C.

Missing data: Overall, there were low rates of missing data for the PHQ-2 to 9. Across all settings, item-level missing data did not exceed 5.2 percent for any of the items. Similarly, in the SNF setting, item-level missing data did not exceed 6.9 percent for any of the items. Missing data rates, overall and in IRFs, were greatest for the moving and speaking slowly item. In general, the low rate of missing data indicates feasibility of administration.

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[99] Saliba & Buchanan, 2008b.

[100] Ibid.

[101] Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2013). *Analyses of data collected in CMS national nursing home time study used to establish RUG-IV model.* Retrieved from https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/SNFPPS/TimeStudy.html

[102] Kroenke, K., Spitzer, R., & Williams, J. (2001). The PHQ-9 validity of a brief depression severity measure. *Journal of General Internal Medicine, 16,* 606–613. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1495268/

Time to complete: Time to complete was examined among 428 assessments in HHAs, 515 in IRFs, 305 in LTCHs, and 479 in SNFs (n = 1,727 overall). Among patients/residents who only received the PHQ-2, time to complete was an average of 1.7 minutes (SD = 1.1). The average time to complete the PHQ-2 in the SNF setting was 1.7 minutes (SD = 1.1). Among patients receiving the full PHQ-9, the time to complete was an average of 4.0 minutes (SD = 1.2). In the SNF setting, the time to complete the PHQ-9 was 4.1 minutes on average (SD = 1.2). Without regard for PHQ-2 versus PHQ-9 stratification, the mood data elements took an average of 2.3 minutes (SD = 1.5) to complete across settings, and 2.3 minutes (SD = 1.5) in the SNF setting.

Interrater reliability: IRR was assessed for 196 patients/residents in HHAs, 254 in IRFs, 231 in LTCHs, and 267 in SNFs (n = 948 overall). IRR for all symptom presence and frequency items was excellent: kappas ranged from 0.95 to 1.00 for the four settings combined and from 0.94 to 1.00 in SNFs. IRR regarding eligibility for the full PHQ-9 based on PHQ-2 responses was nearly perfect: kappa for whether to continue from the PHQ-2 to the full PHQ-9 was 0.98 across settings and in SNFs. Finally, for patients/residents who received the full PHQ-9, the IRR for sum of symptom frequencies was nearly perfect (0.96 overall and 0.97 in SNFs).

Percent agreement was also nearly perfect, ranging from 97 percent to 100 percent overall and 96 percent to 100 percent in SNFs. For eligibility to complete the full PHQ-9, percent agreement was 99 percent across settings and in SNFs. For the sum of symptom frequencies, percent agreement was 95 percent across settings and 96 percent in SNFs. Please refer to Table 3.1.2 in Appendix C for kappa and percent agreement statistics for all PHQ items.

Section 3: Special Services, Treatments, and Interventions (Including Nutritional Approaches)

Some medical conditions require complex clinical care, consisting of special services, treatments, and interventions. The implementation of these interventions typically indicates conditions of a more serious nature and can be life-sustaining. Patients and residents who need them may have few clinical alternatives. Conditions requiring the use of special services, treatments, and interventions can have a profound effect on an individual's health status, self-image, and quality of life. Providers should be aware of the patient or resident's clinical needs to plan the provision of these important therapies, ensure the continued appropriateness of care, and support care transitions. The assessment of special services, treatments, and interventions may also help identify resource use intensity by capturing the medical complexity of patients/residents.

Standardized Data Elements to Assess for Special Services, Treatments, and Interventions

CMS has identified data elements for cross-setting standardization of assessment for special services, treatments, and interventions in the areas of cancer, respiratory, and other treatments, as well as nutritional approaches and high-risk medications.

1. Chemotherapy (IV, Oral, Other)
2. Radiation
3. Oxygen therapy (Intermittent, Continuous, High-concentration oxygen delivery system)
4. Suctioning (Scheduled, As needed)
5. Tracheostomy Care
6. Non-invasive mechanical ventilator (bilevel positive airway pressure [BiPAP]; continuous positive airway pressure [CPAP])
7. Invasive mechanical ventilator
8. IV medications (antibiotics, anticoagulation, vasoactive medications, other)
9. Transfusions
10. Dialysis (hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis)
11. IV access (peripheral IV, midline, central line)
12. Parenteral/IV feeding
13. Feeding tube
14. Mechanically altered diet
15. Therapeutic diet
16. High-risk drug classes: use and indication

Chemotherapy (IV, Oral, Other)

Chemotherapy is a type of cancer treatment that uses medications to destroy cancer cells. Receipt of this treatment indicates that a patient has a malignancy (cancer) and therefore has a serious, often life-threatening or life-limiting condition. Both IV and oral chemotherapy have serious side effects, including nausea/vomiting, extreme fatigue, risk of infection (due to a suppressed immune system), anemia, and an increased risk of bleeding (due to low platelet counts). Oral chemotherapy can be as potent as chemotherapy given by IV but can be significantly more convenient and less resource intensive to administer. Because of the toxicity of these agents, special care must be exercised in handling and transporting chemotherapy drugs. IV chemotherapy may be given by peripheral IV but is more commonly

given via an indwelling central line, which raises the risk of bloodstream infections. The need for chemotherapy predicts resource intensity, both because of the complexity of administering these potent, because of toxic drug combinations following specific protocols, and because of what the need for chemotherapy signals about the patient's underlying medical condition. Furthermore, the resource intensity of IV chemotherapy is higher than for oral chemotherapy, as the protocols for administration and the care of the central line (if present) require significant resources.

Relevance to SNFs

In one study using MDS data, approximately 1 in 10 nursing home residents were estimated to have a cancer affecting their health.[103] However, chemotherapy is not a common treatment for SNF residents. According to a RAND analysis of 2013 MDS data, 0.5 percent of SNF residents were receiving IV chemotherapy. Despite low prevalence of IV chemotherapy, this and other chemotherapy treatments are expensive and resource intensive. Therefore, the standardized assessment of whether the resident is receiving chemotherapy would provide important information for care planning, clinical decision making, and resource use in SNFs.

Data Elements for the Assessment of Special Services, Treatments, and Interventions: Chemotherapy

O0110. Special Treatments, Procedures, and Programs Check all of the following treatments, procedures, and programs that apply on admission.	**a.** **On Admission** **Check all that apply** ↓
Cancer Treatments	
A1. Chemotherapy	☐
A2. IV	☐
A3. Oral	☐
A10. Other	☐

Current use

Chemotherapy is currently assessed in the MDS. It first assesses whether the resident received chemotherapy while not a resident of the assessing facility and within the last 14 days, and then whether the resident has received chemotherapy while a resident and within the last 14 days while a resident. The MDS data element does not assess the route of chemotherapy.

[103] Johnson, V. M. P., Teno J. M., Bourbonniere, M., & Mor, V. (2005). Palliative care needs of cancer patients in U.S. nursing homes. *Journal of Palliative Medicine, 8*(2), 273–279.

Prior evidence supporting use of Chemotherapy (IV, Oral, Other)

An IV Chemotherapy data element was found to be feasible for cross-setting use in the PAC PRD.[104] In nursing homes, a checkbox for chemotherapy during the last 5 days was shown to have perfect agreement (100 percent) among rater pairs in the national MDS 3.0 test.[105]

Evidence supporting use of Chemotherapy (IV, Oral, Other) from the National Beta Test

Assessing Chemotherapy: One item assessed whether chemotherapy was performed during the assessment period. If indicated, three follow-up items assessed whether the chemotherapy was administered intravenously, orally, or by another route. In the National Beta Test, the data elements were administered to 629 patients/residents in HHAs, 762 in IRFs, 448 in LTCHs, and 1,087 in SNFs (n = 2,926 overall). Across settings, the overwhelming majority of patients/residents (99 percent) did not receive chemotherapy. In the SNF specifically, 1 percent had chemotherapy treatment noted. More-detailed rates of chemotherapy implementation across settings are shown in Appendix C, Table 4.1.1.

Missing data: Overall, rates of missing responses for the Chemotherapy items were very low. Across all settings, missingness did not exceed 0.7 percent for each of the four items. In the SNF setting, missingness was 0.9 percent for each of the four items. The low rate of missing data indicates feasibility of administration.

Time to complete: Time to complete was examined among 422 assessments in HHAs, 457 in IRFs, 244 in LTCHs, and 431 in SNFs (n = 1,554 overall). The average time to complete the Chemotherapy items was 0.22 minutes overall (SD = 0.1) and 0.21 minutes in the SNF setting (SD = 0.1).

Interrater reliability: The IRR was excellent for the Chemotherapy data element as measured by percent agreement of paired raters (n = 882 paired assessments across settings; n = 256 paired assessments in SNF). Kappas were not estimated for the Chemotherapy data element because the proportion of patients and residents receiving chemotherapy was out of range for stable kappa estimates. Percent agreement was perfect (100 percent) for all four chemotherapy items across settings and 99 to 100 percent in the SNF setting. Please refer to Table 4.1.2 in Appendix C for percent agreement statistics for the Chemotherapy items.

Radiation

Radiation is a type of cancer treatment that uses high-energy radiation to shrink tumors and kill cancer cells by damaging their DNA. However, it can also damage normal cells, leading to side effects such as fatigue, skin irritation or damage, hair loss, nausea, and delayed side effects such as fibrosis (scar tissue formation), damage to the bowels if radiation was delivered to the abdominal region, memory loss, and, infrequently, a second cancer due to radiation exposure. Radiation is a mainstay of cancer treatment; about half to two-thirds of all patients with cancer receive radiation therapy at some point in their treatment course.[106] The indications range from early-stage cancer treated with curative intent to palliative radiation therapy, such as to treat metastatic cancer; tumors that are pressing on the spine or growing within bones, causing severe pain; or shrinking a tumor near the esophagus, which can inhibit

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[104] Gage, B, Constantine, R, Aggarwal, J, Morley, M, Kurlantzick, VG, Bernard, S, …Ehrlich-Jones, L. The development and testing of the Continuity Assessment Record and Evaluation (CARE) item set: Final report on the development of the CARE item set. Volume 1 of 3. Research Triangle Park, NC: RTI International. 2012. Available at: https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Post-Acute-Care-Quality-Initiatives/Downloads/The-Development-and-Testing-of-the-Continuity-Assessment-Record-and-Evaluation-CARE-Item-Set-Final-Report-on-the-Development-of-the-CARE-Item-Set-Volume-1-of-3.pdf

[105] Saliba & Buchanan, 2008b.

[106] Yamada, Y. (2009). Principles of radiotherapy (pp. 73–80). In Stubblefield, Michael D. & W. O'Dell, Michael W. (Eds.), *Cancer rehabilitation: principles and practice.* New York, NY: Demos Medical Publishing.

National Cancer Institute. (2010). *Radiation therapy to treat cancer*. Retrieved from https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/treatment/types/radiation-therapy

swallowing. There are many types of radiation, such as external-beam radiation therapy, internal radiation therapy (brachytherapy that is delivered from sources placed inside or on the body), and systemic radiation therapy (in which the patient swallows or receives an injection of a radioactive substance).

Relevance to SNFs

Radiation is an important therapy for particular types of cancer. The resource utilization is high, with frequent radiation sessions required, often daily for several weeks. According to a RAND analysis of 2013 MDS data, 0.3 percent of SNF residents were receiving radiation treatment. Despite low prevalence of radiation treatment, assessment upon admission to a SNF is important for coordinating special services, equipment, and staff required to deliver a possible increase in the intensity and quantity of skilled nursing care. Receipt of radiation therapy typically indicates a higher level of resident acuity. Therefore, the standardized assessment of whether the resident is receiving radiation would provide important information for care planning, clinical decision making, and resource use in SNFs.

Data Element for the Assessment of Special Services, Treatments, and Interventions: Radiation

O0110 Special Treatments, Procedures, and Programs Check all of the following treatments, procedures, and programs that apply on admission.	**a.** **On Admission** **Check all that apply** ↓
Cancer Treatments	
B1. Radiation	☐

Current use

Radiation is currently assessed in the MDS. It first assesses whether the resident received radiation while not a resident of the assessing facility and within the last 14 days, and then whether the resident received radiation while a resident and within the last 14 days.

Prior evidence supporting use of Radiation

In nursing homes, a checkbox for radiation during the last 5 days was shown to have perfect agreement (100 percent) among rater pairs in the national MDS 3.0 test.[107]

Evidence supporting use of Radiation from the National Beta Test

Assessing Radiation: One item assessed whether radiation was performed during the assessment period. In the National Beta Test, the data element was administered to 629 patients/residents in HHAs, 762 in IRFs, 448 in LTCHs, and 1,087 in SNFs (n = 2,926 overall). Across settings, only three patients/residents (one in SNF, two in HHA; 0 percent after rounding) received radiation. Detailed radiation data are shown in Appendix C, Table 4.2.1.

Missing data: Overall, there were very low rates of missing responses for the Radiation item. Across all settings, missingness was 0.7 percent. Similarly, in the SNF setting, missingness was 0.5 percent. The low rate of missing data indicates feasibility of administration.

Time to complete: Time to complete was examined among 422 assessments in HHAs, 457 in IRFs, 244 in LTCHs, and 431 in SNFs (n = 1,554, overall). The average time to complete the Radiation item was 0.22 minutes overall (SD = 0.1) and 0.21 minutes in the SNF setting (SD = 0.1).

[107] Saliba & Buchanan, 2008b.

Interrater reliability: IRR was examined for 187 assessments in HHAs, 236 in IRFs, 203 in LTCHs, and 256 in SNFs (n = 882 overall). Kappas are not reported for the Radiation data element because its proportion was out of range for a stable kappa estimate. Percent agreement for the Radiation data element was perfect, both across settings and in the SNF specifically. Please refer to Table 4.2.2 in Appendix C for percent agreement statistics for the Radiation items.

Oxygen Therapy (Intermittent, Continuous, High-Concentration Oxygen Delivery System)

Oxygen therapy provides a patient/resident with supplemental oxygen when medical conditions (e.g., chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [COPD], pneumonia, severe asthma) prevent the patient or resident from adequately oxygenating their bloodstream. Oxygen administration is a resource-intensive intervention, as it requires specialized equipment: a reliable source of oxygen, various delivery systems (e.g., oxygen concentrator, liquid oxygen containers, and high-pressure systems), and the patient interface (e.g., nasal cannula, various types of masks). Accessories are also required (regulators, filters, tubing, etc.). The equipment is generally the same for both sub-elements of this data element (continuous vs. intermittent). The main differences between delivering oxygen intermittently versus continuously are the severity of the underlying illness (which often requires more hours per day of oxygen therapy) and the bedside nursing care to set up the oxygen delivery system if the patient is unable (whether physically or cognitively) to do so independently.

Relevance to SNFs

A large portion of SNF residents receive oxygen therapy; a RAND analysis of 2013 MDS data found that 23.1 percent of SNF residents were on oxygen therapy. Residents with community-acquired pneumonia are routinely discharged to SNFs to complete their recovery. SNFs also have a high proportion of residents with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), particularly those who have severe COPD. Taken together, this indicates an increased burden and nursing need in SNFs for caring with residents with oxygen and other respiratory needs. The standardized assessment of whether a resident is receiving oxygen therapy would provide important information for care planning, clinical decision making, care transitions, and resource use in SNFs.

Data Element for the Assessment of Special Services, Treatments, and Interventions: Oxygen Therapy

O0110. Special Treatments, Procedures, and Programs Check all of the following treatments, procedures, and programs that apply on admission.	**a.** **On Admission** **Check all that apply** ↓
Respiratory Therapies	
C1. Oxygen Therapy	☐
C2. Continuous	☐
C3. Intermittent	☐
C4. High-concentration	☐

Current use

Oxygen therapy is currently assessed in the MDS. It first assesses whether the resident received oxygen therapy while not a resident of the assessing facility and within the last 14 days, and then whether the resident has received oxygen therapy while a resident and within the last 14 days. The MDS data element does not assess the type of oxygen therapy.

Prior evidence supporting use of Oxygen Therapy (Continuous, Intermittent, High-Concentration Oxygen Delivery System)

A related data element on high-concentration oxygen use (FiO2 > 40 percent) was used and found feasible for cross-setting use in the PAC PRD.[108] In nursing homes, a checkbox for oxygen therapy during the last 5 days was shown to have reliability ranging from 0.93 to 0.96 (kappas) in the national MDS 3.0 test.[109]

Evidence supporting use of Oxygen Therapy from the National Beta Test

Assessing Oxygen Therapy: One item assessed whether oxygen therapy was performed during the assessment period. If indicated, three follow-up items assessed therapy type: intermittent, continuous, and use of a high-concentration delivery system. In the National Beta Test, the data element Oxygen Therapy (Intermittent, Continuous, High-Concentration Delivery System) was administered to 629 patients/residents in HHAs, 762 in IRFs, 448 in LTCHs, and 1,087 in SNFs (n = 2,926 overall). Across settings, one in five patients/residents (20 percent), received oxygen therapy. In the SNF setting, about one in six residents (16 percent) received oxygen therapy.

Across settings, the most common type of oxygen therapy was intermittent therapy (14 percent). Only 6 percent of patients/residents had continuous therapy, and 1 percent of patients/residents had a high-concentration delivery system, respectively. This pattern was similar in the SNF setting, where intermittent therapy was the most common (11 percent). Continuous therapy (5 percent) and high-concentration delivery (0 percent) were less common. Detailed oxygen therapy implementation data are shown in Appendix C, Table 4.3.1.

Missing data: Overall, there were very low rates of missing responses for the Oxygen Therapy items. Across all settings, missingness was less than 0.9 percent. Similarly, in the SNF setting specifically, missingness was less than 0.9 percent. The low rate of missing data indicates feasibility of administration.

Time to complete: Time to complete was examined among 422 assessments in HHAs, 457 in IRFs, 244 in LTCHs, and 431 in SNFs (n = 1,554, overall). The average time to complete the Oxygen Therapy data element was 0.22 minutes overall (SD = 0.1). The average time to complete the data element in the SNF setting was 0.21 minutes (SD = 0.1).

Interrater reliability: IRR was examined for 187 assessments in HHAs, 236 in IRFs, 203 in LTCHs, and 256 in SNFs (n = 882 overall). Across settings, the kappa for implementation of oxygen therapy was substantial/good overall (0.82) and slightly lower in the SNF setting (0.71). The kappa for the intermittent therapy sub-element was 0.81 overall and 0.75 in the SNF setting, and the kappa for the continuous therapy sub-element was 0.55 overall. Kappas are not reported for the Continuous Therapy sub-element in SNF, and High Concentration Therapy sub-element overall and in SNF because the proportions with these were out of range for a stable kappa estimate. Percent agreement for the data element was excellent/almost perfect. Across settings, percent agreement ranged from 93 to 99 percent. Percent agreement in the SNF setting was also excellent/almost perfect, ranging from 91 to 100 percent.

[108] Gage, Constantine, et al., 2012.

[109] Saliba & Buchanan, 2008b.

Please refer to Table 4.3.2 in Appendix C for kappa and percent agreement statistics for all Oxygen Therapy items.

Suctioning (Scheduled, As Needed)

Suctioning is used to clear secretions from the airway when a person cannot clear those secretions on his or her own for a variety of reasons, including excess production of secretions from a pulmonary infectious process or neurological deficits that inhibit the ability to cough, swallow, and so on. Suction is done by aspirating secretions through a catheter connected to a suction source.

Types of suctioning include oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal suctioning; nasotracheal suctioning; and suctioning through an artificial airway, such as a tracheostomy tube. Oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal suctioning are a key part of many patients' care plans, both to prevent the accumulation of secretions that can lead to aspiration pneumonias (a common condition in patients and residents with inadequate gag reflexes) and to relieve obstructions from mucus plugging during an acute or chronic respiratory infection, which often lead to desaturations and increased respiratory effort. Suctioning can be done on a scheduled basis, if the patient is judged to clinically benefit from regular interventions, or can be done as needed, such as when secretions become so prominent that gurgling or choking is noted, or a sudden desaturation occurs from a mucus plug. As suctioning is generally performed by a care provider rather than independently, this intervention can be quite resource intensive if it occurs every hour, for example, rather than once a shift. It also signifies an underlying medical condition that prevents patients/residents from clearing their secretions effectively, which also means they need increased nursing care more generally (such as after a stroke or during an acute respiratory infection).

Relevance to SNFs

A RAND analysis of 2013 MDS data found that 1.3 percent of SNF residents received suctioning. Suctioning is necessary to improve patient comfort, improve oxygenation, relieve mucus obstructions during respiratory infections, and prevent aspiration pneumonias. Pneumonia itself is also a cause of excess secretions, which is a concern in the SNF setting: the attack rate for pneumonia is highest among those in nursing homes.[110] One study found that 33 of 1,000 nursing home residents per year required hospitalization for treatment of pneumonia, compared with 1.14 of 1,000 elderly adults per year living in the community.[111] The standardized assessment of whether suctioning is being performed for a resident would provide important information for care planning, clinical decision making, care transitions, and resource use in SNFs.

[110] U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, U.S. Department of Defense, & U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (2013). Chapter 8: Long-term care facilities (pp. 194–239). *National Action Plan to Prevent Health Care-Associated Infections: Road Map to Elimination.* Retrieved from https://health.gov/hcq/pdfs/hai-action-plan-ltcf.pdf

[111] Marrie TJ. Epidemiology of community-acquired pneumonia in the elderly. *Seminars in Respiratory Infections* 1990; 5:260–8.

Data Element for the Assessment of Special Services, Treatments, and Interventions: Suctioning

O0110. Special Treatments, Procedures, and Programs Check all of the following treatments, procedures, and programs that apply on admission.	**a.** **On Admission** **Check all that apply** ↓
Respiratory Therapies	
D1. Suctioning	☐
D2. Scheduled	☐
D3. As Needed	☐

Current use

Suctioning is currently assessed in the MDS. It first assesses whether the resident received suctioning while not a resident of the assessing facility and within the last 14 days, and then whether the resident received suctioning while a resident and within the last 14 days. The MDS data element does not assess whether the suctioning is scheduled or as needed.

Prior evidence supporting use of Suctioning (Scheduled, As Needed)

In the PAC PRD, suctioning was assessed as part of the Trach Tube with Suctioning data element, which evaluated whether patients or residents had a tracheostomy tube or needed suctioning. This related data element was found feasible for cross-setting use in the PAC PRD.[112] In nursing homes, a checkbox for suctioning during the last 5 days was shown to have perfect agreement (100 percent) among rater pairs in the national MDS 3.0 test.[113]

Evidence supporting use of Suctioning (Scheduled, As Needed) from the National Beta Test

Assessing Suctioning: One item assessed whether suctioning was provided during the assessment period. If indicated, two follow-up items assessed therapy type: scheduled or as needed. In the National Beta Test, the data element Suctioning (Scheduled, As Needed) was administered to 629 patients/residents in HHAs, 762 in IRFs, 448 in LTCHs, and 1,087s in SNFs (n = 2,926 overall).

Across settings, most patients/residents (99 percent) did not have suctioning noted, and those that did noted "as needed" suctioning (1 percent). In SNFs, 1 percent of residents had suctioning noted, also most often noted "as needed" (1 percent). Detailed suctioning findings are shown in Appendix C, Table 4.4.1.

Missing data: Overall, there were very low rates of missing responses for the Suctioning items. Across all settings, missingness was less than 0.9 percent. In the SNF setting specifically, missingness for any Suctioning item was less than 0.9 percent. The low rate of missing data indicates feasibility of administration.

Time to complete: Time to complete was examined among 422 assessments in HHAs, 457 in IRFs, 244 in LTCHs, and 431 in SNFs (n = 1,554 overall). The average time to complete the Suctioning items was 0.22 minutes overall (SD = 0.1) and 0.21 minutes in the SNF setting (SD = 0.1).

[112] Gage, Constantine, et al., 2012.
[113] Saliba & Buchanan, 2008b.

Interrater reliability: IRR was examined for 187 assessments in HHAs, 236 in IRFs, 203 in LTCHs, and 256 in SNFs (n = 882 overall). The IRR was excellent for the Suctioning data element, as measured by percent agreement of paired raters. Kappas were not estimated for the Suctioning data element because the proportion of patients and residents receiving suctioning was out of range for stable kappa estimates. Percent agreement for the data elements ranged from 98 to 99 percent across settings and 96 to 99 percent in the SNF setting. Please refer to Table 4.4.2 in Appendix C for kappa and percent agreement statistics for all suctioning items.

Tracheostomy Care

A tracheotomy is a surgical procedure that consists of making a direct airway opening (tracheostomy) into the trachea (windpipe). Tracheostomies are created primarily to bypass an obstructed upper airway; in chronic cases, to enable the removal of secretions from the airway; and to deliver oxygen to the patient's lungs. For example, some indications for tracheostomy include a need for long-term ventilation (such as those in a persistent vegetative state or those who require long-term ventilator weaning but are alert and oriented); tumors of the upper airway; severe neck, mouth, or chest wall injuries; degenerative neuromuscular diseases such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS); spinal cord injuries; and airway burns. Generally, suctioning is necessary to ensure that the tracheostomy is clear of secretions, which can inhibit successful oxygenation. Often, individuals with tracheostomies also receive supplemental oxygenation. The presence of a tracheostomy, permanent or temporary, warrants careful monitoring and immediate intervention if the tracheostomy becomes occluded or, in the case of a temporary tracheostomy, if the devices used become dislodged.

For patients/residents with a tracheostomy, tracheostomy care, which primarily consists of cleaning, dressing changes, and replacement of the tracheostomy cannula (tube), is a critical part of their care plans. Regular cleaning is important to prevent infection, such as pneumonia, and to prevent any occlusions, which create the risk of inadequate oxygenation. Although in rare cases, the presence of a tracheostomy is not associated with increased care demands (and in some of those instances, the care of the tracheostomy is performed by the patient), in general, the presence of such a device is associated with increased patient risk, and clinical care services will necessarily include close monitoring to ensure that no life-threatening events occur because of the tracheostomy.

Relevance to SNFs

Although only 1.3 percent of SNF residents received tracheostomy care,[114] maintenance and support of tracheostomies require increased resources, as above with suctioning, among other things. Residents with tracheostomies are at relatively high risk of hospital acquired infections or other complications, and require close monitoring to ensure that their tracheostomy is patent, enabling the resident to breathe or be mechanically ventilated through the tracheostomy. The standardized assessment of whether tracheostomy care is being performed for a resident would provide important information for care planning, clinical decision making, care transitions, and resource use in SNFs.

[114] A RAND analysis of 2013 MDS data.

Data Element for the Assessment of Special Services, Treatments, and Interventions: Tracheostomy Care

O0110. Special Treatments, Procedures, and Programs Check all of the following treatments, procedures, and programs that apply on admission.	**a.** **On Admission** **Check all that apply** ↓
Respiratory Therapies	
E1. Tracheostomy care	☐

Current use

Tracheostomy care is currently assessed in the MDS. The data element first assesses whether the resident received tracheostomy care while not a resident of the assessing facility and within the last 14 days, and then assesses whether the resident received tracheostomy care while a resident and within the last 14 days.

Prior evidence supporting use of Tracheostomy Care

In nursing homes, a checkbox for tracheostomy care during the last 5 days was shown to have perfect agreement (100 percent) among rater pairs in the national MDS 3.0 test.[115]

Evidence supporting use of Tracheostomy Care from the National Beta Test

Assessing Tracheostomy Care: One item assessed whether tracheostomy care was performed during the assessment period. In the National Beta Test, the data element was administered to 629 patients/residents in HHA settings, 762 in IRFs, 448 in LTCHs, and 1,087 in SNFs (n = 2,926 overall). Across settings, 1 percent of patients received tracheostomy care. In the SNF setting specifically, tracheostomy care was noted for only three residents (0 percent after rounding). Detailed tracheostomy care findings across settings are shown in Appendix C, Table 4.5.1.

Missing data: Overall, there were very low rates of missing responses for the Tracheostomy Care item. Across all settings, missingness was 1.2 percent. Similarly, in the SNF setting, missingness was 1.1 percent. The low rate of missing data indicates feasibility of administration.

Time to complete: Time to complete was examined among 422 assessments in HHAs, 457 in IRFs, 244 in LTCHs, and 431 in SNFs (n = 1,554 overall). The average time to complete the Tracheostomy Care item was 0.22 minutes overall (SD = 0.1) and 0.21 minutes in the SNF setting (SD = 0.1).

