Section Q

Participation in Assessment and Goal Setting

Impetus for Section Q Changes

• Important progress has been made in the last 20 years so that individuals have more choices, care options, and available supports to meet care preferences and needs in the least restrictive setting possible.
  o Legislation such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990) and the Olmstead Supreme Court Decision (1999).
  o Outcomes from various long-term care rebalancing initiatives, including grant and demonstration programs funded by CMS.

Section Q: Expanding the Traditional Definition of Discharge Planning

• Broadened the traditional definition of “discharge planning” in nursing homes.
• Recognizes that an expansive range of community-based supports and services are necessary for successful community living.
• Encourages nursing home interdisciplinary staff to assess long stay residents who may not have been previously considered as candidates for community living.
• Facilitates resident and nursing facility connection and communication with local contact agency experts to assess community resource availability and determine whether community discharge is possible.
Section Q: New Opportunities for Discharge Planning Collaboration

- Meaningfully engages residents in their discharge planning goals.
- Directly asks the resident if they want information about long-term care community options.
- Promotes linkages and information exchange between nursing homes, local contact agencies, and community-based long-term care providers.
- Promotes discharge planning collaboration between nursing homes and local contact agencies for residents who may require medical and supportive services to return to the community.

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Section Q: New Requirements for Discharge Planning Collaboration

- Nursing home staff expected to contact Local Contact Agencies for those residents who express a desire to learn about possible transition back to the community and what care options and supports are available.
- Local Contact Agencies expected to respond to nursing home staff referrals by providing information to residents about available community-based long-term care supports and services.
- Nursing home staff and Local Contact Agencies expected to meaningfully engage the resident in their discharge and transition plan and collaboratively work to arrange for all of the necessary community-based long-term care services.

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Item Q0100

Participation in Assessment
**Q0100 Importance**

- Residents who actively participate in the assessment process through interview and conversation often experience:
  - Improved quality of life
  - Higher quality care based on their needs, goals, and priorities

**Q0100A Coding Instructions**

- Document the participation of the resident in the assessment process.

**Resident Participation in Assessment**

- The resident actively engages in interviews and conversations.
- Determine the resident’s expectations and perspective during assessment.
**Q0100B Coding Instructions**

- Document participation of the family or significant other in the assessment process.

**Family or Significant Other**

- Spousal, kinship (e.g., sibling, child, parent, nephew) or in-law relationship.
- Partner, housemate, primary community caregiver, or close friend.
- Does not include nursing home staff.

**Q0100C Coding Instructions**

- Record the participation of the guardian or legally authorized representative in the assessment process.
Legally Authorized Representative or Guardian

- **Guardian**
  - Individual appointed by the court
  - Authorized to make decisions instead of the resident.
  - Includes giving and withholding consent for medical treatment

- **Legally authorized representative**
  - Designated by the resident under state law
  - Makes decisions on the resident’s behalf when resident is not able
  - Includes a medical power of attorney

Item Q0300

Resident’s Overall Expectation

Q0300 Importance

- Residents should be asked about expectations regarding return to the community and goals for care.
- Residents may not be aware of long-term care options and choices that may be available in the community to meet their needs.
**Q0300 Conduct the Assessment**

- Ask the resident about his or her overall expectations.
  - Outcome of nursing home admission
  - Expectations about returning to the community
- Ask the resident to consider:
  - Current medical status
  - Social and other supports

**Q0300 Conduct the Assessment**

- Resident may be unable to provide a clear response.
- Consult family, significant other(s).
- Consult guardian or legally authorized representative if family or significant other(s) are not available.

**Q0300 Assessment Guidelines**

- Record family, significant other(s), or guardian or legally authorized representative perception of resident goals only if resident is unable to discuss or communicate goals.
- Encourage the involvement of family or significant others in the discussion if the resident consents.
- Code this item to reflect the resident’s perspective if he or she is able to express/communicate it.
- Record resident expectations as expressed/communicated, whether or not they are realistic.
**Q0300A Coding Instructions**

- Code according to the goals expressed.

  **A. Resident's overall goal established during assessment process**
  1. Expects to be discharged to the community
  2. Expects to remain in this facility
  3. Expects to be discharged to another facility/institution
  4. Unknown or uncertain

**Q0300B Coding Instructions**

- Document the source of resident expectations expressed/communicated in Q0300A.

  **B. Indicate information source for Q0300A**
  1. Resident
  2. If not resident, family or significant other
  3. If not resident, family, or significant other, then guardian or legally authorized representative
  4. None of the above

**Q0300 Scenario**

- Ms. K. is a 39-year-old woman with diabetes and a right leg amputation below the knee that requires her to use a wheel chair.
- She is visually impaired and not able to manage her medications independently.
- She indicates that she only wants to be in the community around younger people.
Q0300 Scenario Coding

- Code Q0300A as 1. Expects to be discharged to the community.
- Code Q0300B as 1. Resident.

How should Q0300A be coded?

A. Code 1. Expects to be discharged to the community.
B. Code 2. Expects to remain in this facility.
C. Code 3. Expects to be discharged to another facility/institution.
D. Code 9. Unknown or uncertain.

How should Q0300B be coded?

