

Client: _____ DX: _____ MRN: _____ Eval Date: _____ DC Date: _____

Section GG Medicare Functional Assessment

Use this form during your evaluation to help score and complete Section GG items. Section GG is a standardized functional assessment utilized across all post-acute care (PAC) settings by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Although all of Section GG items are within the OT scope of practice, Section GG is intended as an interdisciplinary assessment. Other standardized assessments can and should be used in addition to Section GG during a comprehensive evaluation. AOTA encourages practitioners to utilize this data as an advocacy tool for the value of OT in PAC. For more information on the importance and role of Section GG in your setting, see the Medicare assessments linked below. Visit aota.org/SectionGG for additional resources.

These items correspond with Section GG items in Medicare PAC Assessments, including the Minimum Data Set (MDS), Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Patient Assessment Instrument (IRF-PAI), Long Term Care Hospital Continuity Assessment Record Evaluation Tool (LTCH CARE), and the Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS).

Prior Functioning: Everyday Activities (Assessment Items GG 0100)

3 = Independent; 2 = Need Some Help; 3 = Dependent; 8 = Unknown; 9 = Not

Score	Item	Definition
A	Self-care	The ability to use suitable utensils to bring food to the mouth and swallow food/ or liquid once the meal is placed before the patient.
B	Indoor mobility (ambulation)	The ability to use suitable items to clean teeth. Dentures (if applicable): The ability to insert and remove dentures into and from the mouth, and manage denture soaking and rinsing with use of equipment.
C	Stairs	Code the patient's need for assistance with internal or external stairs (with or without a device such as cane, crutch, or walker) prior to the current illness, exacerbation, or injury.
D	Functional cognition	Code the patient's need for assistance with planning regular tasks, such as shopping or remembering to take medication prior to the current illness, exacerbation, or injury

Prior Device Use (Assessment Items GG 0110)

Indicate devices and aids used by the patient/ resident prior to the current illness, exacerbation, or injury (*Check all that apply*)

	Item
A	<input type="checkbox"/> Manual wheelchair
B	<input type="checkbox"/> Motorized wheelchair and/or scooter
C	<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical lift

	Item
D	<input type="checkbox"/> Walker
E	<input type="checkbox"/> Orthotics/ prosthetics
Z	<input type="checkbox"/> None of the above

Functional Limitation in Range of Motion (Assessment Item GG0115)+

3 = Independent; 2 = Need Some Help; 3 = Dependent; 8 = Unknown; 9 = Not Applicable

Code for limitation that interfered with daily functions or placed resident at risk of injury in the last 7 days

	Item	Definition
A	<input type="checkbox"/> Upper extremity	Shoulder, elbow, wrist, hand

	Item	Definition
B	<input type="checkbox"/> Lower extremity	Hip, knee, ankle, foot

* This item is currently only utilized on the MDS

Mobility Devices (Assessment Item GG0120)+

Check all mobility devices that were normally used in the last 7 days

	Item
A	<input type="checkbox"/> Cane/ crutch
B	<input type="checkbox"/> Walker
C	<input type="checkbox"/> Wheelchair (manual or electric)

	Item
D	<input type="checkbox"/> Limb prosthesis
Z	<input type="checkbox"/> None of the above were used

* This item is currently only utilized on the MDS

Admission GG scores should reflect functional status prior to the benefit of services to capture the client's true baseline.