Interrater reliability: IRR was examined for 187 assessments in HHAs, 236 in IRFs, 203 in LTCHs, and 256 in SNFs (n = 882 overall). The IRR was excellent for the Tracheostomy Care data element, as measured by percent agreement of paired raters. The kappa was not estimated for the Tracheostomy Care data element because the proportion of patients and residents receiving tracheostomy care was out of range for a stable kappa estimate. Percent agreement for the data element was 100 percent across settings and in the SNF setting. Please refer to Table 4.5.2 in Appendix C for percent agreement statistics for the Tracheostomy Care item.

[115] Saliba, & Buchanan, 2008b.

Non-invasive Mechanical Ventilation (Bilevel Positive Airway Pressure [BiPAP], Continuous Positive Airway Pressure [CPAP])

BiPAP and CPAP are respiratory support devices that prevent the airways from closing by delivering slightly pressurized air through a mask continuously or via electronic cycling throughout the breathing cycle. A BiPAP/CPAP mask supports breathing by providing positive airway pressure that prevents airways from collapsing during the respiratory cycle. Non-invasive mechanical ventilation differs from invasive mechanical ventilation because the interface with the patient is a mask rather than an endotracheal tube in the windpipe. BiPAP and CPAP have a variety of clinical indications, from obstructive sleep apnea, to acute respiratory infections, to progressive neuromuscular decline leading to respiratory failure. The key difference between BiPAP and CPAP is that BiPAP, as the name implies, delivers two different pressure levels (a higher pressure to support inhalation and a lower pressure to prevent the airways from collapsing during exhalation), whereas CPAP delivers the same amount of positive airway pressure throughout the breathing cycle. These interventions signify underlying medical conditions in the patient who requires their use.

Relevance to SNFs

A RAND analysis of 2013 MDS data found that 2.8 percent of SNF residents received non-invasive mechanical ventilation (BiPAP/CPAP). However, there is a trend of increased mechanical ventilation use in SNFs. One projection estimates that discharges to SNF for residents on mechanical ventilation can be expected to rise from 91,000 in 2000 to nearly 220,000 by 2020.[116] A study of Medicare patients who were hospitalized for acute respiratory failure found that 23 percent were discharged into a nursing home or SNF.[117] In fact, SNFs also may be a better setting for weaning from mechanical ventilation. A study on 1,127 residents in seven Florida locations found that "a number of [residents] can be weaned from mechanical ventilation via tracheostomy in Skilled Nursing Facilities even when these [residents] were deemed unweanable in the acute care and/or LTACs [Long-Term Acute Care hospitals]."[118] The standardized assessment of Non-Invasive Mechanical Ventilation, including BiPAP and CPAP, would provide important information for care planning, care transitions, and resource use in SNFs.

[116] Zilberberg, M., & Shorr, A. F. (2008). Prolonged acute mechanical ventilation and hospital bed utilization in 2020 in the United States: implications for budgets, plan and personnel planning. *BMC Health Services Research, 8,* 242. https://doi.org/10.1186/1472-6963-8-242

[117] Hajizadeh, N., Goldfeld, K., & Crothers, K. A. (2014). What happens to advanced stage COPD patients who get intubated for CPD exacerbation? A one-year retrospective follow up study of Medicare beneficiaries using CMS data. Poster presented at the American Thoracic Society 2014 International Conference, San Diego, CA. American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine 189: A1617. https://www.atsjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1164/ajrccm-conference.2014.189.1_MeetingAbstracts.A1617

[118] Ferrer, G., Vallejo, I., & Casper, M (2016). Weaning from mechanical ventilation in skilled nursing facility: a multicenter study. *CHEST, 149*(4 S), A536. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chest.2016.02.559

Data Element for the Assessment of Special Services, Treatments, and Interventions: Non-invasive Mechanical Ventilation

O0110. Special Treatments, Procedures, and Programs Check all of the following treatments, procedures, and programs that apply on admission.	**a.** **On Admission** **Check all that apply** ↓
Respiratory Therapies	
G1. Non-Invasive Mechanical Ventilator	☐
G2. BiPAP	☐
G3. CPAP	☐

Current use

Non-invasive mechanical ventilation is currently assessed in the LCDS and the MDS. The LCDS uses a checklist format, including an item asking whether the patient has non-invasive ventilator (BiPAP, CPAP) treatment at admission. The MDS first assesses whether the resident received non-invasive mechanical ventilation while not a resident of the assessing facility and within the last 14 days, and then whether the resident received non-invasive mechanical ventilation while a resident and within the last 14 days. The LCDS and MDS data elements do not assess whether the non-invasive mechanical ventilation is BiPAP or CPAP.

Prior evidence supporting use of Non-invasive Mechanical Ventilation (BiPAP, CPAP)

A checkbox item for non-invasive ventilation (CPAP) was tested in the PAC PRD and was found to be feasible for cross-setting use.[119]

Evidence supporting use of Non-invasive Mechanical Ventilation (BiPAP, CPAP) from the National Beta Test

Assessing Non-invasive Mechanical Ventilation: One item assessed whether a non-invasive mechanical ventilator was noted during the assessment period. If indicated, two follow-up items assessed whether this non-invasive mechanical ventilator was BiPAP or CPAP. In the National Beta Test, the data element was administered to 629 patients/residents in HHAs, 762 in IRFs, 448 in LTCHs, and 1,087 in SNFs (n = 2,926 overall). Across settings overall, 5 percent of assessments noted use of a non-invasive mechanical ventilator. In the SNF setting specifically, a non-invasive mechanical ventilator was noted for 4 percent of residents. With regard to specific non-invasive mechanical ventilator, 2 percent of assessments across settings noted BiPAP and 3 percent noted CPAP. In SNFs specifically, CPAP was 3 percent and BiPAP was 1 percent. Detailed findings regarding non-invasive mechanical ventilators are shown in Appendix C, Table 4.7.1.

Missing data: Overall, there were very low rates of missing responses for the Non-invasive Mechanical Ventilator items. Across all settings, missingness did not exceed 1.2 percent. In the SNF setting specifically, missingness did not exceed 1.1 percent. The low rate of missing data indicates feasibility of administration.

[119] Gage, Constantine, et al., 2012.

Time to complete: Time to complete was examined among 422 assessments in HHAs, 457 in IRFs, 244 in LTCHs, and 431 in SNFs (n = 1,554 overall). The average time to complete the Non-invasive Mechanical Ventilator items was 0.22 minutes overall (SD = 0.1) and 0.21 minutes in the SNF setting (SD = 0.1).

Interrater reliability: IRR was examined for 187 assessments in HHAs, 236 in IRFs, 203 in LTCHs, and 256 in SNFs (n = 882 overall). Most kappas for the Non-invasive Mechanical Ventilator items are not reported because their proportions were out of range for stable kappa estimates. Percent agreement for the data elements ranged from 97 to 98 percent across settings and from 98 to 100 percent in the SNF setting. Please refer to Table 4.7.2 in Appendix C for percent agreement statistics for all Non-invasive Mechanical Ventilator items across settings.

Invasive Mechanical Ventilator

Invasive mechanical ventilator includes any type of electrically or pneumatically powered closed-system mechanical support devices to ensure adequate ventilation of patients who are unable to support their own respiration. Patients/residents receiving closed-system ventilation include those receiving ventilation via a tracheostomy and patients/residents with an endotracheal tube (i.e., nasally or orally intubated). Depending on the patient/resident's underlying diagnosis, clinical condition, and prognosis, the patient may not be a candidate for weaning off the ventilator. For instance, certain medical conditions such as lung infections are expected to improve or resolve to a point where patients can support their own respiration, whereas chronic neurodegenerative diseases are likely to progress over time and therefore preclude patients from weaning and eventually having the tube removed.

Ventilation in this manner is a resource-intensive therapy associated with life-threatening conditions in which the patient would not survive without invasive ventilation. However, ventilator use has inherent risks requiring close monitoring, and failure to adequately care for ventilator-dependent patients can lead to death, pneumonia, sepsis, and other iatrogenic events. Mechanical ventilation further signifies the complexity of the patient's underlying medical and/or surgical condition.

Relevance to SNFs

Although invasive mechanical ventilation is not common in the SNF setting, with less than 1 percent of residents on ventilator or respirator,[120] invasive mechanical ventilation is resource intensive and can indicate the complexity of the resident's underlying medical condition. The standardized assessment of whether the resident is on invasive mechanical ventilation would provide important information for care planning, clinical decision making, care transitions, and resource use in SNFs.

Data Element for the Assessment of Special Services, Treatments, and Interventions: Invasive Mechanical Ventilator

O0110. Special Treatments, Procedures, and Programs Check all of the following treatments, procedures, and programs that apply on admission.	**a.** **On Admission** **Check all that apply** ↓
Respiratory Therapies	
F1. Invasive Mechanical Ventilator (ventilator or respirator)	☐

[120] RAND analysis of 2013 MDS data.

Current use

Invasive mechanical ventilator use is currently assessed in the LCDS and MDS. The MDS first assesses whether the resident received invasive mechanical ventilation while not a resident of the assessing facility and within the last 14 days, and then whether the resident received invasive mechanical ventilation while a resident and within the last 14 days. The LCDS includes an item that assesses use and type of invasive mechanical ventilator support (e.g., weaning or non-weaning).

Prior evidence supporting use of Invasive Mechanical Ventilator

Checkbox items for ventilator (weaning and non-weaning) were tested in the PAC PRD and were found to be feasible for cross-setting use.[121] A version of the item was tested in the MDS 3.0 National Evaluation Study and had perfect agreement (100 percent).[122]

Evidence supporting use of Invasive Mechanical Ventilator from the National Beta Test

Assessing Invasive Mechanical Ventilator: One item assessed whether an invasive mechanical ventilator was noted during the assessment period. In the National Beta Test, the data element was administered to 629 patients/residents in HHAs, 762 in IRFs, 448 in LTCHs, and 1,087 in SNFs (n = 2,926 overall). Across settings overall, only 13 assessments (0 percent after rounding) noted use of an invasive mechanical ventilator. In SNF, no residents had invasive mechanical ventilator noted. Detailed invasive mechanical ventilator findings across settings are shown in Appendix C, Table 4.6.1.

Missing data: Overall, there were very low rates of missing responses for the Invasive Mechanical Ventilator item. Across all settings, missingness was 1.2 percent for the item. In the SNF setting specifically, missingness was 1.1 percent. The low rate of missing data indicates feasibility of administration.

Time to complete: Time to complete was examined among 422 assessments in HHAs, 457 in IRFs, 244 in LTCHs, and 431 in SNFs (n = 1,554 overall). The average time to complete the Invasive Mechanical Ventilator item was 0.22 minutes overall (SD = 0.1) and 0.25 minutes in the SNF setting (SD = 0.1).

Interrater reliability: IRR was examined for 187 assessments in HHAs, 236 in IRFs, 203 in LTCHs, and 256 in SNFs (n = 882 overall). The IRR was excellent for the Invasive Mechanical Ventilator data element, as measured by percent agreement of paired raters. The kappa was not estimated for the Invasive Mechanical Ventilator data element because the proportion was out of range for a stable kappa estimate. Percent agreement for the data element was 100 percent across settings and in the SNF setting. Please refer to Table 4.6.2 in Appendix C for percent agreement statistics for the Invasive Mechanical Ventilator item across all settings.

IV Medications (Antibiotics, Anticoagulation, Vasoactive Medications, Other)

IV medications are drugs or biologics that are administered via intravenous push (bolus), single, intermittent, or continuous infusion through a tube placed into the vein, including one that allows the fluids to enter the circulation through one of the larger heart vessels or more peripherally through a vein, e.g., commonly referred to as central midline, or peripheral ports.

This data element is important to collect, as IV medications are more resource intensive to administer than oral medications and signify a higher patient complexity (and often higher severity of illness). The clinical indications for each of the subtypes of IV medications (antibiotics, anticoagulants, vasoactive, and other) are very different. IV antibiotics are used for severe infections when (1) the bioavailability of the oral form of the medication would be inadequate to kill the pathogen, (2) an oral form of the medication does not exist, or (3) the patient is unable to take the medication by mouth.

[121] Gage, Constantine, et al., 2012.

[122] Saliba, & Buchanan, 2008b.

Because of growing concern about antimicrobial resistance, antibiotic stewardship initiatives are aimed at increasing evidence-based antibiotic prescribing and decreasing antibiotic overuse. Although data on which antibiotics are used would not be collected, collecting data on the use of IV antibiotics overall in the four PAC settings would assist with monitoring the implementation of evidence-based prescribing guidelines moving forward.

IV anticoagulants refer to anti-clotting medications ("blood thinners") often used for the prevention and treatment of deep vein thrombosis and other thromboembolic complications. IV anticoagulants are commonly used in patients/residents with limited mobility (either chronically or acutely, in the post-operative setting), who are therefore at risk of deep vein thrombosis, or patients/residents with certain cardiac arrhythmias, such as atrial fibrillation. When a patient/resident is on an IV anticoagulant, they require frequent monitoring of laboratory values to ensure appropriate anticoagulation status.

Vasoactive medications affect blood pressure and/or heart rate by causing dilation or constricting of the blood vessels. Vasoactive medications are used to treat septic shock, cardiac arrest, and other cardiac function issues. Continuous infusions of vasoactive medications require close observation of the patient, including constant monitoring of blood pressure and heart rate, in order to respond quickly to any changes.

Relevance to SNFs

A RAND analysis of 2013 MDS data found that 7.9 percent of SNF residents received IV medications. The indications, risks, and benefits of each of these classes of IV medications are distinct, making it important to assess each separately in PAC; knowing not only whether or not residents are receiving IV medication but also the type of medication will be helpful in the SNF setting. The standardized assessment of IV medications, including the type of medications, would provide important information for care planning, clinical decision making, patient safety, care transitions, and resource use in SNFs.

Data Element for the Assessment of Special Services, Treatments, and Interventions: IV Medications

O0110. Special Treatments, Procedures, and Programs Check all of the following treatments, procedures, and programs that apply on admission.	**a.** **On Admission** **Check all that apply** ↓
Other	
H1. IV Medications	☐
H2. Vasoactive medications	☐
H3. Antibiotics	☐
H4. Anticoagulation	☐
H10. Other	☐

Current use

The item IV Medications is currently assessed in the LCDS and MDS. The LCDS uses a checklist format, including an item at admission asking whether the patient is receiving any IV medications. The MDS first assesses whether the resident received IV medications while not a resident of the assessing facility and within the last 14 days, and then whether the resident received IV medications while a resident and within the last 14 days. The MDS data element does not assess the type of IV medications.

Prior evidence supporting use of IV Medications

A similar but more focused data element, IV Vasoactive Medications, was tested in the PAC PRD and found to be feasible across PAC settings. This data element was specific to the IV administration of vasoactive drugs (e.g., pressors, dilators, continuous medication for pulmonary edema) that increase or decrease blood pressure and/or heart rate.

In nursing homes, a checkbox for IV medications during the last 5 days was shown to have reliability of 0.95 (kappa) in the national MDS 3.0 test.[123]

Evidence supporting use of IV Medications from the National Beta Test

Assessing IV Medications: One item assessed whether IV medications were noted during the assessment period. If indicated, three follow-up items assessed specific types of IV medications (antibiotics, anticoagulation, or other). In the National Beta Test, the data element was administered to 629 patients/residents in HHAs, 762 in IRFs, 448 in LTCHs, and 1,087 in SNFs (n = 2,926 overall).

Across settings, one in four assessments (25 percent) had IV medications noted. For specific types of IV medication, 16 percent had antibiotics noted, 8 percent had anticoagulation noted, and 7 percent had other IV medications noted. In SNF specifically, about one in six patients/residents (16 percent) had IV medications noted. For the specific types of IV medication, 9percent had antibiotics noted, 6 percent had anticoagulation noted, and 4 percent had other IV medications noted. Detailed IV medications findings across settings are shown in Appendix C, Table 4.8.1.

Missing data: Overall, there were very low rates of missing responses for the IV Medications items. Across all settings, missingness was less than 0.9 percent. In the SNF setting, missingness for the IV Medication items did not exceed 1.1 percent. The low rate of missing data indicates feasibility of administration.

Time to complete: Time to complete was examined among 422 assessments in HHAs, 457 in IRFs, 244 in LTCHs, and 431 in SNFs (n = 1,554, overall). The average time to complete the IV Medications items was 0.22 minutes overall (SD = 0.1) and 0.21 minutes in the SNF setting (SD = 0.1).

Interrater reliability: IRR was examined for 187 assessments in HHAs, 236 in IRFs, 203 in LTCHs, and 256 in SNFs (n = 882 overall). With the exception of the anticoagulation sub-element, the IRRs were fair to good for the IV Medications data elements, as measured by kappa and percent agreement of paired raters. The kappa for the overarching IV Medications data element was 0.70 across settings and 0.52 in the SNF setting. The kappa for the Antibiotics sub-element was 0.88 across settings and 0.78 in the SNF setting. The kappa for the Anticoagulation sub-element was 0.13 across settings, placing it in the "slight/poor" range. Consultation with assessors suggested that this low kappa was likely caused by inconsistent interpretation of the coding instructions, which will be improved in the future with more-comprehensive guidance. The kappa for the Other sub-element was 0.46 across settings. Kappa was not estimated for the Anticoagulation and Other data elements among SNF residents because the proportions were out of range for stable kappa estimates. Percent agreement for the data element ranged from 88 to 96 percent across settings and from 87 to 96 percent in the SNF setting. Please refer to Table 4.8.2 in Appendix C for IRR statistics for all IV Medications items.

[123] Saliba, & Buchanan, 2008b.

Transfusions

Transfusions are the administration of blood or blood products (e.g., platelets, synthetic blood products) into the bloodstream. Blood transfusions are highly protocolized, with multiple safety checks and monitoring required during and after the infusion to avoid adverse events. Coordination with the facility's blood bank is necessary, as well as documentation by clinical staff to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. In addition, the need for transfusions signifies underlying patient complexity that is likely to require additional nursing staff and care coordination, and affects planning for transitions of care, as transfusions are not performed in all PAC settings. Receipt of transfusions is also important to assess for case mix adjustment because of the need for added resources and to the extent that receipt of transfusions indicates a more medically complex patient.

Relevance to SNFs

One study found that 3.5 percent of residents had received a blood transfusion sometime during their stay at a SNF.[124] Knowing about prior transfusions is important for management as well, as transfusions require close monitoring because of the possibility of infection or complications. Transfusions are resource intensive, requiring coordination among the blood bank and bedside care staff, and close monitoring is necessary to prevent adverse reactions, which may range from mild to severe. The standardized assessment of whether the resident requires transfusions would provide important information for care planning, clinical decision making, patient safety, care transitions, and resource use in SNFs.

Data Element for the Assessment of Special Services, Treatments, and Interventions: Transfusions

O0110. Special Treatments, Procedures, and Programs Check all of the following treatments, procedures, and programs that apply on admission.	**a.** **On Admission** **Check all that apply** ↓
Other	
I1. Transfusions	☐

Current use

Transfusions are currently assessed in the MDS. It first assesses whether the resident received transfusions while not a resident of the assessing facility and within the last 14 days, and then whether the resident received transfusions while a resident and within the last 14 days.

Prior evidence supporting use of Transfusions

In nursing homes, a checkbox for transfusions in the past 5 days was shown to have reliability of 0.67 (kappa) in the national MDS 3.0 test.[125]

Evidence supporting use of Transfusions from the National Beta Test

Assessing Transfusions: One item assessed whether transfusions were performed during the assessment period. In the National Beta Test, the data element was administered to 629 patients/residents in HHAs, 762 in IRFs, 448 in LTCHs, and 1,087 in SNFs (n = 2,926 overall). Across settings, only 14

[124] Rogers, M. A. M., Blumberg, N., Heal, J. M., Langa, K. M. (2011). Utilization of blood transfusion among older adults in the United States. Transfusion, 51(4), 710–718. http://doi.org/10.1111/j.1537-2995.2010.02937.x

[125] Saliba, & Buchanan, 2008b.

patient/resident assessments (0 percent after rounding) noted transfusions. No residents in SNF had transfusions noted. Detailed transfusion findings across settings are shown in Appendix C, Table 4.9.1.

Missing data: Overall, there were very low rates of missing responses for the Transfusions item. Across all settings, missingness was 1.0 percent for the item. In the SNF setting specifically, missingness was 1.1 percent. The low rate of missing data indicates feasibility of administration.

Time to complete: Time to complete was examined among 422 assessments in HHAs, 457 in IRFs, 244 in LTCHs, and 431 in SNFs (n = 1,554, overall). The average time to complete the Transfusion item was 0.22 minutes overall (SD = 0.1) and 0.21 minutes in the SNF setting (SD = 0.1).

Interrater reliability: IRR was examined for 187 assessments in HHAs, 236 in IRFs, 203 in LTCHs, and 256 in SNFs (n = 882 overall). Kappas are not reported for the Transfusions data element because the proportion was out of range for a stable kappa estimate. Percent agreement for the Transfusions data element was perfect overall and in the SNF specifically (100 percent). Please refer to Table 4.9.2 in Appendix C for setting-specific percent agreement statistics for the Transfusion item.

Dialysis (Hemodialysis, Peritoneal dialysis)

Dialysis is used primarily in the case of end-stage kidney failure. It is a process by which waste, salt, and excess water are removed from the body and key electrolytes such as sodium, potassium, and bicarbonate are maintained at a safe level. Hemodialysis is conducted using an artificial kidney, an external hemodialyzer, which filters the blood. During peritoneal dialysis, the dialysate is injected into the peritoneal (abdominal) cavity, excess fluid and waste products are drawn out of the blood and into the dialysate, and the fluid is then drained. Hemodialysis sessions are typically performed three times a week and last up to 4 hours each. Peritoneal dialysis can be performed continuously overnight or intermittently during the day.

Both forms of dialysis (hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis) are resource intensive, not only during the actual dialysis process but before, during, and after. Patients/residents who need and undergo dialysis procedures are at high risk for physiologic and hemodynamic instability from fluid shifts and electrolyte disturbances, as well as infections that can lead to sepsis. Further, patients/residents receiving hemodialysis are often transported to a different facility, or, at a minimum, to a different part of the facility if the SNF is adjacent to a dialysis center or provides dialysis services on site. Close monitoring for fluid shifts, blood pressure abnormalities, and other adverse effects is required before, during, and after each dialysis session. Nursing staff typically perform peritoneal dialysis at the bedside, and, as with hemodialysis, close monitoring is required.

Relevance to SNFs

Currently, the MDS gathers information about dialysis, but it does not distinguish between the types of dialysis. According to a RAND analysis of 2013 MDS data, 3.0 percent of SNF residents received dialysis.[126] Each type of dialysis (i.e., hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis) has advantages and disadvantages: peritoneal dialysis (PD) can be done overnight, allowing the residents to spend their days in other activities rather than traveling for hemodialysis, and it offers cost savings (about $20,000 lower per year), though both kinds are covered by Medicare. It is important to track residents who receive this service because they are at risk for infection, and likely have chronic diseases that will require ongoing care. The standardized assessment of Dialysis (Hemodialysis, Peritoneal dialysis) would provide important information for care planning, clinical decision making, patient safety, care transitions, and resource use in SNFs.

[126] RAND analysis of 2013 MDS data.

Data Element for the Assessment of Special Services, Treatments, and Interventions: Dialysis

O0110. Special Treatments, Procedures, and Programs Check all of the following treatments, procedures, and programs that apply on admission.	**a.** **On Admission** **Check all that apply** ↓
Other	
J1. Dialysis	☐
J2. Hemodialysis	☐
J3. Peritoneal dialysis	☐

Current use

The data element Dialysis is currently assessed in the LCDS and MDS. The LCDS uses a checklist format, including an item asking whether the patient receives dialysis as part of the patient's treatment plan. The MDS first assesses whether the resident received dialysis while not a resident of the assessing facility and within the last 14 days, and then whether the resident received dialysis while a resident and within the last 14 days. The LCDS and MDS data elements do not assess the type of dialysis.

Prior evidence supporting use of Dialysis (Hemodialysis, Peritoneal dialysis)

In nursing homes, a data element assessing dialysis in the past 5 days was tested in the national MDS 3.0 test and shown to have almost perfect reliability (kappas of 0.91 to 0.93).[127]

Evidence supporting use of Dialysis (Hemodialysis, Peritoneal dialysis) from the National Beta Test

Assessing Dialysis: One item assessed whether dialysis was noted during the assessment period. If indicated, two follow-up items assessed whether the dialysis was hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis. In the National Beta Test, the data element was administered to 629 patients/residents in HHAs setting, 762 in IRFs, 448 in LTCHs, and 1,087 in SNFs (n = 2,926 overall). Across settings overall, 5 percent of assessments noted use of dialysis. In the SNF setting specifically, 3 percent of residents noted use of dialysis. With regard to specific forms of dialysis, the vast majority of noted dialysis was hemodialysis. Only seven assessments overall and one in SNF (both 0 percent after rounding) indicated peritoneal dialysis. Detailed findings regarding dialysis are shown in Appendix C, Table 4.10.1.

Missing data: Overall, there were very low rates of missing responses for the Dialysis items. Across all settings, missingness was less than 1 percent. In the SNF setting specifically, missingness was less than 1.1 percent. The low rate of missing data indicates feasibility of administration.

Time to complete: Time to complete was examined among 422 assessments in HHAs, 457 in IRFs, 244 in LTCHs, and 431 in SNFs (n = 1,554 overall). The average time to complete the Dialysis item was 0.22 minutes overall (SD = 0.1) and 0.21 minutes in the SNF setting (SD = 0.1).

Interrater reliability: IRR was examined for 187 assessments in HHAs, 236 in IRFs, 203 in LTCHs, and 256 in SNFs (n = 882 overall). Most kappas are not reported for the Dialysis data element because the proportions both overall and for each setting were out of range for a stable kappa estimate. Percent agreement for dialysis was nearly perfect overall and in the SNF specifically (99 percent). The

[127] Saliba, & Buchanan, 2008b.

same was true for the two types of dialysis across settings (98 percent and 100 percent, respectively) and in the SNF (99 percent and 100 percent, respectively). Please refer to Table 4.10.2 in Appendix C for percent agreement statistics for all Dialysis items.

IV Access (Peripheral IV, Midline, Central line)

IV access refers to a catheter inserted into a vein for a variety of clinical reasons, including long-term medication treatment; hemodialysis; large volumes of blood or fluid; frequent access for blood samples; IV fluid administration; total parenteral nutrition; or, in some instances, the measurement of central venous pressure.

The sub-elements associated with IV access distinguish between peripheral access and central access. In addition, different types of central access are specified. The rationale for distinguishing between a peripheral IV and central IV access is that central lines confer higher risks associated with life-threatening events such as pulmonary embolism, infection, and bleeding. Patients with central lines, including those peripherally inserted or who have subcutaneous central line "port" access, always require vigilant nursing care to ensure patency of the lines and, importantly, to ensure that such invasive lines are free from any potentially life-threatening events such as infection, air embolism, and bleeding from an open lumen.

Relevance to SNFs

In SNFs studied in the PAC PRD, 3.0 percent of residents were on central line management treatment,[128] one type of IV access. The standardized assessment of IV Access would provide important information for care planning, clinical decision making, patient safety, care transitions, and resource use in SNFs. See the "IV Medications" sections of this document for more information.

Data Element for the Assessment of Special Services, Treatments, and Interventions: IV Access

O0110. Special Treatments, Procedures, and Programs Check all of the following treatments, procedures, and programs that apply on admission.	**a.** **On Admission** **Check all that apply** ↓
Other	
O1. IV Access	☐
O2. Peripheral	☐
O3. Midline	☐
O4. Central (e.g., PICC, tunneled, port)	☐

Current use

The IV Access data element is not currently included in any of the PAC assessments.

Prior evidence supporting use of IV Access

The IV Access data element was not tested in the PAC PRD, but that study did test a related data element, Central Line Management, which was found feasible for cross-setting use.

[128] Gage, Morley, et al., 2012.

Evidence supporting use of IV Access from the National Beta Test

Assessing IV Access: One item assessed whether IV access was noted during the assessment period. If indicated, four follow-up items assessed whether the IV was a peripheral line, midline catheter, central line, or other form of IV. In the National Beta Test, the data element was administered to 629 patients/residents in HHAs, 762 in IRFs, 448 in LTCHs, and 1,087 in SNFs (n = 2,926 overall). Across settings, 24 percent of assessments noted use of IV access. In the SNF setting specifically, 10 percent of assessments noted use of IV access. For the specific type of IV access noted, a central line was most common across settings (13 percent), followed closely by peripheral IV (11 percent). Midline catheter (2 percent) and other (1 percent) were less common. In the SNF setting, a central line was also most common (7 percent), followed by peripheral IV (2 percent), other IV (1 percent), and midline catheter (0 percent). Detailed findings regarding IV access are shown in Appendix C, Table 4.11.1.

