



July 2024 CMS Quarterly OASIS Q&As

Category 4b

A1005, A1010, A1250, B1300, D0700

Question 1: If a patient is confused and consistently does not respond appropriately to questions, is the assessing clinician required to ask the questions for the social determinants of health (SDOH) OASIS items, such as A1005 - Ethnicity, A1010 - Race, A1250 - Transportation, B1300 - Health Literacy, and D0700 - Social Isolation?

Answer 1: Each OASIS item should be considered individually and coded based on guidance specific to that item.

For A1005 - Ethnicity, use clinical judgment to determine if the patient is able to respond. If it is determined that the patient is unable to respond, then code X - Patient unable to respond. If it is determined that the patient is unable to respond, a proxy response may be used. If neither the patient nor a proxy is able to provide a response to this item, medical record documentation may be used.

For A1010 - Race, use clinical judgment to determine if the patient is able to respond. If it is determined that the patient is unable to respond, then code X - Patient unable to respond. If it is determined that the patient is unable to respond, a proxy response may be used. If neither the patient nor a proxy is able to provide a response to this item, medical record documentation may be used.

For A1250 - Transportation, use clinical judgment to determine if the patient is able to respond. If it is determined that the patient is unable to respond, then code X - Patient unable to respond. If it is determined that the patient is unable to respond, a proxy response may be used. If neither the patient nor a proxy is able to provide a response to this item, medical record documentation may be used.

For B1300 - Health Literacy, use clinical judgment to determine if the patient is able to respond. If it is determined that the patient is unable to respond, then code 8 - Patient unable to respond. This item is intended to be a patient self-report item. No other source should be used to identify the response for this item.

For D0700 - Social Isolation, use clinical judgment to determine if the patient is able to respond. If it is determined that the patient is unable to respond, then code 8 - Patient unable to respond. This item is

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M1306 - M1324

Question 2: Would a Kennedy Ulcer be considered a pressure ulcer for the purposes of coding the pressure ulcer items on the OASIS?

Answer 2: If an ulcer/injury arises from a combination of factors that are primarily caused by pressure, then the ulcer/injury should be included in pressure ulcer items as a pressure ulcer/injury.

End of life ulcers (also known as Kennedy ulcers or terminal ulcers) result from organ failure and are not considered pressure ulcers and therefore not reported on the OASIS pressure ulcer items.

M1311

Question 3: Can you please provide guidance on how to stage a pressure ulcer on the OASIS when the deepest anatomic soft tissue damage is unknown? We have a newly admitted patient who has had a pressure ulcer for over a year, but there is no documentation available to indicate the highest stage of the ulcer.

Answer 3: For M1311 - Current Number of Unhealed Pressure Ulcers/Injuries at Each Stage, code based on the findings from the first skin assessment that is conducted on or after and as close to the actual time of the SOC/ROC as possible. Do not reverse stage. Consider current and historical levels of tissue involvement.

If the pressure ulcer/injury was previously classified at a higher numerical stage than what is observed now, as long as it remains stageable, it should continue to be classified at the higher numerical stage until healed.

If historical information is not available to inform the assessment of whether the ulcer/injury was previously classified at a higher numerical stage than what it is observed as now, code based on the current observation of the wound.

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