Self-Care Items (Assessment Items GG 0130)

6 = Independent; 5 = Setup; 4 = Supervision/Touching; 3 = Partial Assistance; 2 = Substantial Assistance; 1= Dependent; 07 = Refused; 09 = Not Applicable; 10 = Not attempted due to environment limitations; 88 = Not attempted due to medical condition/safety

	Admission	Goal	Discharge	Item	Definition
A				Eating	The ability to use suitable utensils to bring food to the mouth and swallow food/ or liquid once the meal is placed before the patient.
B				Oral hygiene	The ability to use suitable items to clean teeth. Dentures (if applicable): The ability to insert and remove dentures into and from the mouth, and manage denture soaking and rinsing with use of equipment.
C				Toileting hygiene	The ability to maintain perineal hygiene, adjust clothing before and after voiding or having a bowel movement. If managing an ostomy, include wiping the opening but not managing equipment.
D				Wash upper body**	The ability to wash, rinse, and dry the face, hands, chest, and arms while sitting in a chair or bed.
E				Shower/bathe self*	The ability to bathe self, including washing, rinsing, and drying self (excludes washing of back and hair). Does not include transferring in/out of tub/shower.
F				Upper body dressing*	The ability to dress and undress above the waist; including fasteners, if applicable.
G				Lower body dressing	The ability to dress and undress below the waist, including fasteners; does not include footwear.
H				Putting on/ taking off footwear	The ability to put on and take off socks and shoes or other footwear that is appropriate for safe mobility; including fasteners, if applicable.
I				Personal hygiene +	The ability to maintain personal hygiene, including combing hair, shaving, applying makeup, washing/drying face and hands (excludes baths, showers, and oral hygiene).

*Indicates the item is not reported to CMS in Long Term Care Hospitals (LTCH) **Indicates the item is only reported to CMS in LTCH.

+ Indicates this item is only reported to CMS on the MDS

Section GG Mobility Items (Assessment Items GG 0170)

6 = Independent; 5 = Setup; 4 = Supervision/Touching; 3 = Partial Assistance; 2 = Substantial Assistance; 1= Dependent; 07 = Refused; 09 = Not Applicable; 10 = Not attempted due to environment limitations; 88 = Not attempted due to medical condition/safety