Missing data: Overall, there were very low rates of missing responses for the IV Access items. Across all settings, missingness was less than 1.4 percent. In the SNF setting specifically, missingness was less than 0.7 percent. The low rates of missing data indicate feasibility of administration.

Time to complete: Time to complete was examined among 422 assessments in HHAs, 457 in IRFs, 244 in LTCHs, and 431 in SNFs (n = 1,554, overall). The average time to complete the IV Access item was 0.22 minutes overall (SD = 0.1) and 0.21 minutes in IRFs (SD = 0.1).

Interrater reliability: IRR was examined for 187 assessments in HHAs, 236 in IRFs, 203 in LTCHs, and 256 in SNFs (n = 882 overall). IRR was excellent across settings for the IV Access item (kappa = 0.90) and the peripheral and central types of access (kappa = 0.81 and kappa = 0.85, respectively). Similarly, IRR was substantial/good in the SNF for the IV Access item (kappa = 0.74). The remaining kappas are not reported because the proportions were out of range for a stable kappa estimate. Percent agreement for the data element was almost perfect. Across settings, percent agreement was 96 percent for IV Access generally and the types of IV access (96 to 98 percent). In the SNF specifically, percent agreement was 95 percent for the general IV Access item, and the subsequent types were also excellent or almost perfect (97 to 100 percent). Please refer to Table 4.11.2 in Appendix C for kappa and percent agreement statistics for all IV Access items.

Parenteral/IV Feeding

Patients/residents can be fed parenterally (i.e., intravenously) to bypass the usual process of eating and digestion. The person receives nutritional formulas containing salts, glucose, amino acids, lipids, and added vitamins. Parenteral/IV feeding is often used after surgery, when feeding by mouth or digestive system is not possible, when a patient's digestive system cannot absorb nutrients because of chronic disease, or if a patient's nutritional requirement cannot be met by tube feeding and supplementation. The need for parenteral/IV feeding indicates a clinical complexity that prevents the patient from meeting nutritional needs enterally. Overall, parenteral/IV feeding is a form of nutritional support that can be used to prevent or address malnutrition.[129] Without treatment, malnutrition can lead to a host of negative consequences, including a decline in health, poorer physical and cognitive function, increased use of health care services, earlier institutionalization, and increased risk of death.[130]

Malnutrition is prevalent among older adults, a population commonly served in PAC settings. A study showed that 58.3 percent of hospitalized patients diagnosed with malnutrition in the U.S. in 2010

[129] National Collaborating Centre for Acute Care (UK). (2006). Nutrition support for adults: oral nutrition support, enteral tube feeding and parenteral nutrition. Methods, Evidence & Guidance. London, UK: National Collaborating Centre for Acute Care. Retrieved from https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg32/evidence/full-guideline-194889853

[130] Evans, C. (2005). Malnutrition in the elderly: A multifactorial failure to thrive. *The Permanente Journal*, *9*(3), 38–41. https://doi.org/10.7812/TPP/05-056

were more than 65 years of age.[131] Additionally, as mentioned above, parenteral/IV feeding is often used to provide nutrition for patients with specific diseases. For example, parenteral/IV feeding can be used for individuals with inflammatory bowel disease, a condition that is common in older adults.[132]

Parenteral/IV feeding is more resource intensive than other forms of nutrition, as it often involves monitoring of blood chemistries and maintenance of a central line. Therefore, assessing a patient's need for parenteral feeding is important for care planning and case mix adjustment. In addition to the risks associated with central and peripheral IV access, parenteral/IV feeding is associated with significant risks, such as embolism and sepsis.

Relevance to SNFs

Parenteral/IV feeding is not common in the SNF setting. However, this service is important for treating a population at risk for undernutrition, such as SNF residents: a 2015 review found that approximately 20 percent of nursing home residents had some form of malnutrition.[133] Another review of nursing home surveys found that for chronically institutionalized older people, from 5 to 18 percent of nursing home residents had energy intakes below need, and up to half of these individuals were underweight.[134] Malnutrition has been linked to development of pressure sores[135] and increased risk of mortality in or failure to return home from a SNF.[136] The standardized assessment of Parenteral/IV Feeding would provide important information for care planning, care transitions, and resource use in SNFs.

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[131] Corkins, M. R., Guenter, P., DiMaria-Ghalili, R. A., Jensen, G. L., Malone, A., Miller, S., . . . Resnick, H. E., & the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition. (2014). Malnutrition diagnoses in hospitalized patients: United States, 2010. *Journal of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition*, *38*(2), 186–195. https://doi.org/10.1177/0148607113512154

[132] Semrad, C. E. (2012). Use of parenteral nutrition in patients with inflammatory bowel disease. *Gastroenterology & Hepatology*, *8*(6), 393–395.

Mullady, D. K., & O'Keefe, S. J. (2006). Treatment of intestinal failure: Home parenteral nutrition. *Nature Reviews. Gastroenterology & Hepatology*, *3*(9), 492–504. https://doi.org/10.1038/ncpgasthep0580

Taleban, S., Colombel, J. F., Mohler, M. J., & Fain, M. J. (2015). Inflammatory bowel disease and the elderly: A review. *Journal of Crohn's and Colitis*, *9*(6), 507–515. https://doi.org/10.1093/ecco-jcc/jjv059

[133] Bell, C. L., Lee., A. S., & Tamura, B. K. (2015). Malnutrition in the nursing home. *Current Opinion in Clinical Nutrition and Metabolic Care*, *18*(1), 17–23. http://doi.org/10.1097/MCO.0000000000000130

[134] Rudman, D., & Feller, A. G. (1989). Protein-calorie undernutrition in the nursing home. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, *37*(2), 173–183.

[135] Shahin, E. S., Meijers, J. M., Schols, J. M., Tannen, A., Halfens, R. J., & Dassen, T. (2010). The relationship between malnutrition parameters and pressure ulcers in hospitals and nursing homes. *Nutrition*, *26*(9), 886–889. http://doi.org/10.1016/j.nut.2010.01.016

[136] Hakkarainen, T. W., Arabi, S., Willis, M. M., Davidson, G. H., and Flum, D. R. (2016). Outcomes of patients discharged to skilled nursing facilities after acute care hospitalizations. *Annals of Surgery*, *263*(2), 280–285. doi:10.1097/SLA.0000000000001367.

Data Element for the Assessment of Special Services, Treatments, and Interventions: Parenteral/IV Feeding

K0520. Nutritional Approaches Check all of the following nutritional approaches that apply on admission	
	1. **On Admission** **Check all that apply** ↓
A. Parenteral/IV feeding	☐

Current use

Different versions of the Parenteral/IV Feeding data element are currently collected in the OASIS, IRF-PAI, LCDS, and MDS. The OASIS data element assesses whether the patient is receiving parenteral nutrition at home. The IRF-PAI includes a checkbox data element to assess total parenteral nutrition with a 3-day look-back period. The LCDS includes a checklist to assess whether the patient receives total parenteral nutrition at admission. The MDS first assesses whether the patient received parenteral/IV feeding while not a resident of the assessing facility and within the last 7 days, and then whether the patient received parenteral/IV feeding while a resident and within the last 7 days.

Prior evidence supporting use of Parenteral/IV Feeding

A similar data element, Total Parenteral Nutrition, was tested in the PAC PRD and found to be feasible across PAC settings. Parenteral/IV feeding in the last 5 days was shown to have almost perfect reliability (kappa of 0.95) in the national MDS 3.0 test in nursing homes.[137]

Evidence supporting use of Parenteral/IV Feeding from the National Beta Test

Assessing Parenteral/IV Feeding: The Parenteral/IV Feeding data element was included in the National Beta Test. This data element was administered to 629 patients/residents in HHAs, 762 in IRFs, 448 in LTCHs, and 1,087 in SNFs (n = 2,926 overall). Across settings, only 1 percent of assessments indicated parenteral/IV feeding. In the SNF setting, only two residents (0 percent after rounding) had parenteral/IV feeding noted. Detailed parenteral/IV feeding implementation is shown in Appendix C, Table 5.1.1, for all four settings.

Missing data: Overall, there were very low rates of missing responses for the Parenteral/IV Feeding item. Across all settings, missingness was 1.3 percent, and in the SNF setting, missingness was 1.7 percent. The low rates of missing data indicate feasibility of administration.

Time to complete: Time to complete was examined among 422 assessments in HHAs, 457 in IRFs, 244 in LTCHs, and 431 in SNFs (n = 1,554, overall). The average time to complete the Parenteral/IV Feeding item was 0.22 minutes overall (SD = 0.1) and 0.21 minutes in the SNF setting (SD = 0.1).

Interrater reliability: IRR was examined for 187 assessments in HHAs, 236 in IRFs, 203 in LTCHs, and 256 in SNFs (n = 882 overall). Kappas are not reported for the parenteral/IV feeding data element because the proportion was too low for a stable kappa estimate. Percent agreement was perfect at 100 percent for the Parenteral/IV feeding data element across settings and in the SNF setting. Please refer

[137] Saliba, & Buchanan, 2008b.

to Table 5.1.2 in Appendix C for setting-specific percent agreement statistics for the Parenteral/IV Feeding item.

Feeding Tube

The Feeding Tube data element refers to enteral nutrition, which is the delivery of a nutritionally complete diet containing protein, carbohydrate, fat, water, minerals, and vitamins directly into the stomach, duodenum, or jejunum. It is typically used for patients/residents who have a functional gastrointestinal tract but are unable to maintain an adequate or safe oral intake. This data element assesses whether the patient/resident received enteral nutrition during the assessment period.

Enteral nutrition is a form of nutritional support that can be used to prevent or address malnutrition.[138] Without treatment, malnutrition can lead to a host of negative consequences, including a decline in health, poorer physical and cognitive function, increased use of health care services, earlier institutionalization, and increased risk of death.[139]

Malnutrition is prevalent among older adults, a population commonly served in PAC settings. A study showed that 58.3 percent of hospitalized patients diagnosed with malnutrition in the U.S. in 2010 were over 65 years of age.[140] Additionally, enteral nutrition can be used to provide nutrition for patients with specific diseases. For example, tube feeding can be used for individuals with stroke[141] and those with head and neck cancer,[142] conditions that are common in older adults.[143]

Assessing use of a feeding tube can inform resource use, care planning, and care transitions.

Relevance to SNFs

Patients/residents with severe malnutrition are at higher risk for a variety of complications.[144] According to a RAND analysis of 2013 MDS data, 4.3 percent of SNF residents were on enteral nutrition treatment. Most patients admitted to acute care hospitals experience deterioration of their nutritional status during their hospital stay, making assessment of nutritional status and method of feeding if unable to eat orally very important in the SNF setting.[145] Additionally, the standardized assessment of enteral nutrition is useful for care planning, care transitions, and resource use in SNFs, as enteral nutrition is most often used in medically complex residents and is a relatively resource-intensive feeding method, requiring frequent monitoring and administration.

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[138] National Alliance for Infusion Therapy and the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition Public Policy Committee and Board of Directors. (2010). Disease-related malnutrition and enteral nutrition therapy: A significant problem with a cost-effective solution. *Nutrition in Clinical Practice*, *25*(5), 548–554. https://doi.org/10.1177/0884533610378524

[139] Evans, 2005.

[140] Corkins et al., 2014.

[141] Corrigan, M. L., Escuro, A. A., Celestin, J., & Kirby, D. F. (2011). Nutrition in the stroke patient. *Nutrition in Clinical Practice*, *26*(3), 242–252. https://doi.org/10.1177/0884533611405795

[142] Raykher, A., Russo, L., Schattner, M., Schwartz, L., Scott, B., & Shike, M. (2007). Enteral nutrition support of head and neck cancer patients. *Nutrition in Clinical Practice*, *22*(1), 68–73. https://doi.org/10.1177/011542650702200168

[143] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2012). Prevalence of stroke—United States, 2006-2010. *MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, *61*(20), 379–382.
VanderWalde, N. A., Fleming, M., Weiss, J., & Chera, B. S. (2013). Treatment of older patients with head and neck cancer: A review. *The Oncologist*, *18*(5), 568–578. https://doi.org/10.1634/theoncologist.2012-0427

[144] Dempsey, D. T., Mullen, J. L., & Buzby, G. P. (1988). The link between nutritional status and clinical outcome: Can nutritional intervention modify it? *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, *47*(2, Suppl), 352–356. https://doi.org/10.1093/ajcn/47.2.352

[145] McWhirter, J. P., & Pennington, C. R. (1994). Incidence and recognition of malnutrition in hospital. *BMJ*, *308*(6934), 945–948.

Data Element for the Assessment of Special Services, Treatments, and Interventions: Feeding Tube

K0520. Nutritional Approaches Check all of the following nutritional approaches that apply on admission	
	1. **On Admission** **Check all that apply** ↓
B. Feeding tube (e.g., nasogastric or abdominal [PEG])	☐

Current use

A version of the Feeding Tube data element is currently assessed in three existing PAC assessments. The data element Enteral Nutrition is currently collected in the OASIS, with a question asking whether the patient is receiving enteral nutrition at home. In the IRF-PAI, a Swallowing Status data element captures some information related to enteral nutrition through the response option "Tube/Parenteral Feeding." The MDS data element, Feeding Tube – Nasogastric or Abdominal (PEG), first assesses whether a resident used a feeding tube while not a resident of the assessing facility and within the last 7 days and then whether the resident used a feeding tube while a resident and within the last 7 days.

Prior evidence supporting use of Feeding Tube

In the national MDS 3.0 test in nursing homes, the Feeding Tube data element, collected for the last 5 days, was shown to have almost perfect reliability (kappa of 0.89). [146]

Evidence supporting use of Feeding Tube from the National Beta Test

Assessing Feeding Tube: The Feeding Tube data element was included in the National Beta Test. This data element was administered to 629 patients/residents in HHAs, 762 in IRFs, 448 in LTCHs, and 1,087 in SNFs (n = 2,926 overall). Across settings, 3 percent of assessments indicated use of a feeding tube. In the SNF setting, 2 percent of assessments noted use of a feeding tube. Detailed feeding tube implementation is shown in Appendix C, Table 5.2.1, for all four settings.

Missing data: There were very low rates of missing data for the Feeding Tube data element both overall (1.3 percent) and in the SNF setting (1.6 percent).

Time to complete: Time to complete was examined among 422 assessments in HHAs, 457 in IRFs, 244 in LTCHs, and 431 in SNFs (n = 1,554 overall). The average time to complete the Feeding Tube item was 0.22 minutes overall (SD = 0.1) and 0.21 minutes in the SNF setting (SD = 0.1).

Interrater reliability: IRR was examined for 187 assessments in HHAs, 236 in IRFs, 203 in LTCHs, and 256 in SNFs (n = 882 overall). Kappas are not reported for the Feeding Tube data element because the proportion was too low for a stable kappa estimate. Percent agreement was 100 percent across settings and in the SNF setting. Please refer to Table 5.2.2 in Appendix C for setting-specific percent agreement statistics for the Feeding Tube item.

[146] Saliba, & Buchanan, 2008b.

Mechanically Altered Diet

A mechanically altered diet is one that is specifically prepared to alter the texture or consistency of food to facilitate oral intake. Examples include soft solids, pureed foods, ground meat, and thickened liquids. A mechanically altered diet should not automatically be considered a therapeutic diet.

The provision of a mechanically altered diet is resource intensive, as it signifies difficulty swallowing/eating safely (dysphagia). Often, nurses are required to slowly feed patients/residents meals consisting of a mechanically altered diet rather than having them eat independently. Dysphagia is frequently associated with various health conditions, including nervous system–related diseases (e.g., cerebral palsy and Parkinson's disease); stroke; head injury; head, neck, and esophagus cancers; head, neck, and chest injuries; and dementia.[147] In the absence of treatment, swallowing disorders can lead to malnutrition, dehydration, aspiration pneumonia, poor overall health, chronic lung disease, choking, and death.[148] Other consequences can include lack of interest and enjoyment related to eating or drinking, and embarrassment or isolation tied to social situations involving eating.[149]

Dysphagia is highly prevalent in older adults, a population commonly served in PAC settings. A study of a geriatric population living independently found that the lifetime prevalence of a swallowing disorder was 38 percent, and current prevalence of a swallowing disorder was 33 percent.[150] Additionally, increasing age has been shown to be associated with a higher likelihood of swallowing problems in the previous year.[151] Beyond general aging effects on swallowing physiology, age-related disease is the main risk factor for dysphagia in older adults.[152] Stroke and dementia are examples of common conditions among the elderly that may contribute to issues with swallowing.[153]

Furthermore, discharge to a PAC setting is more likely among those with dysphagia. A study examining burden among inpatients diagnosed with dysphagia found that individuals with dysphagia had a 33.2 percent higher likelihood of being discharged to a PAC facility than patients without dysphagia.[154]

Assessing whether a patient requires a mechanically altered diet is important in ensuring patient safety and can inform care planning, care transitions, and resource utilization.

Relevance to SNFs

Dysphagia is a common health care issue among nursing home residents and can lead to complications, including aspiration pneumonia and death.[155] In one study, 45 out of 82 nursing home

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147 National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. (2017). *Dysphagia*. Retrieved from https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/dysphagia

148 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (n.d.). Adult dysphagia. Retrieved from https://www.asha.org/PRPSpecificTopic.aspx?folderid=8589942550&section=Overview

149 Ibid.

150 Roy, N., Stemple, J., Merrill, R. M., & Thomas, L. (2007). Dysphagia in the elderly: Preliminary evidence of prevalence, risk factors, and socioemotional effects. *The Annals of Otology, Rhinology, and Laryngology*, *116*(11), 858–865. https://doi.org/10.1177/000348940711601112

151 Bhattacharyya, N. (2014). The prevalence of dysphagia among adults in the United States. *Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery*, *151*(5), 765–769. https://doi.org/10.1177/0194599814549156

152 Sura, L., Madhavan, A., Carnaby, G., & Crary, M. A. (2012). Dysphagia in the elderly: Management and nutritional considerations. *Clinical Interventions in Aging*, *7*, 287–298.

153 Ibid.

154 Patel, D. A., Krishnaswami, S., Steger, E., Conover, E., Vaezi, M. F., Ciucci, M. R., & Francis, D. O. (2018). Economic and survival burden of dysphagia among inpatients in the United States. *Diseases of the Esophagus*, *31*(1), 1–7. https://doi.org/10.1093/dote/dox131

155 Marik & Kaplan, 2003.

Tanner, D.C. (2010). Lessons from nursing home dysphagia malpractice litigation. *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*, *36*(3), 41-46.

residents were "found to have some degree of dysphagia," but only 10 of those 45 had been referred to a specialist (speech pathologist or occupational therapist) previously.[156] Many SNF residents have mechanically altered diets, which are used to facilitate oral intake among residents with signs and symptoms of swallowing disorders. According to MDS 3.0 assessments in the third quarter of 2016, 34.2 percent of active nursing home residents nationally received a mechanically altered diet.[157] Although a resident's clinical condition may benefit from a mechanically altered diet, residents' preferences and overall clinical goals should also be considered, as these diets can also diminish an individual's sense of dignity and self-worth and diminish pleasure from eating. Residents may also be inappropriately placed on a mechanically altered diet; one study found that although 31 percent of residents in two SNFs were prescribed a mechanically altered diet, most of them were able to eat at a higher level.[158] The standardized assessment of whether a SNF resident requires a mechanically altered diet would provide important information for care planning, care transitions, patient safety, and resource use in SNFs.

Data Element for the Assessment of Special Services, Treatments, and Interventions: Mechanically Altered Diet

K0520. Nutritional Approaches Check all of the following nutritional approaches that apply on admission	
	1. **On Admission** **Check all that apply** ↓
C. Mechanically altered diet – require change in texture of food or liquids (e.g., pureed food, thickened liquids)	☐

Current use

Mechanically Altered Diet is currently assessed in the MDS. It first assesses whether the resident received a mechanically altered diet while not a resident and within the last 7 days, and then whether the resident received a mechanically altered diet while a resident and within the last 7 days.

Prior evidence supporting use of Mechanically Altered Diet

In the national MDS 3.0 test in nursing homes, the Mechanically Altered Diet data element was shown to have almost perfect reliability (kappas from 0.90 to 0.96).[159]

Evidence supporting use of Mechanically Altered Diet from the National Beta Test

Assessing Mechanically Altered Diet: The Mechanically Altered Diet data element was included in the National Beta Test. The data element was administered to 629 patients/residents in HHAs, 762 in IRFs, 448 in LTCHs, and 1,087 in SNFs (n = 2,926 overall). Across settings, 10 percent of assessments

[156] Kayser-Jones, J. & Pengilly, K. (1999). Dysphagia among nursing home residents. Geriatric Nursing, 20(2), 77-82. https://doi.org/10.1053/gn.1999.v20.97011

[157] CMS. (2016). *MDS 3.0 frequency report. 2016 third quarter*. Retrieved from https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Computer-Data-and-Systems/Minimum-Data-Set-3-0-Public-Reports/Minimum-Data-Set-3-0-Frequency-Report.html

[158] Groher, M.E. & McKaig, T.N. (1995). Dysphagia and dietary levels in skilled nursing facilities. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, 43*(5), 528–532.

[159] Saliba, & Buchanan, 2008b.

indicated mechanically altered diet. In the SNF setting, 11 percent of assessments noted mechanically altered diet. Detailed implementation is shown in Appendix C, Table 5.3.1, for all four settings.

Missing data: There were very low rates of missing data for the Mechanically Altered Diet data element both overall (1.2 percent) and in the SNF setting (1.6 percent).

Time to complete: Time to complete was examined among 422 assessments in HHAs, 457 in IRFs, 244 in LTCHs, and 431 in SNFs (n = 1,554, overall). The average time to complete the Mechanically Altered Diet item was 0.22 minutes overall (SD = 0.1) and 0.21 minutes in the SNF setting (SD = 0.1).

Interrater reliability: IRR was examined for 187 assessments in HHAs, 236 in IRFs, 203 in LTCHs, and 256 in SNFs (n = 882 overall). IRR for the Mechanically Altered Diet data element was substantial/good both overall (kappa=0.65) and in the SNF setting specifically (kappa = 0.70). Percent agreement for the data element was 93 percent across settings and 94 percent in the SNF setting. Please refer to Table 5.3.2 in Appendix C for setting-specific kappa and percent agreement statistics for the Mechanically Altered Diet item.

Therapeutic Diet

A therapeutic diet is a diet intervention ordered by a health care practitioner as part of the treatment for a disease or clinical condition manifesting an altered nutritional status. This diet will eliminate, decrease, or increase certain substances in the diet (e.g., sodium or potassium). Therapeutic diets can include low cholesterol, renal, diabetic, and low salt diets,[160] the latter of which are most commonly used.[161]

Certain conditions, including diabetes,[162] chronic kidney disease,[163] hypertension,[164] and heart disease[165] are highly prevalent among older adults who may receive services in a PAC setting. For example, the percentage of adults with diabetes is 25.2 percent among individuals 65 years of age or older.[166] Additionally, 61.7 percent of adults 65 years of age or older have hypertension.[167] These conditions may be treated with a therapeutic diet.

The Therapeutic Diet data element is important to collect in the SNF setting to distinguish therapeutic diet from various other nutritional approaches. It is less resource intensive from the bedside nursing perspective but does signify one or more underlying clinical conditions that preclude the patient from eating a regular diet. Communication among PAC settings on whether a patient is receiving a particular therapeutic diet is critical to ensure safe transitions of care.

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[160] Kamel, H. K., Malekgoudarzi, B., & Pahlavan, M. (2000). Inappropriate use of therapeutic diets in the nursing home. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, 48*(7), 856–857. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1532-5415.2000.tb04771.x

[161] Crogan, N. L., Corbett, C. F., & Short, R. A. (2002). The minimum data set: Predicting malnutrition in newly admitted nursing home residents. *Clinical Nursing Research, 11*(3), 341–353. https://doi.org/10.1177/105477380201100308

[162] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2017a). *National Diabetes Statistics Report, 2017: Estimates of diabetes and its burden in the United States.* Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pdfs/data/statistics/national-diabetes-statistics-report.pdf

[163] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). *Chronic kidney disease initiative* [website]. Last reviewed March 12, 2019. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/ckd.

[164] Fang, J., Gillespie, C., Ayala, C., & Loustalot, F. (2018). Prevalence of self-reported hypertension and antihypertensive medication use among adults aged ≥18 years - United States, 2011-2015. *MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 67*(7), 219–224. https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6707a4

[165] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2017b). *National Center for Health Statistics: Older persons' health*. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/older-american-health.htm

[166] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017a.

[167] Fang, Gillespie, Ayala, & Loustalot, 2018.

Relevance to SNFs

Therapeutic diets are often used to eliminate, reduce, or increase certain substances in the diet as part of the treatment for many conditions. These diets are common among SNF residents. Currently, almost half of nursing home residents nationally (48.1 percent) received a therapeutic diet.[168] The standardized assessment of whether a resident requires a therapeutic diet would provide important information for care planning, clinical decision making, care transitions, and resource use in SNFs.

Data Element for the Assessment of Special Services, Treatments, and Interventions: Therapeutic Diet

K0520. Nutritional Approaches Check all of the following nutritional approaches that apply on admission	
	1. **On Admission** **Check all that apply** ↓
D. Therapeutic diet (e.g., low salt, diabetic, low cholesterol)	☐

Current use

Therapeutic Diet is currently assessed in the MDS. It first assesses whether the resident received a therapeutic diet while not a resident and within the last 7 days, and then whether the resident received a therapeutic diet while a resident and within the last 7 days.

Prior evidence supporting use of Therapeutic Diet

In the national MDS 3.0 test in nursing homes, the Therapeutic Diet data element was shown to have substantial to almost perfect reliability (kappas from 0.89 to 0.93).[169]

Evidence supporting use of Therapeutic Diet from the National Beta Test

Assessing Therapeutic Diet: The Therapeutic Diet data element was included in the National Beta Test. This data element was administered to 629 patients/residents in HHAs, 762 in IRFs, 448 in LTCHs, and 1,087 in SNFs (n = 2,926 overall).

Across settings, more than half of assessments (52 percent) indicated therapeutic diet. In the SNF setting, 49 percent of assessments noted therapeutic diet. Detailed therapeutic diet implementation is shown in Appendix C, Table 5.4.1, for all four settings.

Missing data: There were low levels of missing data for the Therapeutic Diet data element both across settings (0.6 percent) and in the SNF setting specifically (0.6 percent).

Time to complete: Time to complete was examined among 422 assessments in HHAs, 457 in IRFs, 244 in LTCHs, and 431 in SNFs (n = 1,554 overall). The average time to complete the Therapeutic Diet item was 0.22 minutes overall (SD = 0.1) and 0.21 minutes in the SNF setting (SD = 0.1).

Interrater reliability: IRR was examined for 187 assessments in HHAs, 236 in IRFs, 203 in LTCHs, and 256 in SNFs (n = 882 overall). The kappa for the Therapeutic Diet data element was

[168] CMS, 2016.

[169] Saliba, & Buchanan, 2008b.

moderate across settings (0.60) and substantial/good in the SNF setting (0.61). Percent agreement for the data element was 80 percent both across settings and in the SNF setting specifically. Please refer to Table 5.4.2 in Appendix C for setting-specific kappa and percent agreement statistics for the Therapeutic Diet item.

High-Risk Drug Classes: Use and Indication

Most patients and residents receiving PAC services depend on short- and long-term medications to manage their medical conditions. However, medications are a leading cause of adverse events. A study by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) found that 31 percent of adverse events in 2008 among hospitalized Medicare beneficiaries were related to medication.[170] Adverse drug events (ADEs) may be caused by medication errors such as drug omissions, errors in dosage, and errors in dosing frequency.[171] In addition, approximately half of all hospital-related medication errors and 20 percent of ADEs occur during transitions within, admission to, transfer to, or discharge from a hospital.[172] ADEs are more common among older adults, who make up most patients and residents receiving PAC services. The rate of emergency department visits for ADEs is three times higher among adults 65 years of age and older than that among those younger than age 65.[173]

Some classes of drugs are associated with more risk than others.[174] The six medication class response options in the High-Risk Drug Classes: Use and Indication data element are anticoagulants, antiplatelets, hypoglycemics (including insulin), opioids, antipsychotics, and antibiotics. These drug classes are considered high-risk because of the adverse effects that may result from use. In particular, anticoagulants and antiplatelets are associated with bleeding risk;[175] hypoglycemics are associated with fluid retention, heart failure, and lactic acidosis;[176] opioids are associated with misuse;[177] antipsychotics are associated with fractures and strokes;[178] and antimicrobials, the category of medications that includes

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[170] Levinson, D. R. (2010). Adverse events in hospitals: National incidence among Medicare beneficiaries. OEI-06-09-00090. Washington, DC: U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General.

