



Section GG and NPE Discharge Assessment FAQ

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There have been numerous questions regarding the coding and item sets in section GG and the NPE Discharge Assessment. This FAQ document will address some of those questions.

Section GG

Question: If my resident admitted in September but the ARD is after October 1, do I have to complete Section GG?

Answer: You must complete GG if the ARD falls after the October 1st implementation date. If your software allows, you can dash areas on the Admission component, but you must answer the discharge components if they are populated after 10/1/16. The dates prior to 10/1/16 will not count in the QM's, so dashes are acceptable.

Question: What if I don't know what the Discharge goals are on admission?

Answer: According to CMS, you must answer at least one of the discharge goals on the admission component of GG. The remaining answers can be dashed if you are unable to determine a goal for discharge. But, it is best practice to answer as many questions as possible.

Question: What if the discharge goals stated by the resident or family are unrealistic?

Answer: The discharge goals have to be as realistic as possible. The RAI states in Chapter 3, Section GG, page GG-13, "Licensed clinicians can establish a resident's discharge goals at the time of admission based upon the 5-day PPS assessment, discussion with resident and family, professional judgement and the professional's standards of practice." If a resident expresses that their goal is to walk unassisted, but this hasn't been their usual practice, then this would not be a realistic goal. Remember, a goal is a desire...we can strive for that goal, but the RAI doesn't state that the goal must be met.

Question: My resident is on an HMO plan and I do all PPS assessments for the insurance, but do I also have to complete Section GG?

Answer: This is entirely up to the Managed Care Organization. Section GG and the NPE assessment are Quality Measure/Quality Reporting items; CMS does not require completion of these items, since this information is NOT submitted to QIES (managed care resident items are not included in QM calculations). Ask your MCO/HMO if you can dash these items or if they want the items answered.

Question: Why is Section GG populating when I have a discharge to the hospital?

Answer: In the directions for the Section GG discharge, there are four criteria that must be met in order to skip Section GG, Discharge. The four criteria are as follows:

1. A0310G is **not** a "2"= Unplanned Discharge
2. A0310H is a "1"= Yes, SNF discharge
3. A2400C minus A2400B is greater than 2= SNF stay is greater than 2 days
4. A2100 is not "3"=Acute Hospital

So...if your software is populating GG Discharge, something is not coded right. Check the above sections and make sure they are correctly coded. If they are, you might contact your software provider. If everything is correctly coded, you should never have to do GG on an unplanned discharge.

NPE Discharge Assessments

Question: My resident is on managed care...do I have to do the NPE assessment if they discharge from SNF and stay in my facility?

Answer: This is up to the MCO. Ask them if they want this completed. This is a Quality Measure/QRP item set; since Managed Care Assessments are not submitted, this information is not required by CMS.

Question: If my resident decides to leave SNF a week prior to the date we had planned for discharge, is this considered AMA and would I need to do the NPE assessment?

Answer: If a resident decides to leave unexpectedly, this is not necessarily an AMA unless the physician doesn't agree with the discharge. But, regardless of the AMA status, the NPE is only required if a resident leaves SNF and remains in your facility. The only assessment required in this scenario is the OBRA discharge assessment.

Question: My SNF resident went to the hospital for an acute change of condition. Is the NPE assessment required?

Answer: The NPE assessment is only required when the resident leave SNF and remains in your facility. But, when you complete the OBRA discharge assessment it will ask if this is an end of SNF stay, you will code "1" for yes and this will combine the NPE with the OBRA.

Additional Information

Video Series on Section GG

This four-part video series presents MDS 3.0 Section GG and is available on the [CMS YouTube Channel](#) at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLaV7m2-zFKpgYhG0FQv82I9dcqNI_9eO4.

Part 1: MDS 3.0 Section GG, Functional Abilities and Goals: GG0130 Self Care

- Intent of Section GG
- Look back periods of each item
- Section GG coding scenarios

Part 2: MDS 3.0 Section GG, Functional Abilities and Goals: GG0130 sections A-C

- Eating
- Oral Hygiene
- Toileting Hygiene
- 5-Day PPS Assessment
- Part A PPS Discharge Assessment
- 6-Point Scale
- Dash Usage

Part 3: MDS 3.0 Section GG, Functional Abilities and Goals: GG0170 Mobility Sections B-C

- Admission/Discharge Performance
- Goal identification
- Sit to lying, Lying to sitting on side of bed
- Gateway questions or screening questions

Part 4: MDS 3.0 Section GG, Functional Abilities and Goals: GG0170 Mobility Sections D-S

- Transfers
- Ambulation
- Wheelchair/scooter use

SNF Quality Reporting Program Fact Sheet Updated

The “SNF QRP Requirements for the FY 2018 Reporting Year Fact Sheet” has been updated to include the measures finalized in the SNF PPS FY 2017 final rule. The updated Fact Sheet is available on the [SNF Quality Reporting Program website](#). This fact sheet contains information about requirements for the Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting Program for the federal fiscal year 2018 reporting year (data collection period 10/1/16- 12/31/16).

SNF Quality Reporting Program Provider Training Questions from August 2016

CMS has posted the “SNF QRP Questions from Training – August 2016” PDF document to the [SNF Quality Reporting Program Measures and Technical Information website](#) that provides responses to some MDS-specific questions that were received during the Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting Program (SNF QRP) August 2016 training events.

Topics include:

- MDS 3.0 Assessments relevant to the SNF QRP
- Part A PPS Discharge Combinations
- Section GG, and
- Pressure Ulcer quality measure (QM)

In addition, the related SNF QRP Provider Training Presentation August 2016 and the SNF QRP Provider Training Support Materials August 2016 documents have been posted to the Downloads section of the [SNF Quality Reporting Program Training website](#).

June SNF Quality Reporting Program Provider Training Video

Video from the original June 2016 SNF Quality Provider Reporting Provider Training event has been posted to the [CMS YouTube Channel](#) at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLaV7m2-zFKpiDJQmZBdA93dsXal500lzu>.