A. Code 1. Resident.
B. Code 2. If not resident, then family or significant other.
C. Code 3. If not resident, family, or significant other, then guardian or legally authorized representative.
D. Code 9. None of the above.
How should Q0300A be coded?

A. Code 1. Expects to be discharged to the community.
B. Code 2. Expects to remain in this facility.
C. Code 3. Expects to be discharged to another facility/ institution.
D. Code 9. Unknown or uncertain.

How should Q0300B be coded?

A. Code 1. Resident.
B. Code 2. If not resident, then family or significant other.
C. Code 3. If not resident, family, or significant other, then guardian or legally authorized representative.
D. Code 9. None of the above.

Item Q0400

Discharge Plan
Q0400 Discharge Plan

- Determine if an active discharge plan is in place:
  - Care plan
  - Medical record
  - Nurses’ notes
  - Social services notes
  - Physician progress notes

Q0400A Coding Instructions

- Document whether an active discharge plan is in place for the resident to return to the community.

Q0400B Coding Instructions

- Document the determination of the resident and care planning team regarding discharge to the community.
Importance of Q0400B(2) – “Discharge Not Feasible”

• The interdisciplinary team must interview residents and/or their family members, whenever possible, and determine their preferences and agreement before concluding that a return to the community is not feasible.

• The LCA can help:
  o There are now more community resources and opportunities than ever before to enable residents, even long-term, to return to community living.
  o The resident and interdisciplinary team will benefit from LCA involvement and knowledge of community support services.

• The U.S. Supreme Court Olmstead decision gives NH residents with disabilities civil rights and legal guarantees to services, programs and activities “in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.”

Item Q0500
Return to Community

Q0500 Conduct the Assessment

• Ask the resident if he or she would like to speak to someone about the possibility of returning to the community.

• Consult family or significant other or guardian or legally authorized representative if resident is unable to communicate preferences.

• Explain that this item is meant to explore the possibility of different ways of receiving ongoing care.
Q0500 Conduct the Assessment

• Ask the resident if he or she wants to talk to someone about the different care options and supports that may be available for community living.
• Responding yes will be a way to talk to someone and obtain additional information about services and supports that would be available to support community living.

Q0500 Assessment Guidelines

• Make the resident comfortable that this a routine question asked of all residents.
• The intention is to allow a resident his or her right to explore all community options.
• Answering “Yes” is a request for more information made by the resident.
• Answering “Yes” does not commit the resident to leave the nursing home at a specific time.

Q0500 Assessment Guidelines

• It also does not ensure the resident will be able to move back to the community.
• Answering “No” is not a permanent commitment.
• The resident can change his or her choice at any time.
Q0500A Coding Instructions

• Document whether resident has been asked about returning to the community.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>Previous response was &quot;no&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Previous response was &quot;yes&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Previous response was &quot;unknown&quot;</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Q0500B Coding Instructions

• Document whether the resident, family, or significant other wants to talk to someone about returning to the community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Previous response was &quot;yes&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Previous response was &quot;unknown&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q0500 Coding Practice #1

• Ms. W is a 97-year-old woman who has a fractured hip as a result of a fall.
• She now requires a wheelchair and needs one person support for transfers.
• She owns her home but may lose it because of her nursing home expenses.
Her caregiver fears that she cannot return home because of her frailness, her advanced age and her home is not wheelchair accessible.

No one has asked her about returning to the community until now.

When administered the MDS assessment, she responded “Yes” to item Q0500B.

How should Q0500A be coded?

A. Code 0. No

B. Code 1. Yes - previous response was “no”

C. Code 2. Yes - previous response was “yes”

D. Code 3. Yes - previous response was “unknown”

How should Q0500B be coded?

A. Code 0. No

B. Code 1. Yes

C. Code 9. Unknown or uncertain
Item Q0600

Referral

Q0600 Importance

- Nursing Homes (NHs) will continue to do discharge planning and meet those regulatory requirements.
- Section Q provides the opportunity for residents to voice their choices and get information about available long term care (LTC) options and supports in the community.
- Local contact agencies can assist the resident and the NH in transition planning to secure/locate housing, home modifications, personal care, and community integration.
Q0600 Conduct the Assessment

- Complete Q0600 Referral if Q0500A is coded 2. Yes – previous response was “yes”.

Q0600 Coding Instructions

- Document whether a referral has been made to a local contact agency.
Section Q Summary

- Section Q provides the opportunity and mechanism to:
  - Ask the resident what their expectations are about discharge from the nursing home (NH) and if they would like to talk to someone about the possibility of returning to the community; and
  - Make a referral for the resident to a local contact transition agency when the individual says yes they would like to talk to someone about available long term care (LTC) community options and supports.

Section Q Summary

- Section Q provides the opportunity to expand and support NHs’ usual discharge planning to include transition planning with the support of local contact agencies for individuals who previously may not have had the opportunity to explore LTC care options and supports and transition back to the community.
- Local Contact Agencies and NHs should work collaboratively for effective discharge and transition planning to support the individual’s choice to return to the community.

Section Q Information and Comments

- Section Q Return to Community Resource Information sheet can be found in the student packet.
  - Provides referral, federal and state and community long-term care information.
- E-mail questions or comments to:
  mdsformedicaid@cms.hhs.gov