[171] Boockvar, K. S., Liu, S., Goldstein, N., Nebeker, J., Siu, A., & Fried, T. (2009). Prescribing discrepancies likely to cause adverse drug events after patient transfer. *Quality & Safety in Health Care*, *18*(1), 32–36. https://doi.org/10.1136/qshc.2007.025957

[172] Barnsteiner, 2005.

Rozich, J., & Roger, R. (2001). Medication safety: One organization's approach to the challenge. *Journal of Clinical Outcomes Management*, *2001*(8), 27–34.

Gleason, K. M., Groszek, J. M., Sullivan, C., Rooney, D., Barnard, C., & Noskin, G. A. (2004). Reconciliation of discrepancies in medication histories and admission orders of newly hospitalized patients. *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*, *61*(16), 1689–1695. https://doi.org/10.1093/ajhp/61.16.1689

[173] Shehab, N., Lovegrove, M. C., Geller, A. I., Rose, K. O., Weidle, N. J., & Budnitz, D. S. (2016). US emergency department visits for outpatient adverse drug events, 2013–2014. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *316*(20), 2115–2125. https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2016.16201

[174] Ibid.

[175] Shoeb, M., & Fang, M. C. (2013). Assessing bleeding risk in patients taking anticoagulants. *Journal of Thrombosis and Thrombolysis*, *35*(3), 312–319. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11239-013-0899-7

Melkonian, M., Jarzebowski, W., Pautas, E., Siguret, V., Belmin, J., & Lafuente-Lafuente, C. (2017). Bleeding risk of antiplatelet drugs compared with oral anticoagulants in older patients with atrial fibrillation: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis (JTH)*, *15*(7), 1500–1510. https://doi.org/10.1111/jth.13697

[176] Hamnvik, O. P., & McMahon, G. T. (2009). Balancing risk and benefit with oral hypoglycemic drugs. *The Mount Sinai Journal of Medicine, New York*, *76*(3), 234–243. https://doi.org/10.1002/msj.20116

[177] Naples, J. G., Gellad, W. F., & Hanlon, J. T. (2016). The role of opioid analgesics in geriatric pain management. *Clinics in Geriatric Medicine*, *32*(4), 725–735. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cger.2016.06.006

[178] Rigler, S. K., Shireman, T. I., Cook-Wiens, G. J., Ellerbeck, E. F., Whittle, J. C., Mehr, D. R., & Mahnken, J. D. (2013). Fracture risk in nursing home residents initiating antipsychotic medications. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, *61*(5), 715–722. https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.12216

Wang, S., Linkletter, C., Dore, D., Mor, V., Buka, S., & Maclure, M. (2012). Age, antipsychotics, and the risk of ischemic stroke in the Veterans Health Administration. *Stroke*, *43*(1), 28–31. https://doi.org/10.1161/STROKEAHA.111.617191

antibiotics, are associated with various adverse events, such as central nervous systems effects and gastrointestinal intolerance.[179] Moreover, some medications in the six drug classes in this group of data elements are included in the 2019 Updated Beers Criteria® list as potentially inappropriate medications for use in older adults.[180] Although a complete medication list should record several important attributes of each medication (e.g., dosage, route, stop date), recording an indication for the drug is crucial.[181]

Relevance to SNFs

Many residents treated in the SNF setting have one or more conditions that require treatment with a medication in a high-risk drug class. In a nationally representative sample in 2011, about 8 percent of Medicare beneficiaries residing in SNFs experienced some type of medication-related adverse event over a 1-month period, ranging in severity from a longer SNF stay to contributing to death; 37 percent of all adverse events were related to medication.[182] In the same study, almost 5 percent of residents in SNFs experienced a medication-related "temporary harm event" during the 1-month period, defined as requiring medical intervention, but not causing lasting harm; 43 percent of all temporary harm events in SNFs were medication-related.[183] The top three categories of adverse events related to medications in SNFs were delirium and other changes in mental status due to medication, excessive bleeding due to medication, and fall or other trauma with injury secondary to effects of medication.[184] The top three categories of temporary harm events related to medications in SNFs were hypoglycemic episodes, fall or other trauma with injury associated with medication, and medication-induced delirium or other change in mental status.[185]

Assessing use of high-risk medications by SNF residents and indications for each medication would provide important information related to resident safety in SNFs and care transitions between SNFs and other settings. Medication classes received is currently assessed in the MDS. The number of days the resident received medication during the last 7 days is assessed for the following pharmacological drug classes: antipsychotic, antianxiety, antidepressant, hypnotic, anticoagulant, antibiotic, diuretic, and opioid. The standardized assessment of high-risk medication use and ensuring that indications are noted in the medical record are important steps toward overall medication safety within and between PAC provider settings.

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[179] Faulkner, C. M., Cox, H. L., & Williamson, J. C. (2005). Unique aspects of antimicrobial use in older adults. *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, *40*(7), 997–1004. https://doi.org/10.1086/428125

[180] American Geriatrics Society 2019 Beers Criteria® Update Expert Panel. (2019). American Geriatrics Society 2019: Updated Beers Criteria® for Potentially Inappropriate Medication Use in Older Adults. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, 67*(4), 674–694. https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.15767

[181] Li, Y., Salmasian, H., Harpaz, R., Chase, H., & Friedman, C. (2011). Determining the reasons for medication prescriptions in the EHR using knowledge and natural language processing. *AMIA Annual Symposium Proceedings, 2011*, 768–776.

[182] Levinson, 2014.

[183] Ibid.

[184] Ibid.

[185] Ibid.

Data Element for the Assessment of High-Risk Drug Classes: Use and Indication

N0415. High-Risk Drug Classes: Use and Indication		
1. Is taking Check if the resident is taking any medications by pharmacological classification, not how it is used, in the following classes **2. Indication noted** If Column 1 is checked, check if there is an indication noted for all medications in the drug class	**1.** **Is taking** **Check all that apply** ↓	**2.** **Indication noted** **Check all that apply** ↓
A. Antipsychotic	☐	☐
B. Antianxiety	☐	☐
C. Antidepressant	☐	☐
D. Hypnotic	☐	☐
E. Anticoagulant	☐	☐
F. Antibiotic	☐	☐
G. Diuretic	☐	☐
H. Opioid	☐	☐
I. Antiplatelet	☐	☐
J. Hypoglycemic (including insulin)	☐	☐
Z. None of the above	☐	

Current use

The MDS currently assesses what classes of medication residents receive. The number of days the resident received medications is assessed by category for antipsychotic, antianxiety, antidepressant, hypnotic, anticoagulant, antibiotic, diuretic, and opioid medications.

Prior evidence supporting use of High-Risk Drug Classes: Use and Indication

The High-Risk Drug Classes: Use and Indication data element was not tested in prior demonstration efforts. However, the use of similar data elements in the MDS 3.0 speak to the feasibility of collecting data on patient medications in a standardized assessment.

Evidence supporting use of High-Risk Drug Classes: Use and Indication from the National Beta Test

Assessing High-Risk Drug Classes: Use and Indication: As part of the assessment of the medication reconciliation process, the National Beta Test included a data element that assesses whether the patient/resident was taking any medications in each of the six high-risk drug classes, and for each medication, whether there was a corresponding indication noted. The six classes are anticoagulants, antiplatelets (excluding low-dose aspirin), hypoglycemics (including insulin), opioids, antipsychotics, and antimicrobials (excluding topicals). In the National Beta Test, the data element was administered to 627 patients/residents in HHAs, 769 in IRFs, 459 in LTCHs, and 1,096 in SNFs (n = 2,951 overall).

In the four settings combined, the percentage of patients/residents taking medications in each of the six classes ranged from 12 percent (antipsychotics) to 51 percent (opioids). In the SNF setting, these percentages ranged from 12 percent (antiplatelets) to 52 percent (opioids). The presence of indications for noted medications in the various classes ranged from 45 percent (anticoagulants and antiplatelets) to 92 percent (opioids) in the four settings combined, and in the SNF setting, the indication percentages ranged from 72 percent (hypoglycemics) to 96 percent (opioids). The overall and setting-specific findings for each high-risk drug class are detailed in Table 6.1.1 in Appendix C.

Missing data: There were very low rates of missing responses for the medication use items. In the four settings combined, missingness rates did not exceed 4.2 percent for any of the six drug class items. Similarly, in the SNF setting, missingness rates did not exceed 4.0 percent for the six drug class items. Missing data was also very low for indication items. Missingness rates did not exceed 1.2 percent across settings or in the SNF setting specifically. In general, the low rate of missing data indicates feasibility of administration.

Time to complete: Time to complete was examined among 406 assessments in HHAs, 446 in IRFs, 271 in LTCHs, and 421 in SNFs (n = 1,544 overall). Average time to complete the High-Risk Drug Classes: Use and Indication items was approximately 1.0 minute (SD = 0.6 minutes) in the four settings combined and 1.0 minute (SD = 0.6 minutes) in the SNF setting.

Interrater reliability: IRR was examined for 187 assessments in HHAs, 240 in IRFs, 212 in LTCHs, and 261 in SNFs (n = 900 overall). Kappas were not estimated across or within settings for items assessing antipsychotic use and indication of opioids or, in the SNF setting, items assessing antiplatelet use and indication of antimicrobials. These proportions were out of range for stable kappa estimates.

In the four settings combined, IRRs across settings ranged from substantial/good to excellent/almost perfect (kappas = 0.72 to 0.89) for medication use items. In the SNF setting, kappas for medication use were in the excellent/almost perfect range (kappas = 0.82 to 0.90). For indication items, kappas ranged from substantial/good to excellent/almost perfect, both in the four settings combined (kappa = 0.65 to 0.87) and in the SNF setting (0.73 to 0.89).

Percent agreement was very high for the medication use items, both in the four settings combined (92 to 95 percent) and in the SNF setting (91 to 96 percent). Similarly, percent agreement was generally high for indication items, both in the four settings combined (82 to 94 percent) and in the SNF setting (89 to 100 percent). More-detailed IRR statistics are shown in Appendix C, Table 6.1.2.

Section 4: Medical Conditions and Co-Morbidities

Pain Interference

Pain is a highly prevalent medical condition in the United States. A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) analysis of 2016 National Health Interview Study data found that 8 percent of Americans report high-impact chronic pain, that is, pain that limits life or work activities on most days or every day in the past 6 months.[186] Pain in older adults occurs in conjunction with many acute and chronic conditions, such as osteoarthritis, leg pain during the night, cancer and associated treatment, neuralgia from diabetes mellitus, infections such as herpes zoster/shingles, and peripheral vascular disease.[187] Conditions causing pain in older adults may be associated with depression,[188] sleep disturbance,[189] and lower participation in rehabilitation activities. [190]

A substantial percentage of older adults receiving services in a PAC setting experience pain. According to assessment testing performed in the PAC PRD, more than half of patients/residents in the PAC settings reported having experienced "pain or hurting at any time during the last two days," with 55 percent in LTCHs, 65 percent in SNFs, 68 percent in IRFs, and 70 percent of patients/residents in HHAs responding "yes" to this question.[191] According to the 2009 Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey, the prevalence of moderate-to-severe pain[192] among residents of skilled and non-skilled nursing facilities was 22 percent, and the prevalence of persistent pain—defined as the same or worse pain over time—was 65 percent.[193]

Pain in older adults can be treated with medications, complementary and alternative approaches, or physical therapy.[194] Treatment of pain in older adults may be complicated by factors such as dementia;

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[186] Dahlhamer, J., Lucas, J., Zelaya, C., Nahin, R., Mackey, S., DeBar, L., . . . Helmick, C. (2018). Prevalence of chronic pain and high-impact chronic pain among adults - United States, 2016. *MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, *67*(36), 1001–1006. https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6736a2

[187] American Geriatrics Society Panel on Pharmacological Management of Persistent Pain in Older Persons. (2009). Pharmacological management of persistent pain in older persons. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, *57*(8), 1331–1346. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1532-5415.2009.02376.x

[188] Sullivan-Singh, S. J., Sawyer, K., Ehde, D. M., Bell, K. R., Temkin, N., Dikmen, S., . . . Hoffman, J. M. (2014). Comorbidity of pain and depression among persons with traumatic brain injury. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, *95*(6), 1100–1105. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2014.02.001

[189] Eslami, V., Zimmerman, M. E., Grewal, T., Katz, M., & Lipton, R. B. (2016). Pain grade and sleep disturbance in older adults: Evaluation the role of pain, and stress for depressed and non-depressed individuals. *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, *31*(5), 450–457. https://doi.org/10.1002/gps.4349

Blytt, K. M., Bjorvatn, B., Husebo, B., & Flo, E. (2018). Effects of pain treatment on sleep in nursing home patients with dementia and depression: A multicenter placebo-controlled randomized clinical trial. *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, *33*(4), 663–670. https://doi.org/10.1002/gps.4839

[190] Chin, R. P. H., Ho, C. H., & Cheung, L. P. C. (2013). Scheduled analgesic regimen improves rehabilitation after hip fracture surgery. *Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research*, *471*(7), 2349–2360. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11999-013-2927-5

Brenner, I. & Marsella, A. (2008). Factors influencing exercise participation by clients in long-term care. *Perspectives (Pre-2012)*, *32*(4), 5.

Zanca, J. M., Dijkers, M. P., Hammond, F. M., & Horn, S. D. (2013). Pain and its impact on inpatient rehabilitation for acute traumatic spinal cord injury: Analysis of observational data collected in the SCIRehab study. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, *94*(4, Suppl), S137–S144. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2012.10.035

[191] Gage, B. (2016). Data from the PAC PRD study, 2008-2010 [data file]. Available from Barbara Gage, August 16, 2016.

[192] In this study, pain was measured based on two MDS items that assess pain frequency and intensity, with "moderate pain…defined as having daily mild to moderate pain" and "severe pain … as having daily pain at times horrible or excruciating."

[193] Shen, X., Zuckerman, I. H., Palmer, J. B., & Stuart, B. (2015). Trends in prevalence for moderate-to-severe pain and persistent pain among Medicare beneficiaries in nursing homes, 2006-2009. *Journals of Gerontology. Series A, Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences*, *70*(5), 598–603. https://doi.org/10.1093/gerona/glu226

[194] National Institute on Aging. (2018, February 28). *Pain: You can get help*. Retrieved from https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/pain-you-can-get-help

high rates of polypharmacy; end-of-life care; and patient expectations, attitudes, and fears related to pain treatment.[195] Untreated pain is an often-debilitating condition that is associated with a host of adverse physical consequences, including loss of function, poor quality of life, disruption of sleep and appetite, inactivity, and weakness, as well as psychological effects such as depression, anxiety, fear, and anger.[196]

Relevance to SNFs

Many residents in the SNF setting report having pain and experiencing it often. From the 2018 National Beta Test, 78 percent of residents in the SNF setting reported having "pain or hurting." Of those who reported pain, 63 percent experienced pain "frequently" or "almost constantly."

Pain among SNF residents can interfere with rehabilitation and has potential secondary complications. The potential effects of pain on resident health are myriad, and it is critical to assess pain during hospitalization and after discharge. Assessing pain in in SNF residents during their stay can lead to appropriate treatment and improved quality of life, reduce complications associated with immobility such as skin breakdown and infection, and facilitate rehabilitation efforts and returning to community settings. Pain assessment post-discharge can also be used to plan appropriate treatment and may reduce readmissions.

Data Elements for Assessment of Pain Interference

J0510. Pain Effect on Sleep	
Enter Code ☐	*Ask resident: "Over the past 5 days,* ***how much of the time has pain made it hard for you to sleep at night****?"* 1. **Rarely or not at all** 2. **Occasionally** 3. **Frequently** 4. **Almost constantly** 8. **Unable to answer**
J0520. Pain Interference with Therapy Activities	
Enter Code ☐	*Ask resident: "Over the past 5 days,* ***how often have you limited your participation in rehabilitation therapy sessions due to pain****?"* 0. **Does not apply – I have not received rehabilitation therapy in the past 5 days** 1. **Rarely or not at all** 2. **Occasionally** 3. **Frequently** 4. **Almost constantly** 8. **Unable to answer**

[195] Molton, I. R., & Terrill, A. L. (2014). Overview of persistent pain in older adults. *The American Psychologist*, *69*(2), 197–207. https://doi.org/10.1037/a0035794

[196] Institute of Medicine (IOM). (2011). Relieving pain in America: A blueprint for transforming prevention, care, education, and research. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

American Geriatrics Society Panel on Pharmacological Management of Persistent Pain in Older Persons, 2009.

J0530. Pain Interference with Day-to-Day Activities	
Enter Code ☐	*Ask resident: "Over the past 5 days,* ***how often have you limited your day-to-day activities (excluding rehabilitation therapy sessions) because of pain****?"* 1. **Rarely or not at all** 2. **Occasionally** 3. **Frequently** 4. **Almost constantly** 8. **Unable to answer**

Current use

Data elements on the topic of pain are currently assessed in OASIS and MDS. The OASIS assesses the frequency of pain interfering with patient's activity or movement. A pain assessment interview is included in MDS and has questions on whether pain has made it hard for the resident to sleep at night and whether pain has limited day-to-day activities.

Prior evidence supporting use of Pain Interference data elements

Two interview-based data elements, pain effect on sleep and pain effect on activities, were included in the PAC PRD testing of IRR and showed strong IRR (weighted kappas of 0.836 and 0.789, respectively).[197]

In a national test to develop and validate the MDS 3.0, two items (pain made it hard to sleep, pain limited day-to-day activities) were validated for measuring the effect of pain on function.[198]

Evidence supporting use of Pain from the National Beta Test

Assessing Pain: In the National Beta Test, three pain interference data elements were assessed: Effect of Pain on Sleep, Pain Interference with Rehabilitation Therapies (If Applicable), and Pain Interference with Daily Activities. A total of 489 patients/residents in HHAs, 618 in IRFs, 375 in LTCHs, and 872 in SNFs (n = 2,354 overall) reported experiencing any pain and were administered the three pain interference items. Setting-specific frequencies are shown in Appendix C, Table 7.1.1.

Across settings, among the 78 percent of patients/residents who reported experiencing any pain, pain interfered with sleep more often than "rarely" for two of three patients/residents (65 percent); 37 percent of patients/residents with pain had pain that made it difficult to sleep "frequently" or "almost constantly." In the SNF setting, among the 78 percent of residents who reported experiencing any pain, pain interfered with sleep more than "rarely" for about two of three patients (63 percent); 36 percent of patients with pain in the SNF experienced pain that interfered with sleep "frequently" or "almost constantly."

Among the patients/residents who reported experiencing any pain, most had been offered rehabilitation therapies (e.g., physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy), both across settings (89 percent) and in the SNF (93 percent). Across settings, among these patients/residents, 73 percent of these patients reported that pain rarely interfered with rehabilitation. Within the SNF setting, 73 percent reported that pain "rarely" interfered with rehabilitation; about one in nine (11 percent) of SNF patients

[197] Gage, B., Smith, L., Ross, J., Coots, L., Kline, T., Shamsuddin, K., ... & Gage-Croll, Z. (2012). The development and testing of the Continuity Assessment Record and Evaluation (CARE) Item Set: Final report on reliability testing (Vol. 2). Research Triangle Park, NC: RTI International. Retrieved from https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Post-Acute-Care-Quality-Initiatives/Downloads/The-Development-and-Testing-of-the-Continuity-Assessment-Record-and-Evaluation-CARE-Item-Set-Final-Report-on-Reliability-Testing-Volume-2-of-3.pdf

[198] Saliba & Buchanan, 2008a.

who had pain and were offered therapy had pain that interfered with therapy "frequently" or "almost constantly."

Across settings, among those who reported experiencing any pain, 55 percent of patients/residents reported pain limiting their daily activities (not including rehabilitation) more often than "rarely or not at all." About one in three of these patients/residents (33 percent) had pain that limited activities "frequently" or "almost constantly." In the SNF setting, 59 percent of patients with pain had pain that interfered more often than "rarely." About one in three SNF patients with pain (33 percent) had pain that limited activities "frequently" or "almost constantly." *Missing data:* Overall, there were low rates of missing data for pain data elements. Across all settings, missing data did not exceed 2.4 percent for any data element. Similarly, in the SNF setting, missing data did not exceed 2.5 percent for any data element. In general, the low rate of missing data indicates feasibility of administration.

Time to complete: The length of time to administer the pain data elements was examined as another indicator of feasibility among 440 patients/residents in HHAs, 533 in IRFs, 321 in LTCHs, and 483 in SNFs (n = 1,777 overall). Across settings, the average time to complete the three interference items was 1.3 minutes (SD = 0.6). In the SNF setting, time to complete was similar, at 1.3 minutes (SD = 0.5).

Interrater reliability: IRR was assessed for 197 patients/residents in HHAs, 256 in IRFs, 232 in LTCHs, and 268 in SNFs (n = 953 overall). IRR statistics were generally excellent/perfect, indicating high levels of agreement in responses to the data elements across assessment staff. For the pain interference data elements across settings, kappas were excellent/almost perfect, with values of either 0.97 or 0.98. The same was true in the SNF setting, where excellent/almost perfect kappas ranged from 0.97 to 0.99. Percent agreement was similarly high, with 98 percent agreement for all items across settings and from 99 to 100 percent in the SNF setting. More-detailed IRR statistics are shown in Appendix C, Table 7.1.2.

Section 5: Impairments

Hearing and Vision Impairments

Hearing and vision impairments are common conditions that, if unaddressed, affect patients' and residents' activities of daily living, communication, physical functioning, rehabilitation outcomes, and overall quality of life. Sensory limitations can lead to confusion in new settings, increase isolation, contribute to mood disorders, and impede accurate assessment of other medical conditions, such as cognition. Hearing impairments may cause difficulty in communication of important information concerning the patient's or resident's condition, preferences, and care transitions; vision impairments have been associated with increased risk of falls. Both types of impairment can also interfere with comprehension of and adherence to discharge plans. Onset of hearing and vision impairments can be gradual, so accurate screening tools and follow-up evaluations are essential to determining which patients and residents need hearing- or vision-specific medical attention or assistive devices, and to ensuring that person-directed care plans are developed to accommodate patients' and residents' needs during PAC and at discharge.

Assessments pertaining to sensory status aid PAC providers in understanding the needs of their patients and residents by establishing a diagnosis of hearing or vision impairment, elucidating the patients' and residents' ability and willingness to participate in treatments or use assistive devices during their stays, and identifying appropriate ongoing therapy and support needs at the time of discharge. The standardized assessment of vision impairment among PAC patients and residents supports clinical decision making, early clinical intervention, person-centered care, and improved care continuity and coordination. The use of valid and reliable standardized assessments can aid in the communication of information within and across providers, further enabling the transfer of accurate health information.

Standardized Data Elements to Assess Hearing and Vision Impairments

CMS has identified two data elements for cross-setting standardized assessment of hearing and vision impairment.

1. Hearing
2. Vision

Hearing

Hearing impairment is one of the most common complaints in adults over the age of 60 and is a major contributor to difficulties in speech comprehension.[199] Causes of hearing loss can include noise, earwax or fluid buildup, a punctured ear drum, viruses and bacteria, certain health conditions (e.g., stroke, cardiac conditions, and brain injury), medications, heredity, and aging.[200] Age-related hearing loss is caused by presbycusis and occurs gradually over time as an individual ages. It is typically hereditary and usually affects both ears. Hearing impairment in older adults has been associated with a myriad of

[199] Peelle, J. E., Troiani, V., Grossman, M., & Wingfield, A. (2011). Hearing loss in older adults affects neural systems supporting speech comprehension. *The Journal of Neuroscience: The Official Journal of the Society for Neuroscience, 31*(35), 12638–12643. https://doi.org/10.1523/JNEUROSCI.2559-11.2011

[200] National Institute on Aging. (2018). *Hearing Loss: A common problem for older adults.* Retrieved from https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/hearing-loss-common-problem-older-adults

outcomes,[201] including falls,[202] dementia,[203] cognitive impairment,[204] anxiety,[205] emotional vitality,[206] and various medical conditions (e.g., arthritis, cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, emphysema, high blood pressure, and stroke).[207]

A high proportion of older adults receiving services in a PAC setting experience hearing impairment. About 51 percent of nursing facility patients and residents are estimated to have moderate to severe hearing impairment.[208] Data from the PAC PRD suggest that severe hearing impairment affects 1 to 2 percent of Medicare FFS beneficiaries in the four types of PAC.[209] Among older adults more generally, reports on the prevalence of hearing loss vary. The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders has stated that one-third of people between ages 65 and 74 have hearing loss and roughly half of those older than 75 are hearing-impaired.[210] Additionally, a study found that two-thirds of individuals aged 70 years or older have bilateral hearing loss and approximately three-quarters have hearing loss in at least one ear.[211]

Assessing hearing impairment is critical to improving patient outcomes, safety, and quality of life. In addition, assessment can inform future care planning and care transitions.

Relevance to SNFs

Inadequate hearing is common among residents in SNFs. According to a study on hearing loss, 51 percent of nursing home residents had a moderate to severe loss.[212] The assessment of hearing allows SNFs the opportunity to treat these impairments or improve the ability to hear (e.g., with devices), supporting better outcomes. Problems with hearing can contribute to sensory deprivation, social isolation,

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[201] Contrera, K. J., Wallhagen, M. I., Mamo, S. K., Oh, E. S., & Lin, F. R. (2016). Hearing loss health care for older adults. *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine*, *29*(3), 394–403. https://doi.org/10.3122/jabfm.2016.03.150235

[202] Jiam, N. T. L., Li, C., & Agrawal, Y. (2016). Hearing loss and falls: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *The Laryngoscope*, *126*(11), 2587–2596. https://doi.org/10.1002/lary.25927

[203] Thomson, R. S., Auduong, P., Miller, A. T., & Gurgel, R. K. (2017). Hearing loss as a risk factor for dementia: A systematic review. *Laryngoscope Investigative Otolaryngology*, *2*(2), 69–79. https://doi.org/10.1002/lio2.65

Deal, J. A., Betz, J., Yaffe, K., Harris, T., Purchase-Helzner, E., Satterfield, S., . . . Lin, F. R., & the Health ABC Study Group. (2017). Hearing impairment and incident dementia and cognitive decline in older adults: The health ABC study. *Journals of Gerontology, Series A, Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences*, *72*(5), 703–709.

Wei, J., Hu, Y., Zhang, L., Hao, Q., Yang, R., Lu, H., . . . Chandrasekar, E. K. (2017). Hearing impairment, mild cognitive impairment, and dementia: A meta-analysis of cohort studies. *Dementia and Geriatric Cognitive Disorders. Extra*, *7*(3), 440–452. https://doi.org/10.1159/000485178

[204] Wei et al., 2017.

[205] Contrera, K. J., Betz, J., Deal, J., Choi, J. S., Ayonayon, H. N., Harris, T., . . . Lin, F. R., & the Health ABC Study. (2017). Association of hearing impairment and anxiety in older adults. *Journal of Aging and Health*, *29*(1), 172–184. https://doi.org/10.1177/0898264316634571

[206] Contrera, K. J., Betz, J., Deal, J. A., Choi, J. S., Ayonayon, H. N., Harris, T., . . . Lin, F. R., & the Health ABC Study. (2016). Association of hearing impairment and emotional vitality in older adults. *The Journals of Gerontology. Series B, Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*, *71*(3), 400–404. https://doi.org/10.1093/geronb/gbw005

[207] McKee, M. M., Stransky, M. L., & Reichard, A. (2018). Hearing loss and associated medical conditions among individuals 65 years and older. *Disability and Health Journal*, *11*(1), 122–125. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dhjo.2017.05.007

[208] Garahan, M. B., Waller, J. A., Houghton, M., Tisdale, W. A., & Runge, C. F. (1992). Hearing loss prevalence and management in nursing home residents. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, *40*(2), 130–134. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1532-5415.1992.tb01932.x

[209] Hearing impairments were classified into categories from mildly impaired to severely impaired. The percentages reported here refer to severe impairment of hearing, defined as "Absence of useful hearing." (Gage, Morley, et al., 2012).