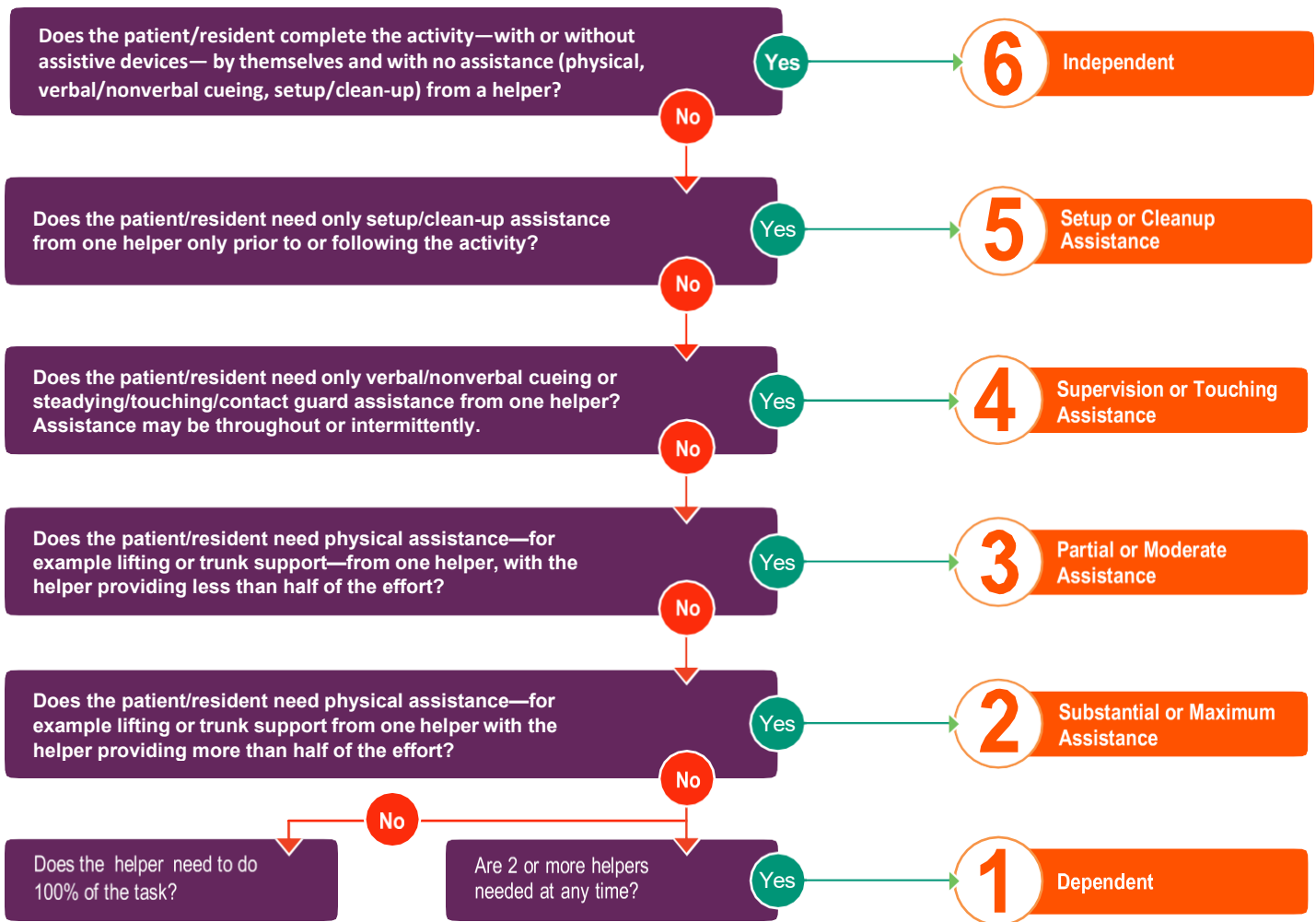
	Admission	Goal	Discharge	Item	Definition
A				Roll left and right	The ability to roll from lying on back to left and right side, and return to lying on back on the bed.
B				Sit to lying	The ability to move from sitting on side of bed to lying flat on the bed.
C				Lying to sitting on side of bed	The ability to safely move from lying on the back to sitting on the side of the bed with feet flat on the floor, and with no back support.
D				Sit to stand	The ability to safely come to a standing position from sitting in a chair or on the side of the bed.
E				Chair/bed-to-chair transfer	The ability to safely transfer to and from a bed to a chair (or wheelchair).
F				Toilet transfer	The ability to safely get on and off a toilet or commode.
FF				Tub/ shower transfer *	The ability to get in and out of a tub/shower
G				Car transfer*	The ability to transfer in and out of a car or van on the passenger side. Does not include the ability to open/close door or fasten seat belt.
Admission GG scores should reflect functional status prior to the benefit of services to capture the client's true baseline.					
I				Walk 10 feet	Once standing, the ability to walk at least 10 feet in a room, corridor, or similar space. If performance is coded 07, 09, 10, or 88, skip to M (1 step curb).
J				Walk 50 feet with 2 turns	Once standing, the ability to walk at least 50 feet and make two turns.
K				Walk 150 feet*	Once standing, the ability to walk at least 150 feet in a corridor or similar space.
L				Walking 10 feet on uneven surfaces	The ability to walk 10 feet on uneven or sloping surfaces (indoor or outdoor), such as turf or gravel.
M				1 step (curb)* <i>Can score if using wheelchair</i>	The ability to go up and down a curb and/or up and down one step. If performance is coded 07, 09, 10, or 88, skip to P (picking up object).
N				4 steps* <i>Can score if using wheelchair</i>	The ability to go up and down four steps with or without a rail. If performance is coded 07, 09, 10, or 88, skip to P (picking up object).
O				12 steps* <i>Can score if using wheelchair</i>	The ability to go up and down 12 steps with or without a rail.
P				Picking up object*	The ability to bend/stoop from a standing position to pick up a small object, such as a spoon, from the floor.
Q	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Does patient use wheelchair and/ or scooter? Skip "R" and "S" if "No"	
R				Wheel 50 feet with 2 turns <input type="checkbox"/> manual <input type="checkbox"/> motorized	Once seated in wheelchair/scooter, can wheel at least 50 feet and make two turns.
S				Wheel 150 feet <input type="checkbox"/> manual <input type="checkbox"/> motorized	Once seated in wheelchair/scooter, can wheel at least 150 feet in a corridor or similar space

