

It's All About Timing and Assessments Test Time Key

1. Referral received on 9/1; S/P right total knee replacement; Hospital DC 9/2: Referral orders for PT to evaluate and treat and RN for one visit to remove staples in 4 days. RN visited 9/3, performed initial assessment and completed the SOC comprehensive assessment. Assessment revealed no need for nursing other than staple removal as the wound was closed, no s&s of infection. Pt. was knowledgeable regarding their postoperative care needs & meds. PT eval was performed 9/3 following the RN visit.

- ☉ Who must visit first? (Initial assessment visit)

Answer: RN

- ☉ When must the initial visit occur?

Answer: Within 2 days of the hospital DC 9/2, in this case by 9/4

- ☉ Who must complete the SOC comprehensive assessment?

Answer: RN

- ☉ When must it be completed?

Answer: Within 5 days after SOC date, in this case by 9/8

- ☉ Who establishes SOC in this case?

Answer: PT when evaluation is made. Since the RN did not provide a service that was considered billable, the RN visit would not establish the Start of Care. (performing a comprehensive assessment only is not a billable service)

- ☉ Does the PT have to visit same day as the RN?

Answer: Yes, in order for the RN to be able to complete the SOC comprehensive assessment at the same time of the initial assessment visit, the PT would need to make a visit after the RN on the same day to establish the start of care. Since there were orders for nursing on the referral, the RN must perform the initial assessment visit and complete the comprehensive assessment. The PT may not visit the home first. In this scenario, the RN performed the initial assessment and completed the comprehensive assessment on 9/3 but did not provide a billable service thus, did not establish the start of care date. The SOC comprehensive assessment may not be completed before the SOC date. Therefore, the PT must visit later that day and provide the billable service establishing the SOC date.

If the RN performed the initial assessment visit and completed the SOC comprehensive assessment on 9/2 and the PT didn't go in on 9/3 to provide the billable service, 9/3 would not be the SOC; which means, the SOC comprehensive assessment would have been completed before the SOC date which is not compliant with the regulations.

- ⦿ What's the SOC date (M0030)?

Answer: The date of the first billable visit, 9/3, when PT performed their evaluation visit

2. Referral received on 9/1: PT only, RN opened for PT on 9/2, no nursing need at all. PT visit/eval 9/2.

- ⦿ Who must visit first? (Initial assessment visit)

Answer: Since there was no order for nursing on the referral, either RN or PT may be first into the home and perform the initial assessment visit. If agency policy states RN must open all cases, then RN must be first in.

- ⦿ When must the initial visit occur?

Answer: Within 2 days of referral 9/1, in this case by 9/3

- ⦿ Who must complete the SOC comprehensive assessment?

Answer: When it's therapy only, either the RN or the therapist (PT in this case) could complete the SOC comprehensive assessment, unless agency policy states RN must do it. If RN completes SOC assessment, it's a non-billable visit

- ⦿ What is the SOC date (M0030)?

Answer: 9/2, PT evaluation

3. Referral received on 9/1: Nursing and SLP are ordered. RN plans first visit for Tuesday at 1 pm. SLP has a patient in that neighborhood at 9 am and a patient 70 miles away at 2 pm.

- ⦿ Who must visit first? (Initial assessment visit)

Answer: RN

- ⦿ Can the SLP visit after her 9 am appointment before the RN visit at 1 pm?

Answer: No, because the RN has not performed the initial assessment visit yet.

- ⦿ When must the initial visit occur?

Answer: Within 2 days of the referral (9/1), must be completed by 9/3

- ⦿ Who must complete the SOC comprehensive assessment?

Answer: The RN since there were orders for nursing on the referral.

4. Referral: Orders for PT only. RN opened case for PT at 9 am Monday (Initial and SOC comprehensive assessment completed). No nursing need found. PT scheduled to visit at 2 pm Monday but doesn't visit until 2 pm Tuesday

- ☉ Who must visit first? (Initial assessment visit)

Answer: Since there was no order for nursing on the referral, either RN or PT may be first into the home and perform the initial assessment visit. If agency policy states RN must open all cases, then RN must be first in.

- ☉ What is the SOC date (M0030)?

Answer: Tuesday, when the PT visited and performed eval

- ☉ Do we have a problem?

Answer: Yes, the SOC comprehensive assessment was performed by the RN on Monday which was before the SOC date, Tuesday.

- ☉ If a problem, how do we compliantly fix it?

- ☉ Answer: One option - RN visits within 5 days after PT's visit on Tuesday and completes the SOC comprehensive assessment again, from beginning to end. The SOC from Monday is not a valid SOC comprehensive assessment.

Another option - PT who visited on Tuesday could complete SOC comprehensive assessment based on assessment findings from Tuesday and additional information gathered at another visit within 5 days after Tuesday.