[210] National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. (2018). *Hearing loss and older adults*. Retrieved from https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing-loss-older-adults

[211] Goman, A. M., & Lin, F. R. (2016). Prevalence of hearing loss by severity in the United States. *American Journal of Public Health*, *106*(10), 1820–1822. https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2016.303299

[212] Garahan et al., 1992.

and mood and behavior disorders, and unaddressed communication problems related to hearing impairment can be mistaken for confusing or cognitive impairment.[213] In addition, nursing home residents with better hearing are also likely to spend more time in occupational therapy than those with hearing impairment, which might help accelerate their recovery.[214] The standardized assessment of hearing in a resident would provide important information for communication, ensuring safety, care planning, care transitions, and resource use in SNFs.

Data Element for the Assessment of Impairments: Hearing

B0200. Hearing	
Enter Code ☐	**Ability to hear** (with hearing aid or hearing appliances if normally used) 0. **Adequate** – no difficulty in normal conversation, social interaction, listening to TV 1. **Minimal difficulty** – difficulty in some environments (e.g., when person speaks softly or setting is noisy) 2. **Moderate difficulty** – speaker has to increase volume and speak distinctly 3. **Highly impaired** – absence of useful hearing

Current use

The Hearing data element is currently collected in the MDS, and is assessed with the use of a hearing aid, if applicable.

Prior evidence supporting use of Hearing

The Hearing data element tested in the PAC PRD includes one question regarding hearing ability, which showed high reliability across PAC settings (unweighted kappa = 0.78). The MDS 3.0 version of the Hearing data element also had almost perfect agreement in the MDS 3.0 national test in nursing homes (weighted kappas = 0.94 and 0.89).[215]

Evidence supporting use of Hearing from the National Beta Test

Assessing Hearing: In the National Beta Test, a Hearing assessment item was administered to 643 patients/residents in HHAs, 783 in IRFs, 498 in LTCHs, and 1,141 in SNFs (n = 3,065 overall). Overall, 74 percent of patients/residents had adequate hearing, 17 percent had minimal difficulty hearing, 8 percent had moderate difficulty hearing, and 1 percent were highly impaired. In the SNF setting, 76 percent of patients had adequate hearing, 15 percent had minimal difficulty hearing, 8 percent had moderate difficulty hearing, and 1 percent were highly impaired. See Appendix C, Table 8.1.1, for setting-specific response frequencies for the Hearing data element.

Missing data: There were very low rates of missing responses for the Hearing data element both overall (0.3 percent) and in the SNF setting (0.3 percent), indicating feasibility of administration.

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[213] Cacciatore, F., Napoli, C., Abete, P., Marciano, E., Triassi, M., & Rengo, F. (1999). Quality of life determinants and hearing function in an elderly population: Osservatorio Geriatrico Campano study group. *Gerontology*, *45*, 323–328.
Carabellese, C., Appollonio, I., Rozzini, R., Bianchetti, A., Frisoni, G. B., Frattola, L., Trabucchi, M. (1993). Sensory impairment and quality of life in a community elderly population. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* 41:401-407.
Lin, F. R., Metter, J., O'Brien, R. K., Resnick, S. M., Zonderman, A. B., & Ferrucci, L. (2011). Hearing loss and incident dementia. *Archives of Neurology*, *68*, 214–220.
Cohen-Mansfield, J. A., & Taylor, J. W. (2004). Hearing aid use in nursing homes Part I: prevalence rates of hearing impairment & hearing aid use. *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association, 5*, 283–288.

[214] Cimarolli, V.R., Jung, S. (2016). Intensity of occupational therapy utilization in nursing home residents: The role of sensory impairments. *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*, *17*(10), 939–942. http://doi.org/10.1016/j.jamda.2016.06.023

[215] Saliba, & Buchanan, 2008b.

Time to complete: Time to complete was assessed among 396 patients/residents in HHAs, 499 in IRFs, 301 in LTCHs, and 456 in SNFs (n = 1,652 overall). Across all settings and in the SNF setting specifically, the mean time to complete the Hearing item was 0.3 minutes (SD = 0.2 minutes).

Interrater reliability: IRR was assessed for the Hearing item for 197 patients/residents in HHAs, 258 in IRFs, 237 in LTCHs, and 268 in SNFs (n = 960 overall). Across all settings, kappa for the Hearing item was substantial/good (0.65). In the SNF setting, kappa for the Hearing item also was substantial/good (0.62). Percent agreement was high for the Hearing item across settings (84 percent) and in the SNF setting (83 percent). More-detailed IRR statistics are shown in Appendix C, Table 8.1.2.

Vision

Visual impairment can be caused by not only age-related diseases (e.g., age-related macular degeneration, cataracts, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy) but also nearsightedness, farsightedness, loss of near vision with age, and/or untreated disease.[216] In addition to conditions affecting the eye itself, visual deficits can be caused by other conditions, such as stroke and traumatic brain injury. Visual impairment in older adults has been associated with depression and anxiety,[217] lower cognitive function,[218] and poorer quality of life.[219]

The PAC PRD study found that between 1 and 3 percent of Medicare FFS beneficiaries among the four types of PAC providers had the most extreme category of visual impairment assessed, "No vision or object identification questionable." [220] Although most patients and residents in the PAC settings do not exhibit severely impaired vision, visual impairment affects a substantial proportion of older adults and is predicted to increase substantially over time. A study examining visual impairment among adults in the United States found that in 2015, among the 3.22 million persons in the United States who were visually impaired, the largest proportions comprised those in older age categories: 80 years of age and older (50 percent), 70–79 years (24 percent), and 60–69 years (16 percent).[221] By 2050, the proportion of adults with visual impairment will increase to 64 percent among individuals aged 80 years and older.[222]

Assessing visual impairment is critical to improving patient outcomes, safety, and quality of life. Additionally, assessment can inform future care planning and care transitions.

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[216] Cimarolli, V. R., Boerner, K., Brennan-Ing, M., Reinhardt, J. P., & Horowitz, A. (2012). Challenges faced by older adults with vision loss: A qualitative study with implications for rehabilitation. *Clinical Rehabilitation*, *26*(8), 748–757. https://doi.org/10.1177/0269215511429162

[217] Heesterbeek, T. J., van der Aa, H. P. A., van Rens, G. H. M. B., Twisk, J. W. R., & van Nispen, R. M. A. (2017). The incidence and predictors of depressive and anxiety symptoms in older adults with vision impairment: A longitudinal prospective cohort study. *Ophthalmic & Physiological Optics*, *37*(4), 385–398. https://doi.org/10.1111/opo.12388

[218] Chen, S. P., Bhattacharya, J., & Pershing, S. (2017). Association of vision loss with cognition in older adults. *JAMA Ophthalmology*, *135*(9), 963–970. https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2017.2838

[219] Tseng, Y. C., Liu, S. H. Y., Lou, M. F., & Huang, G. S. (2018). Quality of life in older adults with sensory impairments: A systematic review. *Quality of Life Research*, *27*(8), 1957–1971. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11136-018-1799-2

[220] Gage, Morley, et al., 2012.

[221] Varma, R., Vajaranant, T. S., Burkemper, B., Wu, S., Torres, M., Hsu, C., . . . McKean-Cowdin, R. (2016). Visual impairment and blindness in adults in the United States: Demographic and geographic variations from 2015 to 2050. *JAMA Ophthalmology*, *134*(7), 802–809. https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2016.1284

[222] Ibid.

Relevance to SNFs

Inadequate vision is common in residents in SNFs. Among nursing home residents, two studies have found 38 and 57 percent of residents experience visual impairment,[223] [224] The assessment of vision allows SNFs the opportunity to address these impairments or improve the ability to see, supporting better outcomes. Additionally, assessment of this information is useful for ensuring safety in the SNF setting, as impaired vision increases the risk of falls.[225] If uncorrected, vision impairment can limit the enjoyment of everyday activities such as reading newspapers, books or correspondence, and maintaining and enjoying hobbies and other activities. The standardized assessment of vision in a resident would provide important information for patient safety, communication, care planning, care transitions, and resource use in SNFs.

Data Element for the Assessment of Impairments: Vision

B1000. Vision	
Enter Code ☐	**Ability to see in adequate light** (with glasses or other visual appliances) 0. **Adequate** – sees fine detail, such as regular print in newspapers/books 1. **Impaired** – sees large print, but not regular print in newspapers/books 2. **Moderately impaired** – limited vision; not able to see newspaper headlines but can identify objects 3. **Highly impaired** – object identification in question, but eyes appear to follow objects 4. **Severely impaired** – no vision or sees only light, colors or shapes; eyes do not appear to follow objects

Current use

Vision is currently assessed in the OASIS and MDS, with corrective lenses when applicable. Vision is assessed in OASIS with three response options ranging from 0 (normal vision) to 2 (severely impaired). The Vision data element (Ability to See in Adequate Light) in the MDS contains five response options ranging from 0 (adequate) to 4 (severely impaired).

Prior evidence supporting use of Vision

The MDS 3.0 Vision data element has been shown to perform reliably in screening for vision impairment (weighted kappa = 0.917) in the national MDS 3.0 test in nursing homes.[226] The Vision data element is also linked to performance with readily available materials (i.e., newspaper). In addition, the Vision data element was tested in the PAC PRD assessment. The PAC PRD found substantial agreement for IRR across settings for this data element (kappa of 0.74).[227]

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[223] Owlsey, C., McGwin, G., Scilley, K., Meek, G. C., Dyer, A., Seker, D. (2007). The visual status of older persons residing in nursing homes. *Archives of Ophthalmology, 127*(7), 925–930.

[224] West, S. K., Friedman, D., Muñoz, B., Roche, K. B., Park, W., Deremeik, J., ... German, P. (2003). A randomized trial of visual impairment interventions for nursing home residents: study design, baseline, characteristics, and visual loss. *Ophthalmic Epidemiology, 10*(3), 193–209.

[225] Ivers, R. Q., Norton, R., Cumming, R. G., Butler, M., & Campbell, A. J. (2000). Visual impairment and risk of hip fracture. American Journal of Epidemiology. 152(7): 633-639.

Freeman, E. E., Muñoz, B., Rubin, G., & West, S. K. (2007). Visual field loss increases the risk of falls in older adults: The Salisbury eye evaluation. *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science*, *48*(10), 4445–4450. https://doi.org/10.1167/iovs.07-0326

[226] Saliba, & Buchanan, 2008b.

[227] Gage, Smith, et al., 2012.

Evidence supporting use of Vision from the National Beta Test

Assessing Vision: In the National Beta Test, the Vision assessment item, with corrective lenses when applicable, was administered to 643 patients/residents in HHAs, 783 in IRFs, 498 in LTCHs, and 1,141 in SNFs (n = 3,065 overall).

Overall, 78 percent of patients/residents had adequate vision, 16 percent had impaired vision, and 6 percent had moderately to severely impaired vision. In the SNF setting, 78 percent of patients/residents had adequate vision, 16 percent had impaired vision, and 6 percent had moderately to severely impaired vision. Setting-specific frequencies are shown in Appendix C, Table 9.2.1.

Missing data: There were very low rates of missing responses for the Vision item both overall (0.6 percent) and in the SNF setting (0.6 percent), indicating feasibility of administration.

Time to complete: Time to complete was assessed among 396 patients/residents in HHAs, 499 in IRFs, 301 in LTCHs, and 456 in SNFs (n = 1,652 overall). Across all settings and in the SNF setting specifically, the mean time to complete the Vision item was 0.3 minutes (SD = 0.2 minutes).

Interrater reliability: IRR was assessed for the Vision item for 197 patients/residents in HHAs, 258 in IRFs, 237 in LTCHs, and 268 in SNFs (n = 960). Across all settings, kappa for the Vision item was moderate (0.56). In the SNF setting, kappa for the Vision item was also moderate (0. 57). Percent agreement was high for the Vision item both across settings (83 percent) and in SNF (83 percent). More-detailed IRR statistics are shown in Appendix C, Table 9.2.2.

Section 6: New Category: Social Determinants of Health

Standardized Data Elements to Assess for Social Determinants of Health

CMS has identified data elements for cross-setting standardization of assessment for seven social determinants of health (SDOH). The data elements are as follows:

1. Race
2. Ethnicity
3. Preferred Language
4. Interpreter Services
5. Health Literacy
6. Transportation
7. Social Isolation

Race and Ethnicity

Relevance to SNFs

The persistence of racial and ethnic disparities in health and health care is widely documented, including in PAC settings. [228] Although racial and ethnic disparities decrease when social factors are controlled for, they often remain. The root causes of these disparities are not always clear because data on many SDOH are not collected. Measuring SDOH in SNF settings is an important step to addressing these avoidable differences in health outcomes. Collecting data on race and ethnicity supports patient-centered care and informs understanding of patient complexity and risk factors that may affect payment, quality measurement, and care outcomes for SNFs. Improving how race and ethnicity data are collected is an important component of improving quality by identifying and addressing health disparities that affect Medicare beneficiaries.

[228] Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. (2018, September). *2017 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report.* AHRQ Pub. No. 18-0033-EF. Rockville, MD: Author.

Fiscella, K., & Sanders, M. R. (2016). Racial and ethnic disparities in the quality of health care. *Annual Review of Public Health, 37*(1), 375–394. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-publhealth-032315-021439

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2018, February). *2018 National Impact Assessment of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Quality Measures Reports.* Baltimore, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Smedley, B. D., Stith, A. Y., & Nelson, A. R. (2003). *Unequal treatment: confronting racial and ethnic disparities in health care*. Washington: D.C., National Academy Press.

Chase, J. D., Huang, L., Russell, D., Hanlon, A., O'Connor, M., Robinson, K. M., & Bowles, K. H. (2018). Racial/ethnic disparities in disability outcomes among post-acute home care patients. *Journal of Aging and Health, 30*(9), 1406–1426. https://doi.org/10.1177/0898264317717851

Data Elements for the Assessment of SDOH: Race and Ethnicity

Ethnicity

A1005. Ethnicity Are you of Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin?	
↓	**Check all that apply**
☐	**A.** No, not of Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin
☐	**B.** Yes, Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano/a
☐	**C.** Yes, Puerto Rican
☐	**D.** Yes, Cuban
☐	**E.** Yes, Another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
☐	**X.** Resident unable to respond

Race

A1010. Race What is your race?	
↓	**Check all that apply**
☐	**A.** White
☐	**B.** Black or African American
☐	**C.** American Indian or Alaska Native
☐	**D.** Asian Indian
☐	**E.** Chinese
☐	**F.** Filipino
☐	**G.** Japanese
☐	**H.** Korean
☐	**I.** Vietnamese
☐	**J.** Other Asian
☐	**K.** Native Hawaiian
☐	**L.** Guamanian or Chamorro
☐	**M.** Samoan
☐	**N.** Other Pacific Islander
☐	**X.** Resident unable to respond

Current use

A Race and Ethnicity data element is currently collected in the MDS, LCDS, IRF-PAI, and OASIS. The data element consists of a single question, which aligns with the 1997 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) minimum data standards for federal data collection efforts.[229] The 1997 OMB Standard lists five minimum categories of race: (1) American Indian or Alaska Native, (2) Asian, (3)

[229] Office of Management and Budget. (1997, October 30). Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity (Notice of Decision). *Federal Register*, *62*(210), 58782–58790. Retrieved from https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-1997-10-30/pdf/97-28653.pdf

Black or African American, (4) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and (5) White. The 1997 OMB Standard also lists two minimum categories of ethnicity: (1) Hispanic or Latino, and (2) Not Hispanic or Latino.[230] The current version uses a "Mark all that apply" response option.

Evidence supporting use of Race and Ethnicity

The modification will result in two separate data elements, one for race and one for ethnicity, that will conform with the 2011 HHS Data Standards for person-level data collection and the 1997 OMB Standards. The 2011 HHS Data Standards permit the collection of more-detailed information on population groups provided additional categories can be aggregated into the OMB minimum standard set of categories. The 2011 HHS Data Standards require a two-question format when self-identification is used to collect data on race and ethnicity. Large federal surveys, such as the National Health Interview Survey, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, and the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, have implemented the 2011 HHS Data Standards. CMS has similarly updated the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey, the Medicare Health Outcomes Survey, and the Health Insurance Marketplace Application for Health Coverage with the 2011 HHS data standards.

Preferred Language and Interpreter Services

Relevance to SNFs

More than 64 million people in the United States speak a language other than English at home, and nearly 40 million of those individuals have limited English proficiency (LEP).[231] Individuals with LEP have been shown to receive worse care and have poorer health outcomes, including higher readmission rates.[232] Communication with individuals with LEP is an important component of quality health care, which starts by understanding the population in need of language services. Unaddressed language barriers between a patient and provider care team negatively affect the ability to identify and address individual medical and non-medical care needs, to convey and understand clinical information, and to convey and understand discharge and follow-up instructions, all of which are necessary for providing high-quality care. Understanding the communication assistance needs of residents and patients with LEP, including individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, is critical for ensuring good outcomes.

[230] Ibid.

[231] U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey. https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_17_5YR_S1601&prodType=table

[232] Karliner, L. S., Kim, S. E., Meltzer, D. O., & Auerbach, A. D. (2010). Influence of language barriers on outcomes of hospital care for general medicine inpatients. *Journal of Hospital Medicine, 5*(5), 276–282. https://doi.org/10.1002/jhm.658

Kim, E. J., Kim, T., Paasche-Orlow, M. K., Rose, A. J., & Hanchate, A. D. (2017). Disparities in hypertension associated with limited English proficiency. *Journal of General Internal Medicine, 32*(6), 632–639. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11606-017-3999-9

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2016). *Accounting for social risk factors in Medicare payment: Identifying social risk factors*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

Data Elements for the Assessment of SDOH: Preferred Language and Interpreter Services

A1110. Language	
Enter Code ☐	**A. What is your preferred language?** ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ **B. Do you need or want an interpreter to communicate with a doctor or health care staff?** 0. **No** 1. **Yes** 9. **Unable to determine**

Current use

The preferred language of residents and patients and the need for interpreter services are assessed in two PAC assessment tools. The LCDS and the MDS use the same two data elements to assess preferred language and whether a patient or resident needs or wants an interpreter to communicate with health care staff. The current preferred language data element in LCDS and MDS is open-ended, allowing the patient or resident to identify their preferred language, including American Sign Language. The MDS initially implemented preferred language and interpreter services data elements to assess the needs of SNF residents and patients and inform care planning. For alignment purposes, the LCDS later adopted the same data elements for LTCHs.

Evidence supporting use of Preferred Language and Interpreter Services

The 2009 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) report on standardizing data for health care quality improvement emphasizes that language and communication needs should be assessed as a standard part of health care delivery and quality improvement strategies.[233] Although the 2011 HHS Primary Language Data Standard recommends a two-part question to assess spoken language, the need to improve the assessment of language preferences and communication needs across PAC settings should be balanced with the provider and patient assessment burden. In addition, preferred spoken language would not allow information to be collected on American Sign Language, as is accounted for by the preferred language and interpreter services data elements currently in the MDS and LCDS.

Health Literacy

Relevance to SNFs

Similar to language barriers, low health literacy can interfere with communication between the provider and resident or patient and the ability for residents and patients or their caregivers to understand and follow treatment plans, including medication management. Poor health literacy is linked to lower levels of knowledge about health, worse health outcomes, receipt of fewer preventive services, higher medical costs, and higher rates of emergency department use.[234]

[233] Institute of Medicine. (2009). *Race, ethnicity, and language data: Standardization for health care quality improvement.* Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

[234] National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2016. Accounting for social risk factors in Medicare payment: Identifying social risk factors. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

Data Element for the Assessment of SDOH: Health Literacy

B1300. Health Literacy How often do you need to have someone help you when you read instructions, pamphlets, or other written material from your doctor or pharmacy?	
Enter Code ☐	0. **Never** 1. **Rarely** 2. **Sometimes** 3. **Often** 4. **Always** 8. **Resident unable to respond**

Current use

A health literacy data element is not currently used in any of the PAC assessment tools.

Evidence supporting use of Health Literacy

Health literacy is prioritized by Healthy People 2020 as an SDOH.[235] NASEM's 2016 report on accounting for social risk factors in Medicare payment considers health literacy an individual risk factor affected by other social risk factors.[236] The Single Item Literacy Screener (SILS) question, which assesses reading ability (a primary component of health literacy), tested reasonably well against the 36-item Short Test of Functional Health Literacy in Adults (S-TOFHLA), a thoroughly vetted and widely adopted health literacy test, in assessing the likelihood of low health literacy in an adult sample from primary care practices participating in the Vermont Diabetes Information System.[237] SILS is publicly available, and shorter and easier to administer than the S-TOFHLA. Research found that a positive result on the SILS demonstrates an increased likelihood that an individual has low health literacy.[238]

Transportation

Relevance to SNFs

Transportation barriers commonly affect access to needed health care, causing missed appointments, delayed care, and unfilled prescriptions, all of which can have a negative impact on health outcomes.[239] Access to transportation for ongoing health care and medication access needs, particularly for those with chronic diseases, is essential to successful chronic disease management. Adopting a data element to collect and analyze information regarding transportation needs across PAC settings will facilitate the connection to programs that can address identified needs.

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[235] Healthy People 2020. (2019, February). *Social determinants of health*. Retrieved from https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-of-health.

[236] U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. (2016, December). *Report to Congress: Social risk factors and performance under Medicare's value-based purchasing programs*. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved from https://aspe.hhs.gov/pdf-report/report-congress-social-risk-factors-and-performance-under-medicares-value-based-purchasing-programs.

[237] Morris, N. S., MacLean, C. D., Chew, L. D., & Littenberg, B. (2006). The Single Item Literacy Screener: Evaluation of a brief instrument to identify limited reading ability. *BMC Family Practice, 7*(1), 21. https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2296-7-21

[238] Brice, J. H., Foster, M. B., Principe, S., Moss, C., Shofer, F. S., Falk, R. J., . . . DeWalt, D. A. (2014). Single-item or two-item literacy screener to predict the S-TOFHLA among adult hemodialysis patients. *Patient Education and Counseling, 94*(1), 71–75. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pec.2013.09.020

[239] Syed, S. T., Gerber, B. S., & Sharp, L. K. (2013). Traveling towards disease: Transportation barriers to health care access. *Journal of Community Health, 38*(5), 976–993. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10900-013-9681-1

Data Element for the Assessment of SDOH: Transportation

A1250. Transportation Has lack of transportation kept you from medical appointments, meetings, work, or from getting things needed for daily living?	
↓	**Check all that apply**
☐	**A. Yes**, it has kept me from medical appointments or from getting my medications
☐	**B. Yes**, it has kept me from non-medical meetings, appointments, work, or from getting things that I need
☐	**C. No**
☐	**X. Resident unable to respond**

Current use

A transportation data element is not currently used in any of the PAC assessment tools.

Evidence supporting use of Transportation

The data element uses the Transportation item from the Protocol for Responding to and Assessing Patient Assets, Risks, and Experiences (PRAPARE) tool and is reflective of research on the importance of addressing transportation as a critical SDOH. The national PRAPARE SDOH assessment protocol is developed and owned by the National Association of Community Health Centers, in partnership with the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organization, the Oregon Primary Care Association, and the Institute for Alternative Futures. More information about development of the PRAPARE tool can be found at http://www.nachc.org/prapare. Items in the assessment tool are consistent with Healthy People 2020 priorities and ICD-10 coding. [240]

Social Isolation

Relevance to SNFs

Distinct from loneliness, social isolation refers to an actual or perceived lack of contact with other people, such as living alone or residing in a remote area. [241] Social isolation tends to increase with age, is a risk factor for physical and mental illness, and is a predictor of mortality.[242] PAC providers are well-suited to design and implement programs to increase social engagement of patients and residents while accounting for individual needs and preferences. Adopting a data element to collect and analyze information about social isolation in SNFs and across PAC settings would facilitate the identification of residents and patients who are socially isolated and who may benefit from engagement efforts.

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Data Element for the Assessment of SDOH: Social Isolation

D0700. Social Isolation How often do you feel lonely or isolated from those around you?	
Enter Code ☐	0. **Never** 1. **Rarely** 2. **Sometimes** 3. **Often** 4. **Always** 8. **Resident unable to respond**

Current use

A social isolation data element is not currently used in any of the PAC assessment tools.

Evidence supporting use of Social Isolation

The data element uses the social isolation item from the Accountable Health Communities (AHC) Screening Tool, which was selected from the Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS) Item Bank on Emotional Distress. The AHC Screening Tool was developed by a panel of interdisciplinary experts that looked at evidence-based ways to measure SDOH, including social isolation. More information about the AHC Screening Tool can be found at https://innovation.cms.gov/Files/worksheets/ahcm-screeningtool.pdf.

APPENDIX A:
Transfer of Health Information: Setting-Specific Language

Tables A-1 and A-2 below summarize the setting specific language used to describe the resident or patient within each PAC setting. There are no other differences in the content or language within each Transfer of Health Information to the Provider-Post-Acute Care quality measure data element and within each Transfer of Health Information to the Patient–Post-Acute Care quality measure data element.

Table A-1
Transfer of Health Information to the Provider–Post-Acute Care: Setting-Specific Language

IRF	LTCH	SNF
Discharge	**Discharge**	**Discharge**
A2121. Provision of Current Reconciled Medication List to Subsequent Provider at Discharge At the time of discharge to another provider, did your facility provide the patient's current reconciled medication list to the subsequent provider? Enter Code: □ 0. No - Current reconciled medication list not provided to the subsequent provider 1. Yes - Current reconciled medication list provided to the subsequent provider	**A2121. Provision of Current Reconciled Medication List to Subsequent Provider at Discharge** At the time of discharge to another provider, did your facility provide the patient's current reconciled medication list to the subsequent provider? Enter Code: □ 0. No - Current reconciled medication list not provided to the subsequent provider 1. Yes - Current reconciled medication list provided to the subsequent provider	**A2121. Provision of Current Reconciled Medication List to Subsequent Provider at Discharge** At the time of discharge to another provider, did your facility provide the resident's current reconciled medication list to the subsequent provider? Enter Code: □ 0. No - Current reconciled medication list not provided to the subsequent provider 1. Yes - Current reconciled medication list provided to the subsequent provider
A2122. Route of Current Reconciled Medication List Transmission to Subsequent Provider Indicate the route(s) of transmission of the current reconciled medication list to the subsequent provider. A. Electronic Health Record B. Health Information Exchange Organization C. Verbal (e.g., in-person, telephone, video conferencing) D. Paper-based (e.g., fax, copies, printouts) E. Other Methods (e.g., texting, email, CDs)	**A2122. Route of Current Reconciled Medication List Transmission to Subsequent Provider** Indicate the route(s) of transmission of the current reconciled medication list to the subsequent provider. A. Electronic Health Record B. Health Information Exchange Organization C. Verbal (e.g., in-person, telephone, video conferencing) D. Paper-based (e.g., fax, copies, printouts) E. Other Methods (e.g., texting, email, CDs)	**A2122. Route of Current Reconciled Medication List Transmission to Subsequent Provider** Indicate the route(s) of transmission of the current reconciled medication list to the subsequent provider. A. Electronic Health Record B. Health Information Exchange Organization C. Verbal (e.g., in-person, telephone, video conferencing) D. Paper-based (e.g., fax, copies, printouts) E. Other Methods (e.g., texting, email, CDs)

Table A-2
Transfer of Health Information to the Patient–Post-Acute Care: Setting-Specific Language

IRF	LTCH	SNF
Discharge	**Discharge**	**Discharge**
A2123. Provision of Current Reconciled Medication List to Patient at Discharge At the time of discharge, did your facility provide the patient's current reconciled medication list to the patient, family and/or caregiver? Enter Code: □ 0. No - Current reconciled medication list not provided to the patient, family and/or caregiver 1. Yes - Current reconciled medication list provided to the patient, family and/or caregiver	**A2123. Provision of Current Reconciled Medication List to Patient at Discharge** At the time of discharge, did your facility provide the patient's current reconciled medication list to the patient, family and/or caregiver? Enter Code: □ 0. No - Current reconciled medication list not provided to the patient, family and/or caregiver 1. Yes - Current reconciled medication list provided to the patient, family and/or caregiver	**A2123. Provision of Current Reconciled Medication List to Resident at Discharge** At the time of discharge, did your facility provide the resident's current reconciled medication list to the resident, family and/or caregiver? Enter Code: □ 0. No - Current reconciled medication list not provided to the resident, family and/or caregiver 1. Yes - Current reconciled medication list provided to the resident, family and/or caregiver?
A2124. Route of Current Reconciled Medication List Transmission to Patient Indicate the route(s) of transmission of the current reconciled medication list to the patient/family/caregiver. A. Electronic Health Record (e.g., electronic access to patient portal) B. Health Information Exchange Organization C. Verbal (e.g., in-person, telephone, video conferencing) D. Paper-based (e.g., fax, copies, printouts) E. Other Methods (e.g., texting, email, CDs)	**A2124. Route of Current Reconciled Medication List Transmission to Patient** Indicate the route(s) of transmission of the current reconciled medication list to the patient/family/caregiver. A. Electronic Health Record (e.g., electronic access to patient portal) B. Health Information Exchange Organization C. Verbal (e.g., in-person, telephone, video conferencing) D. Paper-based (e.g., fax, copies, printouts) E. Other Methods (e.g., texting, email, CDs)	**A2124. Route of Current Reconciled Medication List Transmission to Resident** Indicate the route(s) of transmission of the current reconciled medication list to the resident/family/caregiver. A. Electronic Health Record (e.g., electronic access to patient portal) B. Health Information Exchange Organization C. Verbal (e.g., in-person, telephone, video conferencing) D. Paper-based (e.g., fax, copies, printouts) E. Other Methods (e.g., texting, email, CDs)

APPENDIX B:
Discharge to Community–PAC SNF QRP Analyses

Table B-1.
Logistic Regression Model Results for Discharge to Community–Post Acute Care (PAC) Skilled Nursing Program (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP), Calendar Year 2015–2016

Number of beneficiaries included in the model = 2,921,717

Observed number (percent) of beneficiaries in the sample who were discharged to community = 1,557,753 (53.32%).