*Indicates the item is not reported to CMS in Long Term Care Hospitals (LTCH) **Indicates the item is only reported to CMS in LTCH.

+ Indicates this item is only reported to CMS on the MDS

Section GG Scoring Algorithm (CMS, n.d.)

Use the chart below to score each item. Adaptive equipment and assistive devices may be used for any score. For more information, see aota.org/SectionGG.



- 6: Independent**—Patient/resident safely completes the activity by themselves with no assistance from a helper.
- 5. Setup or Cleanup Assistance**—Helper sets up or cleans up; patient/resident completes activity. Helper assists only prior to or following the activity.
- 4. Supervision or Touching Assistance**—Helper provides verbal cues and/or touching/steadying and/or contact guard assistance as patient/resident completes activity. Assistance may be provided throughout the activity or intermittently.
- 3. Partial/Moderate Assistance**—Helper does less than half the effort. Helper lifts, holds, or supports trunk or limbs, but provides less than half the effort.
- 2. Substantial/Maximal Assistance**—Helper does MORE THAN HALF the effort. Helper lifts or holds trunk or limbs and provides more than half the effort
- 1. Dependent**—Helper does ALL the effort. Patient/resident does none of the effort to complete the activity. Or, the assistance of 2 or more helpers is required for the patient/resident to complete the activity.

- 07: Resident Refused**
- 09: Not Applicable**—Resident did not perform this activity prior to current injury, exacerbation, or injury.
- 10: Not Attempted**—Due to environmental limitations.
- 88: Not Attempted**—Due to medical condition and safety concerns.

Full Medicare Assessments

Review the most recent full Medicare assessments for each post-acute care setting:

- Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Resident Assessment Instrument (IRF–PAI): <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/payment/prospective-payment-systems/inpatient-rehabilitation/pai>
- Minimum Data Set (MDS) used in Skilled Nursing Facilities: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality/nursing-home-improvement/resident-assessment-instrument-manual>
- Outcome and Assessment Instrument Set (OASIS) used in Home Health Agencies: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality/home-health/oasis-data-sets>
- Long Term Care Hospital Continuity Assessment Record (CARE) Data Set (LCDS): <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality/long-term-care-hospital/ltch-care-data-set-ltch-grp-manual>

AOTA Practice Resources

- AOTA Practice Resources: <https://aota.org/practice>
- AOTA Section GG Page: <https://aota.org/sectionGG>
- AOTA SNF Resources: <https://aota.org/pdpm>
- AOTA Home Health Resources: <https://aota.org/pdgm>
- AOTA Quality Toolkit: <https://aota.org/quality>

Resources

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (n.d.). Coding Section GG Self-Care & Mobility Activities included on the Post-Acute Care Item Sets: Key questions to consider when coding. <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/IRF-Quality-Reporting/Downloads/GG-Self-Care-and-Mobility-Activities-Decision-Tree.pdf>

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2023). IMPACT Act of 2014 data standardization & cross setting measures. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality/initiatives/pac-quality-initiatives/impact-act-2014-data-standardization-cross-setting-measures>

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2021). Section GG: Understanding Prior Functioning and Prior Device Use. https://pac.training/courses/GG_course1/#/

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2021). Section GG: GG0130. Self-Care Items. https://pac.training/courses/GG_course2/#/

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2021). Section GG: GG0170. Mobility Items. https://pac.training/courses/GG_course3/#/