Model c-statistic = 0.710

Based on Medicare fee-for-service claims data from CY 2015–2016. These model estimates only apply to CY 2015–2016 SNF data. We will re-estimate the regression model for each measurement period to allow the estimated effects of resident characteristics to vary over time.

Risk Adjuster	N	%	Estimate	SE[1]	p-value	Odds Ratio (OR)	OR 95% Lower CL[2]	OR 95% Upper CL
Intercept	.		2.142	0.010	<.0001	.	.	.
Age and Sex Groupings (Reference: Female, age 65–69 years)								
Male, age 18–34 years	2,044	0.1	−0.201	0.050	<.0001	0.818	0.741	0.902
Male, age 35–44 years	7,134	0.2	−0.183	0.027	<.0001	0.833	0.790	0.878
Male, age 45–54 years	29,372	1.0	−0.190	0.014	<.0001	0.827	0.804	0.851
Male, age 55–59 years	35,433	1.2	−0.204	0.013	<.0001	0.815	0.794	0.836
Male, age 60–64 years	50,470	1.7	−0.224	0.011	<.0001	0.799	0.782	0.817
Male, age 65–69 years	139,502	4.8	−0.081	0.008	<.0001	0.922	0.908	0.937
Male, age 70–74 years	149,568	5.1	−0.128	0.008	<.0001	0.880	0.866	0.894
Male, age 75–79 years	174,737	6.0	−0.178	0.008	<.0001	0.837	0.824	0.850
Male, age 80–84 years	194,761	6.7	−0.246	0.008	<.0001	0.782	0.770	0.794
Male, age 85–89 years	189,290	6.5	−0.356	0.008	<.0001	0.701	0.690	0.712
Male, age 90–94 years	111,538	3.8	−0.511	0.009	<.0001	0.600	0.589	0.610
Male, age ≥ 95 years	32,560	1.1	−0.709	0.013	<.0001	0.492	0.480	0.505
Female, age 18–34 years	1,797	0.1	−0.389	0.055	<.0001	0.678	0.609	0.755
Female, age 35–44 years	6,706	0.2	−0.199	0.028	<.0001	0.819	0.776	0.866
Female, age 45–54 years	26,951	0.9	−0.171	0.015	<.0001	0.843	0.819	0.868
Female, age 55–59 years	35,156	1.2	−0.134	0.013	<.0001	0.875	0.852	0.898

(continued)

Table B-1.
Logistic Regression Model Results for Discharge to Community–Post Acute Care (PAC) Skilled Nursing Program (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP), Calendar Year 2015–2016 (continued)

Risk Adjuster	N	%	Estimate	SE[1]	p-value	Odds Ratio (OR)	OR 95% Lower CL[2]	OR 95% Upper CL
Female, age 60–64 years	55,084	1.9	−0.152	0.011	<.0001	0.859	0.840	0.878
Female, age 70–74 years	216,741	7.4	−0.021	0.007	0.0047	0.979	0.965	0.994
Female, age 75–79 years	269,863	9.2	−0.073	0.007	<.0001	0.929	0.916	0.942
Female, age 80–84 years	322,205	11.0	−0.164	0.007	<.0001	0.849	0.837	0.861
Female, age 85–89 years	351,843	12.0	−0.294	0.007	<.0001	0.745	0.735	0.756
Female, age 90–94 years	248,699	8.5	−0.437	0.008	<.0001	0.646	0.637	0.656
Female, age ≥ 95 years	93,837	3.2	−0.659	0.009	<.0001	0.518	0.508	0.527
Original Reason for Entitlement								
Age ≥ 65 at SNF admission and original reason for entitlement was disability	395,334	13.5	−0.150	0.004	<.0001	0.861	0.854	0.868
Age ≥ 65 at SNF admission and original reason for entitlement was ESRD, or ESRD and disability	15,825	0.5	−0.149	0.020	<.0001	0.861	0.829	0.896
Ventilator Use in SNF								
Ventilator Use During Index SNF Stay (MedPAR Diag Code = Respirator (V4611))	3,596	0.1	−1.511	0.070	<.0001	0.221	0.193	0.253
Principal Diagnosis Clinical Classifications Software (CCS) Groupings Based on Prior Acute Stay (Reference: includes all CCS numbers not listed as risk adjusters)								
Infections (TB, Bacterial, HIV, Other) (1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9)	9,711	0.3	−0.832	0.023	<.0001	0.435	0.416	0.455
Septicemia (except in labor) (2)	260,585	8.9	−0.836	0.009	<.0001	0.433	0.426	0.441
Cancer: Cancer of Head and Neck (11)	1,397	0.1	−0.931	0.063	<.0001	0.394	0.349	0.446
Cancer: Stomach, Colon (12, 13, 14)	10,367	0.4	−0.435	0.024	<.0001	0.647	0.618	0.678
Cancer: Cancer of Rectum and Anus (15)	2,488	0.1	−0.895	0.044	<.0001	0.409	0.375	0.445
Cancer: Other GI (16, 17, 18)	2,621	0.1	−0.654	0.043	<.0001	0.520	0.478	0.566
Cancer: Cancer of Bronchus; Lung; Cancer; Other Respiratory and Intrathoracic (19, 20)	3,439	0.1	−0.869	0.040	<.0001	0.419	0.388	0.453
Cancer: Bone and Melanoma (21, 22, 23, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 36)	2,507	0.1	−0.783	0.045	<.0001	0.457	0.419	0.499
Cancer: Breast and Female (24, 25, 27)	2,744	0.1	−0.807	0.047	<.0001	0.446	0.407	0.490

(continued)

Table B-1.
Logistic Regression Model Results for Discharge to Community–Post Acute Care (PAC) Skilled Nursing Program (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP), Calendar Year 2015–2016 (continued)

Risk Adjuster	N	%	Estimate	SE[1]	p-value	Odds Ratio (OR)	OR 95% Lower CL[2]	OR 95% Upper CL
Cancer: Bladder and Kidney (32, 33, 34)	4,805	0.2	−0.833	0.035	<.0001	0.435	0.405	0.466
Cancer: Cancer of Brain and Nervous System (35)	811	0.03	−1.427	0.075	<.0001	0.240	0.207	0.278
Cancer: Leukemia and Lymphoma (37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 45)	1,727	0.1	−1.370	0.052	<.0001	0.254	0.230	0.281
Cancer: Secondary Malignancies (42)	3,644	0.1	−1.144	0.036	<.0001	0.319	0.297	0.342
Cancer: Misc. Neoplasm (44, 46, 47, 167)	6,113	0.2	−0.770	0.029	<.0001	0.463	0.438	0.490
Thyroid Disorders (48)	1,760	0.1	−0.986	0.050	<.0001	0.373	0.338	0.411
Diabetes Mellitus with or without Complication (49, 50)	45,217	1.5	−0.891	0.013	<.0001	0.410	0.400	0.421
Other Endocrine Disorders; Disorders of Lipid Metabolism (51, 53)	9,020	0.3	−0.775	0.023	<.0001	0.461	0.440	0.482
Nutritional Deficiencies (52)	2,107	0.1	−1.264	0.047	<.0001	0.282	0.258	0.310
Gout and Other Crystal Arthropathies (54)	3,248	0.1	−0.543	0.038	<.0001	0.581	0.539	0.626
Fluid/Electrolyte Disorders (55)	44,901	1.5	−1.002	0.013	<.0001	0.367	0.358	0.376
COPD, Asthma, and Cystic Fibrosis (56, 127, 128)	60,738	2.1	−1.002	0.012	<.0001	0.367	0.359	0.376
Blood Disorders (Immune, Sickle Cell) (57, 61, 62, 63, 64)	4,340	0.1	−0.959	0.033	<.0001	0.383	0.359	0.409
Other Nutritional, Endocrine, and Metabolic Disorders (58)	8,097	0.3	−1.117	0.025	<.0001	0.327	0.312	0.343
Iron Deficiency and Other Anemia (59)	14,223	0.5	−1.178	0.020	<.0001	0.308	0.296	0.320
Acute Posthemorrhagic Anemia (60)	6,315	0.2	−0.969	0.028	<.0001	0.379	0.359	0.401
Meningitis and Encephalitis (76, 77, 78)	3,544	0.1	−0.729	0.036	<.0001	0.482	0.449	0.518
Parkinson’s Disease (79)	5,279	0.2	−1.008	0.030	<.0001	0.365	0.344	0.387
Multiple Sclerosis (80)	1,797	0.1	−1.030	0.050	<.0001	0.357	0.323	0.394
Other Hereditary and Degenerative Nervous System Conditions; Paralysis (81, 82)	5,859	0.2	−0.915	0.028	<.0001	0.400	0.379	0.423
Epilepsy, Convulsions (83)	17,334	0.6	−0.867	0.018	<.0001	0.420	0.406	0.435
Migraine and Eye Conditions (84, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94)	7,205	0.2	−0.432	0.027	<.0001	0.649	0.616	0.685
Coma, Stupor, and Brain Damage (85)	948	0.0	−1.120	0.069	<.0001	0.326	0.285	0.374

(continued)

Table B-1.
Logistic Regression Model Results for Discharge to Community–Post Acute Care (PAC) Skilled Nursing Program (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP), Calendar Year 2015–2016 (continued)

Risk Adjuster	N	%	Estimate	SE[1]	p-value	Odds Ratio (OR)	OR 95% Lower CL[2]	OR 95% Upper CL
Other Nervous System Disorders (95)	43,104	1.5	−0.899	0.013	<.0001	0.407	0.397	0.417
Heart Valve Disorders (96)	22,419	0.8	−0.754	0.019	<.0001	0.470	0.453	0.488
Cardiomyopathy; Coronary Atherosclerosis and other Heart Disease (97, 101)	26,219	0.9	−0.723	0.017	<.0001	0.485	0.470	0.501
Essential Hypertension; Hypertension with Complications and Secondary Hypertension (98, 99)	39,948	1.4	−0.931	0.013	<.0001	0.394	0.384	0.405
Acute MI; Cardiac Arrest and Ventricular Fibrillation (100, 107)	51,377	1.8	−0.932	0.012	<.0001	0.394	0.384	0.404
Nonspecific Chest Pain; Other and Ill-defined Heart Disease (102, 104)	7,900	0.3	−0.938	0.025	<.0001	0.391	0.373	0.411
Pulmonary Heart Disease (103)	18,030	0.6	−0.786	0.017	<.0001	0.456	0.440	0.471
Conduction Disorders; Cardiac Dysrhythmias (105, 106)	66,455	2.3	−0.893	0.011	<.0001	0.410	0.401	0.419
Congestive Heart Failure (108)	125,233	4.3	−1.031	0.010	<.0001	0.357	0.350	0.364
Acute Cerebrovascular Disease (109)	111,078	3.8	−1.085	0.010	<.0001	0.338	0.331	0.345
Occlusion or Stenosis of Precerebral Arteries (110)	3,162	0.1	−0.679	0.040	<.0001	0.507	0.469	0.548
Other and Ill-defined Cerebrovascular Disease (111)	1,469	0.1	−0.793	0.056	<.0001	0.452	0.406	0.504
Transient Cerebral Ischemia (112)	12,007	0.4	−0.679	0.021	<.0001	0.507	0.487	0.528
Late Effects of Cerebrovascular Disease (113)	4,099	0.1	−0.832	0.034	<.0001	0.435	0.407	0.465
Peripheral and Visceral Atherosclerosis (114)	15,318	0.5	−0.910	0.019	<.0001	0.403	0.388	0.418
Aortic, Peripheral, and Visceral Artery Aneurysms (115)	6,926	0.2	−0.705	0.027	<.0001	0.494	0.468	0.521
Aortic and Peripheral Arterial Embolism or Thrombosis (116)	3,691	0.1	−1.037	0.036	<.0001	0.355	0.330	0.381
Other Circulatory Disease (117)	15,655	0.5	−0.786	0.018	<.0001	0.456	0.439	0.472
Phlebitis, Thrombophlebitis and Thromboembolism (118)	14,055	0.5	−0.900	0.019	<.0001	0.407	0.391	0.422
Vein Disease and Lymphadenitis (119, 120, 121, 247)	5,063	0.2	−0.896	0.030	<.0001	0.408	0.385	0.433
Pneumonia (except that caused by Tuberculosis or Sexually Transmitted Disease) (122)	101,666	3.5	−0.880	0.010	<.0001	0.415	0.407	0.423

(continued)

Table B-1.
Logistic Regression Model Results for Discharge to Community–Post Acute Care (PAC) Skilled Nursing Program (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP), Calendar Year 2015–2016 (continued)

Risk Adjuster	N	%	Estimate	SE[1]	p-value	Odds Ratio (OR)	OR 95% Lower CL[2]	OR 95% Upper CL
Influenza (123)	9,042	0.3	−0.473	0.024	<.0001	0.623	0.595	0.652
Tonsillitis and Teeth and Jaw Disorders (124, 136, 137)	1,321	0.1	−0.867	0.058	<.0001	0.420	0.375	0.471
Acute Bronchitis; Other Upper Respiratory Infections (125, 126)	5,821	0.2	−0.603	0.029	<.0001	0.547	0.517	0.579
Aspiration Pneumonitis, Food/Vomitus (129)	30,350	1.0	−1.089	0.015	<.0001	0.337	0.327	0.347
Pleurisy, Pneumothorax, Pulmonary Collapse (130)	9,015	0.3	−0.877	0.024	<.0001	0.416	0.397	0.436
Respiratory Failure, Insufficiency, Arrest (Adult) (131)	50,619	1.7	−1.042	0.013	<.0001	0.353	0.344	0.362
Other Lung Disease (132, 133, 134)	8,220	0.3	−1.008	0.025	<.0001	0.365	0.348	0.383
Intestinal Infection (135)	22,918	0.8	−0.951	0.016	<.0001	0.386	0.374	0.399
Esophageal Disorders (138)	6,766	0.2	−0.959	0.027	<.0001	0.383	0.364	0.404
Gastroduodenal Ulcer (except Hemorrhage) (139)	3,085	0.1	−0.760	0.039	<.0001	0.468	0.434	0.505
Gastritis and Duodenitis; Other Disorders of Stomach and Duodenum (140, 141)	8,756	0.3	−0.892	0.024	<.0001	0.410	0.391	0.430
Appendicitis and Other Appendiceal Conditions (142)	1,854	0.1	−0.544	0.052	<.0001	0.580	0.525	0.642
Abdominal Hernia (143)	13,229	0.5	−0.589	0.021	<.0001	0.555	0.532	0.578
Ulcerative Colitis and Diverticulitis (144, 146, 148)	21,743	0.7	−0.793	0.016	<.0001	0.453	0.438	0.467
Intestinal Obstruction without Hernia (145)	24,531	0.8	−0.664	0.016	<.0001	0.515	0.499	0.531
Anal and Rectal Conditions (147)	3,211	0.1	−0.882	0.038	<.0001	0.414	0.384	0.446
Biliary Tract Disease (149)	16,836	0.6	−0.694	0.019	<.0001	0.500	0.482	0.518
Other Liver Disease (6, 150, 151)	11,142	0.4	−1.297	0.023	<.0001	0.273	0.261	0.286
Pancreatic Disorders (not Diabetes) (152)	6,996	0.2	−0.697	0.026	<.0001	0.498	0.473	0.524
Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage (153)	37,668	1.3	−0.967	0.014	<.0001	0.380	0.370	0.390
Noninfectious Gastroenteritis; Other Gastrointestinal Disorders (154, 155)	21,174	0.7	−0.888	0.017	<.0001	0.412	0.399	0.425
Nephritis; Nephrosis; Renal Sclerosis; Acute and Unspecified Renal Failure (156, 157)	93,532	3.2	−1.011	0.011	<.0001	0.364	0.356	0.372

(continued)

Table B-1.
Logistic Regression Model Results for Discharge to Community–Post Acute Care (PAC) Skilled Nursing Program (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP), Calendar Year 2015–2016 (continued)

Risk Adjuster	N	%	Estimate	SE[1]	p-value	Odds Ratio (OR)	OR 95% Lower CL[2]	OR 95% Upper CL
Chronic Renal Failure (158)	1,099	0.04	−1.046	0.067	<.0001	0.351	0.308	0.401
Urinary Tract Infections (159)	103,571	3.5	−1.044	0.010	<.0001	0.352	0.345	0.359
Calculus of Urinary Tract (160)	1,796	0.1	−0.719	0.051	<.0001	0.487	0.441	0.538
Other Diseases of Kidney and Ureters; Other Diseases of Bladder and Urethra (161, 162)	4,735	0.2	−0.891	0.032	<.0001	0.410	0.385	0.437
Genitourinary Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions (163)	3,286	0.1	−0.998	0.038	<.0001	0.369	0.342	0.397
Prostate and Other Male Genital (164, 165, 166)	3,918	0.1	−0.833	0.035	<.0001	0.435	0.406	0.465
Female Reproductive (168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196)	1,888	0.1	−0.906	0.052	<.0001	0.404	0.365	0.447
Skin Infection and Inflammation (197, 198, 200)	48,756	1.7	−0.809	0.012	<.0001	0.445	0.434	0.456
Chronic Ulcer of Skin (199)	8,993	0.3	−0.964	0.025	<.0001	0.381	0.363	0.400
Spondylosis, Intervertebral Disc Disorders, Other Back Problems (205)	57,264	2.0	−0.559	0.012	<.0001	0.572	0.559	0.585
Pathological Fracture (207)	26,223	0.9	−0.882	0.015	<.0001	0.414	0.402	0.426
Rheumatoid Arthritis and Other Connective Tissue Disease (202, 210, 211)	26,126	0.9	−0.753	0.015	<.0001	0.471	0.457	0.485
Acquired Deformities and Congenital Anomalies (208, 209, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217)	17,952	0.6	−0.495	0.019	<.0001	0.610	0.587	0.633
Joint Disorders, Dislocation, and Fractures (225, 228, 229, 230, 231)	186,951	6.4	−0.841	0.008	<.0001	0.431	0.424	0.438
Fracture of Neck of Femur (Hip) (226)	196,934	6.7	−0.962	0.008	<.0001	0.382	0.376	0.388
Spinal Cord Injury (227)	1,138	0.04	−1.318	0.063	<.0001	0.268	0.237	0.303
Sprains and Strains (232)	4,717	0.2	−0.503	0.034	<.0001	0.605	0.566	0.646
Intracranial Injury (233)	31,800	1.1	−1.022	0.014	<.0001	0.360	0.350	0.370
Crushing Injury or Internal Injury (234)	6,167	0.2	−0.689	0.028	<.0001	0.502	0.475	0.530
Open Wounds and Burns (235, 236, 240)	5,641	0.2	−0.831	0.029	<.0001	0.436	0.411	0.461

(continued)

Table B-1.
Logistic Regression Model Results for Discharge to Community–Post Acute Care (PAC) Skilled Nursing Program (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP), Calendar Year 2015–2016 (continued)

Risk Adjuster	N	%	Estimate	SE[1]	p-value	Odds Ratio (OR)	OR 95% Lower CL[2]	OR 95% Upper CL
Complications of Device, Procedures, or Medical Care (237, 238)	142,288	4.9	−0.867	0.009	<.0001	0.420	0.413	0.428
Superficial Injury, Contusion (239)	9,364	0.3	−0.724	0.023	<.0001	0.485	0.463	0.507
Poisoning and Injury (241, 242, 243, 260)	7,876	0.3	−0.708	0.025	<.0001	0.492	0.469	0.517
Other Injuries and Conditions due to External Causes (244)	9,275	0.3	−0.916	0.023	<.0001	0.400	0.383	0.419
Syncope (245)	13,977	0.5	−0.745	0.019	<.0001	0.475	0.457	0.493
Fever of Unknown Origin (246)	1,884	0.1	−0.790	0.049	<.0001	0.454	0.412	0.500
Gangrene (248)	8,029	0.3	−1.282	0.027	<.0001	0.277	0.263	0.292
Shock (249)	1,213	0.04	−0.826	0.062	<.0001	0.438	0.388	0.494
Nausea and Vomiting (250)	1,590	0.1	−0.848	0.053	<.0001	0.428	0.386	0.475
Abdominal Pain (251)	2,465	0.1	−0.862	0.043	<.0001	0.422	0.388	0.459
Malaise and Fatigue (252)	9,596	0.3	−0.940	0.023	<.0001	0.391	0.374	0.408
Allergic Reactions (253)	805	0.03	−0.693	0.074	<.0001	0.500	0.432	0.579
Rehabilitation Care, Fitting of Prostheses, and Adjustment of Devices (254)	1,081	0.04	−0.186	0.067	0.0053	0.831	0.729	0.947
Other Aftercare (257)	1,921	0.1	−0.429	0.052	<.0001	0.651	0.588	0.721
Residual Codes, Unclassified (259)	10,530	0.4	−1.040	0.022	<.0001	0.353	0.339	0.369
Psychosocial Disorders (650, 651, 652, 654, 655, 656)	1,318	0.05	−1.164	0.061	<.0001	0.312	0.277	0.352
Delirium (653)	38,357	1.3	−1.609	0.016	<.0001	0.200	0.194	0.206
Mood and Personality Disorders (657, 658, 662)	12,552	0.4	−1.010	0.026	<.0001	0.364	0.346	0.383
Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders (659)	9,437	0.3	−1.661	0.030	<.0001	0.190	0.179	0.201
Substance Abuse (660, 661, 663)	13,165	0.5	−0.733	0.020	<.0001	0.480	0.462	0.500
Miscellaneous Disorders (670)	613	0.02	−0.865	0.085	<.0001	0.421	0.356	0.498
Surgical Categories Based on Prior Acute Stay								
Cardiothoracic surgery	77,763	2.7	0.451	0.010	<.0001	1.570	1.538	1.601

(continued)

Table B-1.
Logistic Regression Model Results for Discharge to Community–Post Acute Care (PAC) Skilled Nursing Program (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP), Calendar Year 2015–2016 (continued)

Risk Adjuster	N	%	Estimate	SE[1]	p-value	Odds Ratio (OR)	OR 95% Lower CL[2]	OR 95% Upper CL
Otolaryngology	6,034	0.2	0.120	0.030	<.0001	1.128	1.063	1.197
Neurosurgery	28,892	1.0	0.085	0.014	<.0001	1.089	1.059	1.119
General surgery	166,483	5.7	0.194	0.007	<.0001	1.214	1.198	1.231
Obstetrics/Gynecology	6,607	0.2	0.223	0.031	<.0001	1.250	1.176	1.329
Orthopedic surgery	624,017	21.4	0.237	0.006	<.0001	1.268	1.254	1.282
Plastic surgery	61,814	2.1	0.037	0.010	0.0001	1.037	1.018	1.057
Urologic surgery	24,123	0.8	0.092	0.016	<.0001	1.097	1.062	1.132
Vascular surgery	30,712	1.1	0.103	0.014	<.0001	1.108	1.078	1.139
End-Stage Renal Disease								
End-Stage Renal Disease Indicator at the Time of Index SNF	137,648	4.7	-0.381	0.013	<.0001	0.683	0.666	0.700
Dialysis in Prior Acute Stay where End-Stage Renal Disease Not Indicated								
Dialysis where End-Stage Renal Disease Not Indicated	15,025	0.5	−0.132	0.018	<.0001	0.876	0.846	0.908
Prior Acute Length of Stay in Non-Psychiatric Hospital or Prior Stay in Psychiatric Hospital (Reference: 1-3 Days in Non-Psychiatric Hospital)								
Prior acute stay in psychiatric hospital	34,965	1.2	−0.876	0.019	<.0001	0.417	0.401	0.433
4-7 days in non-psychiatric hospital	1,276,248	43.7	−0.110	0.003	<.0001	0.896	0.891	0.902
8-14 days in non-psychiatric hospital	568,358	19.5	−0.317	0.004	<.0001	0.729	0.723	0.734
15-29 days in non-psychiatric hospital	175,239	6.0	−0.559	0.006	<.0001	0.572	0.565	0.579
>29 days in non-psychiatric hospital	27,800	1.0	−0.912	0.015	<.0001	0.402	0.390	0.413

(continued)

Table B-1.
Logistic Regression Model Results for Discharge to Community–Post Acute Care (PAC) Skilled Nursing Program (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP), Calendar Year 2015–2016 (continued)

Risk Adjuster	N	%	Estimate	SE[1]	p-value	Odds Ratio (OR)	OR 95% Lower CL[2]	OR 95% Upper CL
Comorbidities - Hierarchical Condition Categories (HCCs) (* indicates that the HCC is based on the most recent acute care claim only. HCCs not preceded by * are based on acute care claims from the past 365 days (including the most recent acute care claim)).								
HCC1: HIV/AIDS	8,415	0.3	−0.119	0.025	<.0001	0.888	0.846	0.932
HCC6: Opportunistic Infections	26,794	0.9	−0.076	0.014	<.0001	0.926	0.902	0.952
HCC7: Other Infectious Diseases*	579,316	19.8	−0.011	0.004	0.0012	0.989	0.982	0.995
HCC8: Metastatic Cancer and Acute Leukemia	68,581	2.3	−0.556	0.009	<.0001	0.574	0.564	0.584
HCC9: Lung and Other Severe Cancers	49,076	1.7	−0.265	0.010	<.0001	0.767	0.753	0.782
HCC10: Lymphoma and Other Cancers	44,568	1.5	−0.118	0.010	<.0001	0.889	0.871	0.907
HCC11: Colorectal, Bladder, and Other Cancers	34,626	1.2	−0.058	0.012	<.0001	0.943	0.922	0.965
HCC17-HCC19: Diabetes with Acute Complications; Diabetes with Chronic Complications; Diabetes without Complication	1,105,919	37.9	−0.092	0.003	<.0001	0.912	0.907	0.917
HCC20: Type I Diabetes Mellitus	32,322	1.1	−0.096	0.013	<.0001	0.908	0.886	0.931
HCC21: Protein-Calorie Malnutrition	417,635	14.3	−0.256	0.004	<.0001	0.774	0.769	0.780
HCC24: Disorders of Fluid/Electrolyte/Acid-Base Balance	1,647,283	56.4	−0.095	0.003	<.0001	0.910	0.904	0.915
HCC27; HCC28: End-stage liver disease; Cirrhosis of Liver	81,042	2.8	−0.283	0.008	<.0001	0.754	0.741	0.766
HCC29: Chronic Hepatitis	15,803	0.5	−0.085	0.018	<.0001	0.919	0.887	0.951
HCC36: Peptic Ulcer, Hemorrhage, Other Specified Gastrointestinal Disorders*	336,033	11.5	−0.027	0.004	<.0001	0.974	0.966	0.982
HCC46: Severe Hematological Disorders	29,022	1.0	−0.220	0.013	<.0001	0.802	0.782	0.823
HCC47: Disorders of Immunity	88,259	3.0	−0.066	0.008	<.0001	0.936	0.921	0.950
HCC49: Iron Deficiency and Other/Unspecified Anemias and Blood Disease	1,244,872	42.6	−0.055	0.003	<.0001	0.947	0.942	0.952
HCC51; HCC52: Dementia With Complications; Dementia Without Complication	746,625	25.6	−0.520	0.003	<.0001	0.594	0.591	0.598
HCC53: Nonpsychotic Organic Brain Syndromes/Conditions	45,200	1.5	−0.104	0.010	<.0001	0.901	0.883	0.919
HCC57: Schizophrenia	50,967	1.7	−0.589	0.011	<.0001	0.555	0.544	0.567

(continued)

Table B-1.
Logistic Regression Model Results for Discharge to Community–Post Acute Care (PAC) Skilled Nursing Program (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP), Calendar Year 2015–2016 (continued)

Risk Adjuster	N	%	Estimate	SE[1]	p-value	Odds Ratio (OR)	OR 95% Lower CL[2]	OR 95% Upper CL
HCC58: Major Depressive, Bipolar, and Paranoid Disorders	140,441	4.8	−0.146	0.006	<.0001	0.864	0.853	0.875
HCC59: Reactive and Unspecified Psychosis	35,416	1.2	−0.194	0.012	<.0001	0.823	0.805	0.843
HCC60: Personality Disorders	4,348	0.2	−0.339	0.034	<.0001	0.712	0.666	0.761
HCC61: Depression	573,496	19.6	−0.043	0.003	<.0001	0.958	0.951	0.964
HCC63: Other Psychiatric Disorders	233,890	8.0	−0.048	0.005	<.0001	0.953	0.944	0.962
HCC64-HCC66: Profound Mental Retardation/Developmental Disability; Severe Mental Retardation/Developmental Disability; Moderate Mental Retardation/Developmental Disability	5,471	0.2	−0.632	0.032	<.0001	0.532	0.500	0.566
HCC67; HCC68: Mild Mental Retardation, Autism, Down's Syndrome: Other Developmental Disability	23,897	0.8	−0.426	0.015	<.0001	0.653	0.634	0.672
HCC70: Quadriplegia	19,530	0.7	−0.417	0.017	<.0001	0.659	0.637	0.682
HCC71: Paraplegia	16,279	0.6	−0.158	0.018	<.0001	0.854	0.824	0.884
HCC72: Spinal Cord Disorders/Injuries	22,784	0.8	−0.102	0.015	<.0001	0.903	0.878	0.929
HCC73: Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Other Motor Neuron Disease	1,634	0.1	−0.285	0.055	<.0001	0.752	0.675	0.837
HCC74: Cerebral Palsy	7,927	0.3	−0.255	0.025	<.0001	0.775	0.737	0.815
HCC76: Muscular Dystrophy	2,212	0.1	−0.158	0.046	0.0006	0.854	0.780	0.935
HCC77: Multiple Sclerosis	19,608	0.7	−0.086	0.016	<.0001	0.917	0.889	0.946
HCC78: Parkinson's and Huntington's Diseases	109,007	3.7	−0.097	0.007	<.0001	0.907	0.896	0.919
HCC79: Seizure Disorders and Convulsions	180,027	6.2	−0.064	0.006	<.0001	0.938	0.928	0.948
HCC80: Coma, Brain Compression/Anoxic Damage	46,183	1.6	−0.255	0.011	<.0001	0.775	0.758	0.792
HCC82: Respirator Dependence/Tracheostomy Status	24,102	0.8	−0.380	0.017	<.0001	0.684	0.662	0.707
HCC84: Cardio-Respiratory Failure and Shock	622,384	21.3	−0.068	0.004	<.0001	0.934	0.928	0.941
HCC85: Congestive Heart Failure	1,091,364	37.4	−0.152	0.003	<.0001	0.859	0.854	0.864
HCC86: Acute Myocardial Infarction	167,044	5.7	−0.078	0.006	<.0001	0.925	0.915	0.935

(continued)

Table B-1.
Logistic Regression Model Results for Discharge to Community–Post Acute Care (PAC) Skilled Nursing Program (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP), Calendar Year 2015–2016 (continued)

Risk Adjuster	N	%	Estimate	SE[1]	p-value	Odds Ratio (OR)	OR 95% Lower CL[2]	OR 95% Upper CL
HCC96: Specified Heart Arrhythmias	1,069,727	36.6	−0.087	0.003	<.0001	0.917	0.912	0.922
HCC99: Cerebral Hemorrhage*	28,574	1.0	−0.159	0.014	<.0001	0.853	0.831	0.876
HCC100: Ischemic or Unspecified Stroke*	97,799	3.3	−0.165	0.007	<.0001	0.848	0.836	0.861
HCC103: Hemiplegia/Hemiparesis	189,446	6.5	−0.224	0.006	<.0001	0.799	0.790	0.808
HCC104: Monoplegia, Other Paralytic Syndromes	7,462	0.3	−0.029	0.025	0.2483	0.972	0.926	1.020
HCC106: Atherosclerosis of the Extremities with Ulceration or Gangrene	65,108	2.2	−0.365	0.010	<.0001	0.694	0.681	0.708
HCC107; HCC108: Vascular Disease with Complications; Vascular Disease*	476,325	16.3	−0.037	0.004	<.0001	0.964	0.957	0.971
HCC110; HCC111: Cystic Fibrosis; Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	823,247	28.2	−0.131	0.003	<.0001	0.877	0.872	0.882
HCC114: Aspiration and Specified Bacterial Pneumonias	200,563	6.9	−0.165	0.006	<.0001	0.848	0.839	0.857
HCC116: Viral and Unspecified Pneumonia, Pleurisy	431,954	14.8	−0.092	0.004	<.0001	0.912	0.906	0.919
HCC117: Pleural Effusion/Pneumothorax	200,618	6.9	−0.061	0.005	<.0001	0.941	0.931	0.950
HCC119: Legally Blind	39,230	1.3	−0.124	0.011	<.0001	0.883	0.865	0.903
HCC120: Major Eye Infections/Inflammations	2,061	0.1	−0.113	0.048	0.0196	0.893	0.813	0.982
HCC132: Kidney Transplant Status	17,302	0.6	−0.225	0.019	<.0001	0.799	0.769	0.830
HCC134: Dialysis Status	108,215	3.7	−0.310	0.014	<.0001	0.733	0.714	0.754
HCC135: Acute Renal Failure	890,700	30.5	−0.160	0.003	<.0001	0.852	0.847	0.857
HCC136: Chronic Kidney Disease (Stage 5)	10,346	0.4	−0.278	0.022	<.0001	0.757	0.725	0.791
HCC137: Chronic Kidney Disease, Severe (Stage 4)	30,784	1.1	−0.239	0.012	<.0001	0.787	0.769	0.806
HCC138; HCC139: Chronic Kidney Disease, Moderate (Stage 3); Chronic Kidney Disease, Mild or Unspecified (Stages 1-2 or Unspecified)	268,263	9.2	−0.076	0.005	<.0001	0.927	0.919	0.935
HCC140: Unspecified Renal Failure	1,801	0.1	−0.287	0.050	<.0001	0.751	0.681	0.828

(continued)

Table B-1.
Logistic Regression Model Results for Discharge to Community–Post Acute Care (PAC) Skilled Nursing Program (SNF) Quality Reporting Program (QRP), Calendar Year 2015–2016 (continued)

Risk Adjuster	N	%	Estimate	SE[1]	p-value	Odds Ratio (OR)	OR 95% Lower CL[2]	OR 95% Upper CL
HCC144: Urinary Tract Infection	856,815	29.3	−0.161	0.003	<.0001	0.851	0.846	0.857
HCC145: Other Urinary Tract Disorders	286,045	9.8	−0.029	0.004	<.0001	0.971	0.963	0.980
HCC157: Pressure Ulcer of Skin with Necrosis Through to Muscle, Tendon, or Bone	22,071	0.8	−0.730	0.018	<.0001	0.482	0.465	0.499
HCC158: Pressure Ulcer of Skin with Full Thickness Skin Loss	53,498	1.8	−0.567	0.010	<.0001	0.567	0.556	0.579
HCC159: Pressure Ulcer of Skin with Partial Thickness Skin Loss	71,715	2.5	−0.396	0.009	<.0001	0.673	0.662	0.684
HCC160: Pressure Pre-Ulcer Skin Changes or Unspecified Stage	59,480	2.0	−0.320	0.009	<.0001	0.726	0.714	0.740
HCC161: Chronic Ulcer of Skin, Except Pressure	116,782	4.0	−0.173	0.007	<.0001	0.841	0.829	0.853
HCC164: Cellulitis, Local Skin Infection	303,817	10.4	−0.062	0.005	<.0001	0.939	0.931	0.948
HCC176: Complications of Specified Implanted Device or Graft	152,361	5.2	−0.054	0.006	<.0001	0.948	0.936	0.959
HCC188: Artificial Openings for Feeding or Elimination	90,589	3.1	−0.197	0.008	<.0001	0.821	0.808	0.834
HCC189; HCC190: Amputation Status, Lower Limb/Amputation Complications; Amputation Status, Upper Limb	53,797	1.8	−0.115	0.010	<.0001	0.891	0.874	0.909
Acute History: Number of Hospital Stays in Past Year, Excluding Most Recent Stay (Reference: 0-3 Stays)								
4-6 Stays	207,871	7.1	−0.211	0.006	<.0001	0.810	0.801	0.819
7-9 Stays	39,147	1.3	−0.461	0.013	<.0001	0.630	0.615	0.647
>10 Stays	13,770	0.5	−0.975	0.025	<.0001	0.377	0.359	0.396

[1] SE = Standard Error; [2] CL = Confidence Limit.

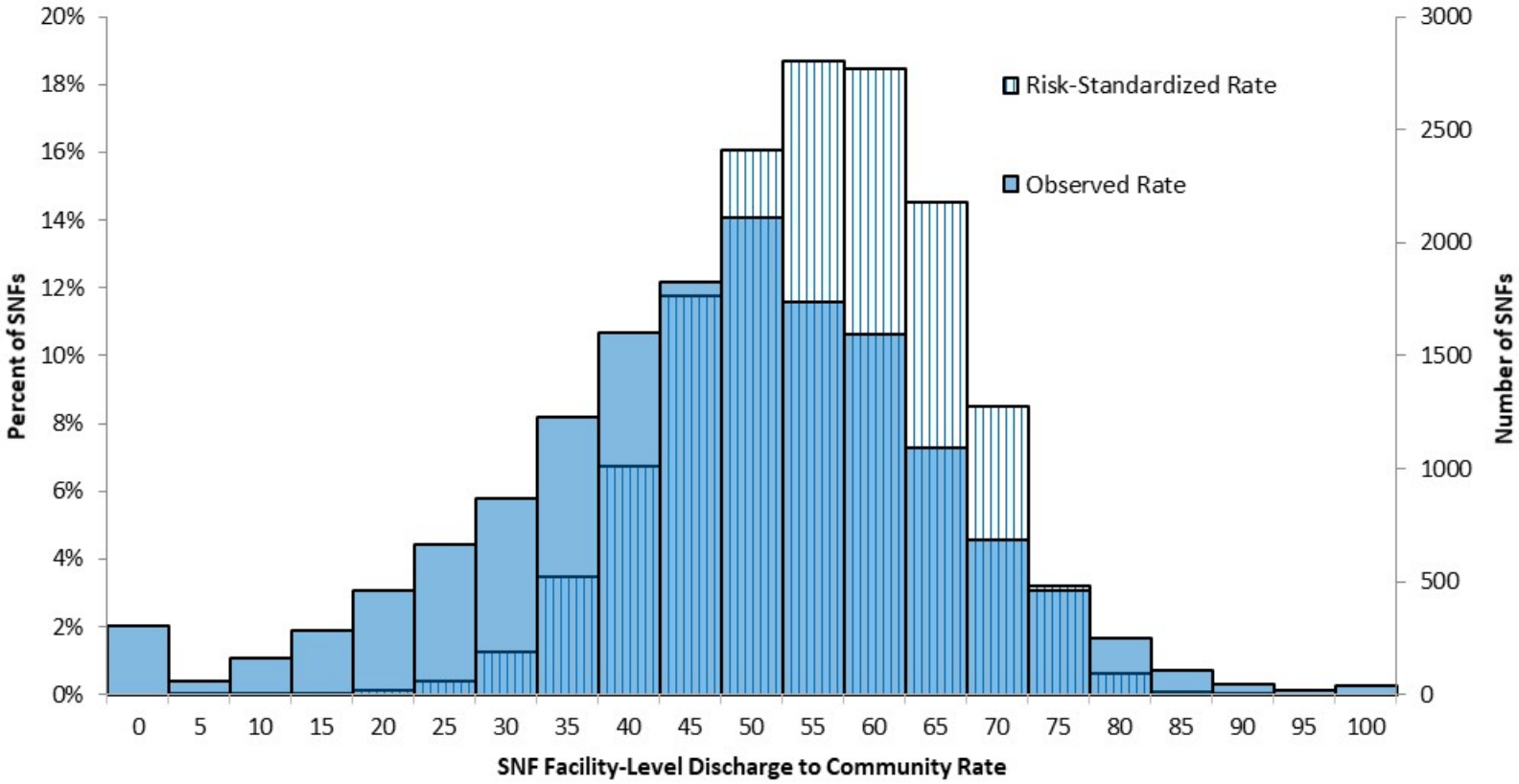
Source: RTI International analysis of Medicare claims data (program reference: BB62_Y1516, Model 04 for DTC_Sample4)

Table B-2.
Skilled Nursing Facility: Facility-Level Observed and Risk-Standardized Discharge to Community Rates, 2015-2016

Discharge to Community Rate	Mean	SD	Min	1st pctl	5th pctl	10th pctl	25th pctl	50th pctl (Median)	75th pctl	90th pctl	95th pctl	99th pctl	Max
Observed	44.92	16.94	0.00	0.00	14.81	22.98	34.48	45.93	56.13	65.27	71.42	81.83	27.49
Risk-Standardized	52.78	10.42	4.95	27.49	34.90	39.10	45.75	53.31	60.30	65.94	68.97	74.06	88.66

NOTE: Based on CY 2015-2016 Medicare fee-for-service claims data from 15,606 SNFs. Facility-level number of SNFs stays ranged from 1 to 3,724 with a mean of 186.7 and median of 118.0. SD = standard deviation, pctl = percentile. Source: RTI International analysis (program reference: MM130).

Figure B-1.
Skilled Nursing Facility: Facility-Level Observed and Risk-Standardized Discharge to Community Rates, 2015-2016



NOTE: Based on CY 2015-2016 Medicare fee-for-service claims data from 15,606 SNFs. Facility-level number of SNFs stays ranged from 1 to 3,724 with a mean of 186.7 and median of 118.0. Solid bars represent the observed rate distribution; striped bars represent the risk-standardized rate distribution; the overlap between solid and striped bars represents the overlap between observed and risk-standardized rate distributions.
Source: RTI International analysis (program reference: MM130).

APPENDIX C:
National Beta Test Supplementary Tables

The reference tables in this appendix refer to the SPADEs tested in the National Field Test. Alphanumeric item numbers (Example: b1a, b1b, b1c) refer to the items as labeled in the assessment protocols, which are available for download here: https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Post-Acute-Care-Quality-Initiatives/IMPACT-Act-of-2014/-IMPACT-Act-Standardized-Assessment-National-Testing-.html

Table 1.1: Assessment Counts for National Beta Test Results

	HHA N = 35	IRF N = 22	LTCH N = 26	SNF N = 60	Overall N = 143
Admission	653	794	507	1167	3121
Time to Complete (Facility/Agency Staff only)	469	549	386	565	1969
IRR	198	261	242	274	976

Table 1.2: Frequency and Percentage of Assessments Completed of Each Module

Module	Domains	Frequency	Percent
Communicative, N = 3121			
A1-A2	Hearing and Vision	3065	98.2
B1	Brief Interview for Mental Status (BIMS)	3062	98.1
D	Pain Interview	3031	97.1
E1	PHQ-2 to 9	3010	96.4
B2	Confusion Assessment Method (CAM)	2973	95.3
I	Medication Reconciliation Protocol	2951	94.6
J	Special Services, Treatments, and Interventions (SSTI)	2926	93.8
All modules	At least one response in each module	2795	89.2

NOTE: Percentage of assessments are based on assessments used in the frequency tables where “completed” means responded to at least one data element.

Cognitive Status: Brief Interview for Mental Status (BIMS)

Table 2.1.1: Admission Response Distributions (in Percentages) for BIMS Items

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of assessments	646	786	496	1134	**3062**
# of words repeated after 1st attempt (b1a)					
Three	94	96	91	94	**94**
Two	4	3	4	4	**4**
One	1	1	2	1	**1**
None or no answer	0	1	3	1	**1**
Recalls current year (b1b)					
Correct	89	94	88	87	**89**
Missed by 1 year	2	1	4	2	**2**
Missed by 2-5 years	1	1	1	2	**1**
Missed by >5 years or no answer	7	4	8	9	**7**
Recalls current month (b1c)					
Accurate within 5 days	94	93	90	90	**91**
Missed by 6 days - 1 mo	3	3	2	4	**3**
Missed by >1 mo or no answer	4	4	8	6	**5**
Recalls current day of week (b1d)					
Accurate	88	84	77	76	**81**
Incorrect or no answer	12	16	23	24	**19**
Recalls 'sock' (b1e)					
Yes, no cue required	80	84	78	76	**79**
Yes, after cue	9	5	9	9	**8**
No recall or answer	11	11	13	15	**13**
Recalls 'blue' (b1f)					
Yes, no cue required	84	85	78	79	**81**
Yes, after cue	11	11	12	13	**12**
No recall or answer	6	5	10	8	**7**
Recalls 'bed' (b1g)					
Yes, no cue required	73	75	64	66	**70**
Yes, after cue	12	10	12	14	**12**

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Table 2.1.1: Admission Response Distributions (in Percentages) for BIMS Items (continued)

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
No recall or answer	14	14	24	19	**18**
BIMS Impairment Category					
Intact	80	82	73	72	**76**
Moderately impaired	17	15	19	22	**18**
Severely impaired	4	3	7	7	**5**

Table 2.1.2: IRR Kappa/Weighted Kappa and Percent Agreement for BIMS Items

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of patients	**199**	**259**	**238**	**270**	**966**
Kappa/weighted kappa					
# of words repeated after 1st attempt (b1a)	-	-	-	-	-
Recalls current year (b1b)	0.88	-	0.90	0.93	**0.90**
Recalls current month (b1c)	-	-	0.89	0.86	-
Recalls current day of week (b1d)	0.92	0.81	0.91	0.86	**0.88**
Recalls 'sock' (b1e)	0.87	0.91	0.91	0.91	**0.91**
Recalls 'blue' (b1f)	0.84	0.82	0.87	0.78	**0.83**
Recalls 'bed' (b1g)	0.93	0.90	0.93	0.93	**0.93**
BIMS Impairment Category	0.94	0.85	0.91	0.91	**0.91**
Percent agreement					
# of words repeated after 1st attempt (b1a)	96	97	96	96	**96**
Recalls current year (b1b)	97	98	97	97	**98**
Recalls current month (b1c)	98	99	97	96	**98**
Recalls current day of week (b1d)	98	94	97	95	**96**
Recalls 'sock' (b1e)	94	97	95	96	**95**
Recalls 'blue' (b1f)	95	95	93	91	**94**
Recalls 'bed' (b1g)	96	95	95	96	**96**
BIMS Impairment Category	97	95	95	95	**96**

NOTE: Interrater reliability not shown for items with proportions out of range for stable kappa estimate (per study power calculations). Interpretation of kappa or weighted kappa is as follows: 0.00-0.20: slight/poor; 0.21-0.40: fair; 0.41-0.60: moderate; 0.61-0.80: substantial/good; 0.81-1.00: excellent/almost perfect.

Cognitive Status: Confusion Assessment Method (CAM)

Table 2.2.1: Admission Response Distributions (in Percentages) for CAM Items

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of assessments	**630**	**771**	**471**	**1101**	**2973**
Evidence of change in mental status from baseline (b2a)					
Yes	5	6	5	4	**5**
Did patient have difficulty focusing attn (b2b)					
Behavior not present	89	85	89	90	**88**
Behavior continuously present	2	3	3	3	**3**
Behavior present, fluctuates	9	11	8	8	**9**
Was patient thinking disorganized (b2c)					
Behavior not present	95	94	93	94	**94**
Behavior continuously present	1	2	2	1	**1**
Behavior present, fluctuates	4	5	4	6	**5**
Did patient have altered consciousness (b2d)					
Behavior not present	98	95	94	96	**96**
Behavior continuously present	1	1	2	1	**1**
Behavior present, fluctuates	2	3	3	3	**3**

Table 2.2.2: IRR Kappa/Weighted Kappa and Percent Agreement for CAM items

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of patients	**189**	**245**	**223**	**257**	**914**
Kappa/weighted kappa					
Evidence of change in mental status from baseline (b2a)	-	0.60	-	-	-
Did patient have difficulty focusing attn (b2b)	0.66	0.55	0.75	0.70	**0.66**
Was patient thinking disorganized (b2c)	-	-	-	0.68	-
Did patient have altered consciousness (b2d)	-	-	-	-	-
Percent agreement					
Evidence of change in mental status from baseline (b2a)	97	93	98	97	**96**
Did patient have difficulty focusing attn (b2b)	91	89	93	93	**91**
Was patient thinking disorganized (b2c)	94	93	96	94	**94**
Did patient have altered consciousness (b2d)	98	97	95	96	**96**

NOTE: Interrater reliability not shown for items with proportions out of range for stable kappa estimate (per study power calculations). Interpretation of kappa or weighted kappa is as follows: 0.00-0.20: slight/poor; 0.21-0.40: fair; 0.41-0.60: moderate; 0.61-0.80: substantial/good; 0.81-1.00: excellent/almost perfect.

Mental Status: PHQ-2 to 9

Table 3.1.1: Admission Response Distribution (in Percentages) for PHQ-2 to 9 Items

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of assessments	639	776	479	1116	**3010**
Symptom presence & frequency: little interest or pleasure (e1a)					
No	65	61	56	65	**62**
0-1 day	4	4	5	3	**4**
2-6 days	15	16	13	13	**14**
7-11 days (half or more)	9	10	11	9	**10**
12-14 days (nearly all)	8	10	16	10	**11**
Symptom presence & frequency: feeling down, depressed, hopeless (e1b)					
No	62	57	49	58	**57**
0-1 day	3	6	4	5	**4**
2-6 days	20	19	19	19	**19**
7-11 days (half or more)	7	9	13	8	**9**
12-14 days (nearly all)	8	8	16	11	**10**
PHQ-2					
Mean (SD)	2.2 (1.6)	2.3 (1.7)	2.7 (1.8)	2.4 (1.7)	**2.4 (1.7)**
Eligible for PHQ-9 per PHQ-2					
Yes	24	27	38	27	**28**
# of assessments eligible for PHQ-9 per PHQ-2	153	209	182	306	**850**
Symptom presence & frequency: too little/too much sleep (e1c)					
No	30	34	34	33	**33**
0-1 day	2	3	1	2	**2**
2-6 days	15	15	13	16	**15**
7-11 days (half or more)	19	16	20	16	**17**
12-14 days (nearly all)	34	31	32	34	**33**
Symptom presence & frequency: tired / no energy (e1d)					
No	10	11	13	10	**11**
0-1 day	1	0	1	1	**1**
2-6 days	9	17	13	17	**15**
7-11 days (half or more)	27	26	23	28	**26**
12-14 days (nearly all)	52	46	50	44	**48**
Symptom presence & frequency: poor appetite or overeating (e1e)					
No	50	43	34	46	**44**
0-1 day	1	2	2	1	**1**

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Table 3.1.1: Admission Response Distribution (in Percentages) for PHQ-2 to 9 Items (continued)

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
2-6 days	9	11	10	9	**10**
7-11 days (half or more)	17	13	16	15	**15**
12-14 days (nearly all)	22	31	39	29	**30**
Symptom presence & frequency: feel bad about self (e1f)					
No	55	52	51	58	**55**
0-1 day	1	2	1	1	**1**
2-6 days	12	12	12	10	**12**
7-11 days (half or more)	15	16	10	12	**13**
12-14 days (nearly all)	17	17	26	18	**19**
Symptom presence & frequency: trouble concentrating (e1g)					
No	54	47	44	48	**48**
0-1 day	1	1	1	1	**1**
2-6 days	15	16	9	16	**14**
7-11 days (half or more)	11	11	12	13	**12**
12-14 days (nearly all)	19	25	34	22	**25**
Symptom presence & frequency: moving or speaking slowly (e1h)					
No	64	62	50	68	**62**
0-1 day	1	0	2	1	**1**
2-6 days	9	9	10	7	**9**
7-11 days (half or more)	8	13	13	10	**11**
12-14 days (nearly all)	18	16	25	14	**18**
Symptom presence & frequency: suicidal thoughts (e1i)					
No	82	78	77	80	**79**
0-1 day	2	4	3	2	**3**
2-6 days	9	7	7	9	**8**
7-11 days (half or more)	5	3	5	5	**4**
12-14 days (nearly all)	3	7	7	4	**5**
PHQ-9					
Mean (SD)	11.4 (5.0)	11.8 (5.3)	13.0 (5.8)	11.5 (5.1)	**11.9 (5.3)**
Depression categorization (PHQ-9)					
None (0 – 4)	10	4	6	7	**6**
Mild (5 – 9)	27	36	27	33	**31**
Moderate (10 – 14)	37	32	25	34	**32**
Moderately severe (15 – 19)	20	19	28	18	**21**
Severe (20 – 27)	6	9	14	8	**9**

Table 3.1.2: IRR Kappa/Weighted Kappa and Percent Agreement for PHQ-2 to 9 Items

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of patients	196	254	231	267	**948**
Kappa/weighted kappa					
Symptom present: little interest or pleasure (e1a1)	0.95	0.99	0.99	0.98	**0.98**
Symptom frequency: little interest or pleasure (e1a2)	0.98	1.00	0.98	0.98	**0.99**
Symptom present: feeling down, depressed, hopeless (e1b1)	0.99	0.98	1.00	0.99	**0.99**
Symptom frequency: feeling down, depressed, hopeless (e1b2)	0.93	0.98	0.98	0.99	**0.98**
Eligible for PHQ-9 per PHQ-2	0.96	0.98	0.98	0.98	**0.98**
Symptom present: too little/too much sleep (e1c1)	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.00	**0.98**
Symptom frequency: too little/too much sleep (e1c2)	1.00	0.98	0.90	0.96	**0.96**
Symptom present: tired / no energy (e1d1)	1.00	0.91	0.95	0.94	**0.95**
Symptom frequency: tired / no energy (e1d2)	1.00	0.93	0.98	1.00	**0.98**
Symptom present: poor appetite or overeating (e1e1)	0.96	0.93	0.95	1.00	**0.96**
Symptom frequency: poor appetite or overeating (e1e2)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	**1.00**
Symptom present: feel bad about self (e1f1)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	**1.00**
Symptom frequency: feel bad about self (e1f2)	1.00	1.00	0.95	1.00	**0.98**
Symptom present: trouble concentrating (e1g1)	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.97	**0.99**
Symptom frequency: trouble concentrating (e1g2)	0.96	0.97	0.94	1.00	**0.97**
Symptom present: moving or speaking slowly (e1h1)	1.00	0.94	0.90	1.00	**0.95**
Symptom frequency: moving or speaking slowly (e1h2)	1.00	0.87	1.00	1.00	**0.97**
Symptom present: suicidal thoughts (e1i1)	1.00	1.00	0.94	1.00	**0.98**
Symptom frequency: suicidal thoughts (e1i2)	0.93	1.00	0.95	1.00	**0.97**
Sum of all symptom frequencies (PHQ-9) *	0.97	0.95	0.95	0.97	**0.96**
Percent Agreement					
Symptom present: little interest or pleasure (e1a1)	97	100	100	99	**99**
Symptom frequency: little interest or pleasure (e1a2)	99	100	98	98	**99**
Symptom present: feeling down, depressed, hopeless (e1b1)	99	99	100	100	**100**
Symptom frequency: feeling down, depressed, hopeless (e1b2)	95	98	98	99	**98**
Eligible for PHQ-9 per PHQ-2	98	99	99	99	**99**
Symptom present: too little/too much sleep (e1c1)	96	100	100	100	**99**
Symptom frequency: too little/too much sleep (e1c2)	100	98	94	96	**97**
Symptom present: tired / no energy (e1d1)	100	98	99	99	**99**
Symptom frequency: tired / no energy (e1d2)	100	96	99	100	**99**
Symptom present: poor appetite or overeating (e1e1)	98	97	97	100	**98**
Symptom frequency: poor appetite or overeating (e1e2)	100	100	100	100	**100**
Symptom present: feel bad about self (e1f1)	100	100	100	100	**100**

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Table 3.1.2: IRR Kappa/Weighted Kappa and Percent Agreement for PHQ-2 to 9 Items (continued)

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
Symptom frequency: feel bad about self (e1f2)	100	100	95	100	**98**
Symptom present: trouble concentrating (e1g1)	100	100	100	99	**100**
Symptom frequency: trouble concentrating (e1g2)	96	97	97	100	**98**
Symptom present: moving or speaking slowly (e1h1)	100	97	95	100	**98**
Symptom frequency: moving or speaking slowly (e1h2)	100	93	100	100	**98**
Symptom present: suicidal thoughts (e1i1)	100	100	98	100	**99**
Symptom frequency: suicidal thoughts (e1i2)	93	100	95	100	**97**
Sum of all symptom frequencies (PHQ-9)*	96	94	94	96	**95**

NOTE: As classified into the five categories shown in Table 3.1.1. Interpretation of kappa or weighted kappa is as follows: 0.00-0.20: slight/poor; 0.21-0.40: fair; 0.41-0.60: moderate; 0.61-0.80: substantial/good; 0.81-1.00: excellent/almost perfect.

Special Services, Treatments, and Interventions (SSTI)

Table 4.1.1: Admission Response Distributions (in Percentages) for SSTI–Chemotherapy Items

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of assessments	629	762	448	1087	**2926**
Treatment performed: Chemotherapy (j2a)	1	3	0	1	**1**
Chemo treatment performed: IV (j2a2a)	0	1	0	0	**0**
Chemo treatment performed: oral (j2a3a)	0	2	0	1	**1**
Chemo treatment performed: other (j2a10a)	0	0	0	0	**0**

Table 4.1.2: IRR Kappa and Percent Agreement for SSTI–Chemotherapy Items

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of patients	187	236	203	256	**882**
Kappa/Weighted kappa					
Noted treatment performed: Chemotherapy (j2a)	-	-	-	-	-
Noted chemo treatment performed: IV (j2a2a)	-	-	-	-	-
Noted chemo treatment performed: oral (j2a3a)	-	-	-	-	-
Noted chemo treatment performed: other (j2a10a)	-	-	-	-	-
Percent Agreement					
Noted treatment performed: Chemotherapy (j2a)	99	100	100	99	**100**
Noted chemo treatment performed: IV (j2a2a)	100	100	100	99	**100**
Noted chemo treatment performed: oral (j2a3a)	100	100	100	100	**100**
Noted chemo treatment performed: other (j2a10a)	100	100	100	100	**100**

NOTE: Based on dichotomized never noted vs. noted any day. Interrater reliability not shown for items with proportions out of range for stable kappa estimate (per study power calculations). Interpretation of kappa or weighted kappa is as follows: 0.00-0.20: slight/poor; 0.21-0.40: fair; 0.41-0.60: moderate; 0.61-0.80: substantial/good; 0.81-1.00: excellent/almost perfect.

Table 4.2.1: Admission Response Distributions (in Percentages) for SSTI–Radiation

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of assessments	629	762	448	1087	**2926**
Treatment performed: Radiation (j2b)	0	0	0	0	**0**

Table 4.2.2: IRR Kappa and Percent Agreement for SSTI–Radiation Item

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of patients	187	236	203	256	**882**
Kappa/Weighted kappa					
Noted treatment performed: Radiation (j2b)	-	-	-	-	-
Percent Agreement					
Noted treatment performed: Radiation (j2b)	99	100	100	100	**100**

NOTE: Based on dichotomized never noted vs. noted any day. Interrater reliability not shown for items with proportions out of range for stable kappa estimate (per study power calculations). Interpretation of kappa or weighted kappa is as follows: 0.00-0.20: slight/poor; 0.21-0.40: fair; 0.41-0.60: moderate; 0.61-0.80: substantial/good; 0.81-1.00: excellent/almost perfect.

Table 4.3.1: Admission Response Distributions (in Percentages) for SSTI–Oxygen Therapy Items

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of assessments	629	762	448	1087	**2926**
Treatment performed: Oxygen Therapy (j2c)	13	17	44	16	**20**
Type of O2 therapy performed: intermittent (j2c2a)	7	11	37	11	**14**
Type of O2 therapy performed: continuous (j2c3a)	6	8	5	5	**6**
Type of O2 therapy performed: high-concentration (j2c4a)	0	1	6	0	**1**

Table 4.3.2: IRR Kappa and Percent Agreement for SSTI–Oxygen Therapy Items

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of patients	187	236	203	256	**882**
Kappa					
Treatment performed: Oxygen Therapy (j2c)	0.82	0.80	0.86	0.71	**0.82**
Type of O2 therapy performed: intermittent (j2c2a)	-	0.76	0.82	0.75	**0.81**
Type of O2 therapy performed: continuous (j2c3a)	-	0.68	0.35	-	0.55
Type of O2 therapy performed: high-concentration (j2c4a)	-	-	-	-	-
Percent Agreement					
Treatment performed: Oxygen Therapy (j2c)	96	94	93	91	**93**
Type of O2 therapy performed: intermittent (j2c2a)	98	95	92	95	**95**
Type of O2 therapy performed: continuous (j2c3a)	97	95	92	93	**94**
Type of O2 therapy performed: high-concentration (j2c4a)	100	100	97	100	**99**

NOTE: Based on dichotomized never noted vs. noted any day. Interrater reliability not shown for items with proportions out of range for stable kappa estimate (per study power calculations). Interpretation of kappa or weighted kappa is as follows: 0.00-0.20: slight/poor; 0.21-0.40: fair; 0.41-0.60: moderate; 0.61-0.80: substantial/good; 0.81-1.00: excellent/almost perfect.

Table 4.4.1: Admission Response Distributions (in Percentages) for SSTI–Suctioning Items

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of assessments	629	762	448	1087	**2926**
Treatment performed: Suctioning (j2d)	0	1	5	1	**1**
Type of suctioning performed: scheduled (j2d2a)	0	0	1	0	**0**
Type of suctioning performed: as needed (j2d3a)	0	1	5	1	**1**

Table 4.4.2: IRR Kappa/Weighted Kappa and Percent Agreement for SSTI–Suctioning Items

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of patients	187	236	203	256	**882**
Kappa					
Treatment performed: Suctioning (j2d)	-	-	-	-	-
Type of suctioning performed: scheduled (j2d2a)	-	-	-	-	-
Type of suctioning performed: as needed (j2d3a)	-	-	-	-	-
Percent Agreement					
Treatment performed: Suctioning (j2d)	99	99	98	96	**98**
Type of suctioning performed: scheduled (j2d2a)	100	99	99	99	**99**
Type of suctioning performed: as needed (j2d3a)	99	100	98	96	**98**

NOTE: Based on dichotomized never noted vs. noted any day. Interrater reliability not shown for items with proportions out of range for stable kappa estimate (per study power calculations). Interpretation of kappa or weighted kappa is as follows: 0.00-0.20: slight/poor; 0.21-0.40: fair; 0.41-0.60: moderate; 0.61-0.80: substantial/good; 0.81-1.00: excellent/almost perfect.

Table 4.5.1: Admission Response Distributions (in Percentages) for SSTI–Tracheostomy Care Item

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of assessments	629	762	448	1087	**2926**
Treatment performed: Tracheostomy Care (j2e)	0	1	5	0	**1**

Table 4.5.2: IRR Kappa and Percent Agreement for SSTI–Tracheostomy Care Item

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of patients	187	236	203	256	**882**
Kappa/Weighted kappa					
Treatment performed: Tracheostomy Care (j2e)	-	-	-	-	-
Percent Agreement					
Treatment performed: Tracheostomy Care (j2e)	100	100	99	100	**100**

NOTE: Based on dichotomized never noted vs. noted any day. Interrater reliability not shown for items with proportions out of range for stable kappa estimate (per study power calculations). Interpretation of kappa or weighted kappa is as follows: 0.00-0.20: slight/poor; 0.21-0.40: fair; 0.41-0.60: moderate; 0.61-0.80: substantial/good; 0.81-1.00: excellent/almost perfect.

Table 4.6.1: Admission Response Distributions (in Percentages) for SSTI–Noninvasive Mechanical Ventilator (NIMV)

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of assessments	629	762	448	1087	**2926**
Treatment performed: Non-invasive Mechanical Ventilator (j2g)	4	6	9	4	**5**
Type of NIMV performed: BiPAP (j2g2a)	1	1	7	1	**2**
Type of NIMV performed: CPAP (j2g3a)	2	6	2	3	**3**

Table 4.6.2: IRR Kappa/Weighted Kappa and Percent Agreement for SSTI–Noninvasive Mechanical Ventilator (NIMV) Items

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of patients	187	236	203	256	**882**
Kappa					
Treatment performed: Non-invasive Mechanical Ventilator (j2g)	-	-	0.77	-	-
Type of NIMV performed: BiPAP (j2g2a)	-	-	-	-	-
Type of NIMV performed: CPAP (j2g3a)	-	-	-	-	-
Percent Agreement					
Treatment performed: Non-invasive Mechanical Ventilator (j2g)	96	98	96	98	**97**
Type of NIMV performed: BiPAP (j2g2a)	96	100	97	100	**98**
Type of NIMV performed: CPAP (j2g3a)	98	98	98	98	**98**

NOTE: Based on dichotomized never noted vs. noted any day. Interrater reliability not shown for items with proportions out of range for stable kappa estimate (per study power calculations). Interpretation of kappa or weighted kappa is as follows: 0.00-0.20: slight/poor; 0.21-0.40: fair; 0.41-0.60: moderate; 0.61-0.80: substantial/good; 0.81-1.00: excellent/almost perfect.

Table 4.7.1: Admission Response Distributions (in Percentages) for SSTI–Invasive Mechanical Ventilator Item

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of assessments	629	762	448	1087	**2926**
Treatment performed: Invasive Mechanical Ventilator (j2f)	0	0	3	0	**0**

Table 4.7.2: IRR Kappa and Percent Agreement for SSTI–Invasive Mechanical Ventilator Item

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of patients	187	236	203	256	**882**
Kappa					
Treatment performed: Invasive Mechanical Ventilator (j2f)	-	-	-	-	-
Percent Agreement					
Treatment performed: Invasive Mechanical Ventilator (j2f)	100	100	100	100	**100**

NOTE: Based on dichotomized never noted vs. noted any day. Interrater reliability not shown for items with proportions out of range for stable kappa estimate (per study power calculations). Interpretation of kappa or weighted kappa is as follows: 0.00-0.20: slight/poor; 0.21-0.40: fair; 0.41-0.60: moderate; 0.61-0.80: substantial/good; 0.81-1.00: excellent/almost perfect.

Table 4.8.1: Admission Response Distributions (in Percentages) for SSTI–IV Meds Items

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of assessments	629	762	448	1087	**2926**
Other treatment performed: IV Meds (j2h)	15	17	77	16	**25**
Type of IV meds given: antibiotics (j2h3a)	4	8	64	9	**16**
Type of IV meds given: anticoagulation (j2h4a)	8	6	17	6	**8**
Type of IV meds given: other (j2h10a)	6	5	20	4	**7**

Table 4.8.2: IRR Kappa/Weighted Kappa and Percent Agreement for SSTI–IV Meds Items

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of patients	187	236	203	256	**882**
Kappa					
Other treatment performed: IV Meds (j2h)	0.15	0.61	0.68	0.52	**0.70**
Type of IV meds given: antibiotics (j2h3a)	-	-	0.84	0.78	**0.88**
Type of IV meds given: anticoagulation (j2h4a)	-	-	0.13	-	**0.13**
Type of IV meds given: other (j2h10a)	-	-	0.46	-	**0.46**
Percent Agreement					
Other treatment performed: IV Meds (j2h)	83	91	89	87	**88**
Type of IV meds given: antibiotics (j2h3a)	98	97	93	96	**96**
Type of IV meds given: anticoagulation (j2h4a)	90	94	82	92	**90**
Type of IV meds given: other (j2h10a)	93	98	79	94	**91**

NOTE: Based on dichotomized never noted vs. noted any day. Interrater reliability not shown for items with proportions out of range for stable kappa estimate (per study power calculations). Interpretation of kappa or weighted kappa is as follows: 0.00-0.20: slight/poor; 0.21-0.40: fair; 0.41-0.60: moderate; 0.61-0.80: substantial/good; 0.81-1.00: excellent/almost perfect.

Table 4.9.1: Admission Response Distributions (in Percentages) for SSTI–Transfusions Item

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of assessments	629	762	448	1087	**2926**
Other treatment performed: Transfusions (j2i)	0	1	2	0	**0**

Table 4.9.2: IRR Kappa/Weighted Kappa and Percent Agreement for SSTI–Transfusions Item

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of patients	187	236	203	256	**882**
Kappa					
Other treatment performed: Transfusions (j2i)	-	-	-	-	-
Percent Agreement					
Other treatment performed: Transfusions (j2i)	100	99	99	100	**100**

NOTE: Based on dichotomized never noted vs. noted any day. Interrater reliability not shown for items with proportions out of range for stable kappa estimate (per study power calculations). Interpretation of kappa or weighted kappa is as follows: 0.00-0.20: slight/poor; 0.21-0.40: fair; 0.41-0.60: moderate; 0.61-0.80: substantial/good; 0.81-1.00: excellent/almost perfect.

Table 4.10.1: Admission Response Distributions (in Percentages) for SSTI–Dialysis Items

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of assessments	629	762	448	1087	**2926**
Other treatment performed: Dialysis (j2j)	3	5	15	3	**5**
Type of dialysis performed: hemodialysis (j2j2a)	3	4	15	3	**5**
Type of dialysis performed: peritoneal (j2j3a)	0	0	0	0	**0**

Table 4.10.2: IRR Kappa/Weighted Kappa and Percent Agreement for SSTI–Dialysis Items

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of patients	187	236	203	256	**882**
Kappa					
Other treatment performed: Dialysis (j2j)	-	-	0.92	-	-
Type of dialysis performed: hemodialysis (j2j2a)	-	-	0.90	-	-
Type of dialysis performed: peritoneal (j2j3a)	-	-	-	-	-
Percent Agreement					
Other treatment performed: Dialysis (j2j)	98	98	98	99	**98**
Type of dialysis performed: hemodialysis (j2j2a)	98	98	97	99	**98**
Type of dialysis performed: peritoneal (j2j3a)	100	100	100	100	**100**

NOTE: Based on dichotomized never noted vs. noted any day. Interrater reliability not shown for items with proportions out of range for stable kappa estimate (per study power calculations). Interpretation of kappa or weighted kappa is as follows: 0.00-0.20: slight/poor; 0.21-0.40: fair; 0.41-0.60: moderate; 0.61-0.80: substantial/good; 0.81-1.00: excellent/almost perfect.

Table 4.11.1: Admission Response Distributions (in Percentages) for SSTI–IV Access Items

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of assessments	629	762	448	1087	**2926**
Other treatment performed: IV Access (j2k)	4	22	91	10	**24**
Type of IV access: peripheral IV (j2k2a)	0	14	40	2	**11**
Type of IV access: midline (j2k3a)	0	1	13	0	**2**
Type of IV access: central line (j2k4a)	3	6	54	7	**13**
Type of IV access: other (j2k10a)	0	2	3	1	**1**

Table 4.11.2: IRR Kappa/Weighted Kappa and Percent Agreement for SSTI–IV Access Items

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of patients	187	236	203	256	**882**
Kappa					
Other treatment performed: IV Access (j2k)	-	0.81	-	0.74	**0.90**
Type of IV access: peripheral IV (j2k2a)	-	0.81	0.77	-	**0.81**
Type of IV access: midline (j2k3a)	-	-	0.75	-	-
Type of IV access: central line (j2k4a)	-	-	0.78	-	**0.85**
Type of IV access: other (j2k10a)	-	-	-	-	-
Percent Agreement					
Other treatment performed: IV Access (j2k)	97	94	99	95	**96**
Type of IV access: peripheral IV (j2k2a)	100	96	89	97	**96**
Type of IV access: midline (j2k3a)	100	99	94	100	**98**
Type of IV access: central line (j2k4a)	98	98	89	97	**96**
Type of IV access: other (j2k10a)	97	98	95	99	**97**

NOTE: Based on dichotomized never noted vs. noted any day. Interrater reliability not shown for items with proportions out of range for stable kappa estimate (per study power calculations). Interpretation of kappa or weighted kappa is as follows: 0.00-0.20: slight/poor; 0.21-0.40: fair; 0.41-0.60: moderate; 0.61-0.80: substantial/good; 0.81-1.00: excellent/almost perfect.

Nutritional Approaches

Table 5.1.1: Admission Response Distributions (in Percentages) for Nutritional Approaches–Parenteral/IV Feeding

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of assessments	629	762	448	1087	**2926**
Nutritional approach performed: parenteral/IV (j1a)	0	1	4	0	**1**

Table 5.1.2: IRR Kappa/Weighted Kappa and Percent Agreement for Nutritional Approaches–Parenteral/IV Feeding

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of patients	187	236	203	256	**882**
Kappa					
Nutritional approach performed: parenteral/IV (j1a)	-	-	-	-	-
Percent Agreement					
Nutritional approach performed: parenteral/IV (j1a)	100	100	99	100	**100**

NOTE: Based on dichotomized never noted vs. noted any day. Interrater reliability not shown for items with proportions out of range for stable kappa estimate (per study power calculations). Interpretation of kappa or weighted kappa is as follows: 0.00-0.20: slight/poor; 0.21-0.40: fair; 0.41-0.60: moderate; 0.61-0.80: substantial/good; 0.81-1.00: excellent/almost perfect.

Table 5.2.1: Admission Response Distributions (in Percentages) for Nutritional Approaches–Feeding Tube

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of assessments	629	762	448	1087	**2926**
Nutritional approach performed: feeding tube (j1b)	0	3	8	2	**3**

Table 5.2.2: IRR Kappa/Weighted Kappa and Percent Agreement for Nutritional Approaches–Feeding Tube

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of patients	187	236	203	256	**882**
Kappa					
Nutritional approach performed: feeding tube (j1b)	-	-	-	-	-
Percent Agreement					
Nutritional approach performed: feeding tube (j1b)	100	100	98	100	**100**

NOTE: Based on dichotomized never noted vs. noted any day. Interrater reliability not shown for items with proportions out of range for stable kappa estimate (per study power calculations). Interpretation of kappa or weighted kappa is as follows: 0.00-0.20: slight/poor; 0.21-0.40: fair; 0.41-0.60: moderate; 0.61-0.80: substantial/good; 0.81-1.00: excellent/almost perfect.

Table 5.3.1: Admission Response Distributions (in Percentages) for Nutritional Approaches–Mechanically Altered Diet

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of assessments	629	762	448	1087	**2926**
Nutritional approach performed: mechanically altered diet (j1c)	2	15	14	11	**10**

Table 5.3.2: IRR Kappa/Weighted Kappa and Percent Agreement for Nutritional Approaches–Mechanically Altered Diet

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of patients	187	236	203	256	**882**
Kappa					
Nutritional approach performed: mechanically altered diet (j1c)	-	0.53	0.69	0.70	**0.65**
Percent Agreement					
Nutritional approach performed: mechanically altered diet (j1c)	100	89	92	94	**93**

NOTE: Based on dichotomized never noted vs. noted any day. Interrater reliability not shown for items with proportions out of range for stable kappa estimate (per study power calculations). Interpretation of kappa or weighted kappa is as follows: 0.00-0.20: slight/poor; 0.21-0.40: fair; 0.41-0.60: moderate; 0.61-0.80: substantial/good; 0.81-1.00: excellent/almost perfect.

Table 5.4.1: Admission Response Distributions (in Percentages) for Nutritional Approaches–Therapeutic Diet

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of assessments	629	762	448	1087	**2926**
Nutritional approach performed: therapeutic diet (j1d)	54	49	59	49	**52**

Table 5.4.2: IRR Kappa/Weighted Kappa and Percent Agreement for Nutritional Approaches–Therapeutic Diet

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of patients	187	236	203	256	**882**
Kappa					
Nutritional approach performed: therapeutic diet (j1d)	0.43	0.70	0.62	0.61	**0.60**
Percent Agreement					
Nutritional approach performed: therapeutic diet (j1d)	71	85	82	80	**80**

NOTE: Based on dichotomized never noted vs. noted any day. Interrater reliability not shown for items with proportions out of range for stable kappa estimate (per study power calculations). Interpretation of kappa or weighted kappa is as follows: 0.00-0.20: slight/poor; 0.21-0.40: fair; 0.41-0.60: moderate; 0.61-0.80: substantial/good; 0.81-1.00: excellent/almost perfect.

High-Risk Drug Classes: Use and Indication Items

Table 6.1.1: Admission Response Distributions (in Percentages) for Medication Class Taking and Indication Items

Medication Class	HHA (627)		IRF (769)		LTCH (459)		SNF (1096)		**Overall (2951)**	
	Taking (Percent)	**Indication (Percent)**	**Taking (Percent)**	**Indication (Percent)**	**Taking (Percent)**	**Indication (Percent)**	**Taking (Percent)**	**Indication (Percent)**	**Taking (Percent)**	**Indication (Percent)**
Anticoagulants	29	47	61	29	66	20	42	77	**48**	**45**
Antiplatelets	15	52	19	31	16	10	12	77	**15**	**45**
Hypoglycemics	29	47	30	49	48	52	26	72	**31**	**56**
Opioids	39	87	51	91	64	90	52	96	**51**	**92**
Antipsychotics	9	73	9	33	14	30	16	89	**12**	**66**
Antimicrobials	13	57	23	60	73	22	27	84	**30**	**53**

NOTE: Indication (percent) reflects percent with indication among those taking medications in that class

Table 6.1.2: IRR Kappa and Percent Agreement for Medication Class Taking and Indication Items

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of patients	187	240	212	261	**900**
Kappa					
Is patient taking: anticoagulants (i1a1)	0.78	0.84	0.87	0.85	**0.85**
Is patient taking: antiplatelets (i1a2)	0.69	0.71	0.83	-	**0.72**
Is patient taking: hypoglycemics (i1a3)	0.83	0.80	0.97	0.90	**0.89**
Is patient taking: opioids (i1a4)	0.84	0.86	0.90	0.85	**0.86**
Is patient taking: antipsychotics (i1a5)	-	-	-	-	-
Is patient taking: antimicrobials (i1a6)	-	0.76	0.93	0.82	**0.86**
Indication noted for anticoagulants (i1b1)	0.54	0.64	0.80	0.87	**0.78**
Indication noted for antiplatelets (i1b2)	0.69	0.85	-	0.89	**0.87**
Indication noted for hypoglycemics (i1b3)	0.39	0.62	0.70	0.75	**0.65**
Indication noted for opioids (i1b4)	-	-	-	-	-
Indication noted for antipsychotics (i1b5)	0.33	1.00	0.88	0.73	**0.81**
Indication noted for antimicrobials (i1b6)	0.74	0.63	0.72	-	**0.81**
Percent Agreement					
Is patient taking: anticoagulants (i1a1)	91	93	94	93	**93**
Is patient taking: antiplatelets (i1a2)	92	91	95	91	**92**
Is patient taking: hypoglycemics (i1a3)	92	92	99	96	**95**
Is patient taking: opioids (i1a4)	92	93	96	92	**93**
Is patient taking: antipsychotics (i1a5)	96	95	94	93	**94**
Is patient taking: antimicrobials (i1a6)	94	91	97	93	**94**
Indication noted for all meds in class (i1b1-6)	79	89	91	96	**90**
Indication noted for anticoagulants (i1b1)	77	85	94	95	**89**
Indication noted for antiplatelets (i1b2)	84	93	100	95	**94**
Indication noted for hypoglycemics (i1b3)	69	82	85	90	**82**
Indication noted for opioids (i1b4)	87	96	89	100	**94**
Indication noted for antipsychotics (i1b5)	63	100	95	89	**90**
Indication noted for antimicrobials (i1b6)	88	81	91	98	**91**

NOTE: Interrater reliability not shown for items with proportions out of range for stable kappa estimate (per study power calculations). Interpretation of kappa or weighted kappa is as follows: 0.00-0.20: slight/poor; 0.21-0.40: fair; 0.41-0.60: moderate; 0.61-0.80: substantial/good; 0.81-1.00: excellent/almost perfect.

Pain: Pain Interference

Table 7.1.1: Admission Response Distributions (in Percentages) for Pain Interference Items Among Patients/Residents Reporting Any Pain in the Last 3 Days or 5 Days

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of assessments	489	618	375	872	**2354**
How often pain made it hard to sleep (d3)					
Rarely or not at all	40	32	29	37	**35**
Occasionally	29	30	24	28	**28**
Frequently	19	26	29	23	**24**
Almost constantly	12	13	17	13	**13**
Offered rehab therapies (d4a)					
Yes	78	98	81	93	**89**
Yes N	379	606	302	803	**2090**
How often limited rehab due to pain (d4b)					
Rarely or not at all	74	76	62	73	**73**
Occasionally	14	17	17	16	**16**
Frequently	7	5	14	8	**8**
Almost constantly	5	2	7	3	**4**
How often limited daily activities due to pain (d4c)					
Rarely or not at all	40	55	42	41	**45**
Occasionally	26	18	19	26	**23**
Frequently	17	16	20	21	**19**
Almost constantly	16	11	19	12	**14**

Table 7.1.2: IRR Kappa/Weighted Kappa and Percent Agreement for Pain Interference Items

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of patients	197	256	232	268	953
Kappa					
How often pain made it hard to sleep (d3)	0.96	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.98
How often limited rehab due to pain (d4b)	0.95	0.96	0.98	0.97	0.97
How often limited daily activities due to pain (d4c)	0.97	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.98
Percent Agreement					
How often pain made it hard to sleep (d3)	95	98	98	100	98
How often limited rehab due to pain (d4b)	97	98	98	99	**98**
How often limited daily activities due to pain (d4c)	97	98	99	99	**98**

NOTE: Interrater reliability not shown for items with proportions out of range for stable kappa estimate (per study power calculations). Interpretation of kappa or weighted kappa is as follows: 0.00-0.20: slight/poor; 0.21-0.40: fair; 0.41-0.60: moderate; 0.61-0.80: substantial/good; 0.81-1.00: excellent/almost perfect. *Pearson correlation for rating of worst pain, which is on a 0-10 scale

Impairments: Hearing

Table 8.1.1: Admission Response Distributions (in Percentages) for Hearing Item

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of assessments	643	783	498	1141	**3065**
Ability to hear (a1)					
Adequate	65	75	81	76	**74**
Minimal difficulty	24	18	13	15	**17**
Moderate difficulty	11	6	4	8	**8**
Highly impaired	0	1	1	1	**1**

Table 8.1.2: IRR Weighted Kappa and Percent Agreement for Hearing Item

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of patients	197	258	237	268	**960**
Weighted kappa					
Ability to hear (a1)	0.71	0.67	0.58	0.62	**0.65**
Percent agreement					
Ability to hear (a1)	83	87	84	83	**84**

NOTE: Interpretation of kappa or weighted kappa is as follows: 0.00-0.20: slight/poor; 0.21-0.40: fair; 0.41-0.60: moderate; 0.61-0.80: substantial/good; 0.81-1.00: excellent/almost perfect.

Impairments: Vision

Table 9.2.1: Admission Response Distributions (in Percentages) for Vision Item

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of assessments	643	783	498	1141	**3065**
Ability to see (a2)					
Adequate	73	85	76	78	**78**
Impaired	21	12	16	16	**16**
Moderately impaired	4	2	6	4	**4**
Highly impaired	1	1	1	1	**1**
Severely impaired	1	0	1	1	**1**

Table 9.2.2: IRR Weighted Kappa and Percent Agreement for Vision Item

Items	HHA	IRF	LTCH	SNF	Overall
# of patients	197	258	237	268	**960**
Weighted kappa					
Ability to see (a2)	0.67	0.50	0.47	0.57	**0.56**
Percent agreement					
Ability to see (a2)	83	90	75	83	**83**

NOTE: Interpretation of kappa or weighted kappa is as follows: 0.00-0.20: slight/poor; 0.21-0.40: fair; 0.41-0.60: moderate; 0.61-0.80: substantial/good; 0.81-1.00: excellent/almost perfect.