Coding Tips for Section GG - OASIS*

Prior Level of Function Coding Tips

If no information about the patient’s ability is available after attempt to interview patient or family and after reviewing patient’s clinical record, code 8, Unknown.

Self-Care Coding Tips

GG0130A. Eating

Patient uses a gastrostomy tube (G-Tube) or total parenteral nutrition (TPN): Assistance with tube feedings or TPN is not considered when coding the item eating.

If the patient does not eat or drink by mouth and relies solely on nutrition and liquids through tube feedings or TPN due to a new (recent-onset) medical condition, code GG0130A as 88, Not attempted due to medical condition or safety concerns.

If the patient does not eat or drink by mouth at the time of the assessment, and the patient did not eat or drink by mouth prior to the current illness, injury or exacerbation, code GG0130A as 09, Not applicable.

If the patient eats and drinks by mouth, and relies partially on obtaining nutrition and liquids via tube feedings or TPN, code eating based on the amount of assistance the patient requires to eat and drink by mouth.

GG0130B. Oral Hygiene

If a patient does not perform oral hygiene during home visit, determine the patient’s abilities based on the patient’s performance of similar activities during the assessment, or on patient and/or caregiver report.

Mobility Coding Tips

General Coding Tips

- If a patient does not attempt the activity and a helper does not complete the activity, and the patient’s usual status cannot be determined based on patient or caregiver report, code the reason the activity was not attempted:
  - Code 07 if the patient refused to attempt the activity
  - Code 10 if the activity was not attempted due to environmental limitations
  - Code 09 if the patient could not perform an activity at the time of assessment, and also could not perform the activity prior to the current illness, exacerbation or injury
- Code 88 if the patient could not perform an activity at the time of the assessment, but could perform the activity prior to the current illness, exacerbation or injury

- If the only help a patient needs to complete an activity is for a helper to retrieve an assistive device or adaptive equipment, such as a cane for walking, or a tub bench for bathing then enter code 05, Setup or clean-up assistance.

- If two or more helpers are required to assist the patient to complete the activity, code as 01 Dependent.

- A dash (–) indicates “No information.” Do not use a dash if the reason that the item was not assessed was because the patient refused (code 07), the item is not applicable (code 09), the activity was not attempted due to environmental limitations (code 10), or the activity was not attempted due to medical condition or safety concerns (code 88).

Coding Tips and Examples GG0170A, Roll Left and Right

- The activity includes the patient rolling to both the left and to the right while in a lying position,

- If at the time of the assessment the patient is unable to lie flat due to medical conditions or restrictions, but could perform this activity prior to the current illness, exacerbation or injury, code 88, Not attempted due to medical condition or safety concerns.

  - For example, if a clinician determines that a patient’s new medical need requires that the patient sit in an upright sitting position rather than a slightly elevated position, then code GG0170A, Roll left and right as 88, Not attempted due to medical or safety concerns.

- If at the time of the assessment the patient is unable to lie flat due to medical conditions or restrictions, and could not perform the activity prior to the current illness, exacerbation or injury, code 09, Not applicable.

- For GG0170A, Roll left and right, clinical judgment should be used to determine what is considered a “lying” position for the patient. For example, a clinician could determine that a patient’s preferred slightly elevated resting position is “lying” for that patient.

Coding Tips and Examples GG0170B, Sit to Lying

- The activity includes the ability to move from sitting on side of bed to lying flat on the bed.

- If at the time of the assessment the patient is unable to lie flat due to medical conditions or restrictions, but could perform this activity prior to the current illness, exacerbation or injury, code 88, Not attempted due to medical condition or safety concerns.

  - For example, if a clinician determines that a new patient medical need requires that the patient sit in an upright sitting position rather than a slightly elevated position, then code GG0170B, Sit to lying as 88, Not attempted due to medical or safety concerns.
If at the time of the assessment the patient is unable to lie flat due to medical conditions or restrictions, and could not perform the activity prior to the current illness, exacerbation or injury, code 09, Not applicable.

For GG0170B, Sit to lying, clinical judgment should be used to determine what is considered a “lying” position for the patient. For example, a clinician could determine that a patient’s preferred slightly elevated resting position is “lying” for that patient.

**Coding Tips and Examples GG0170C, Lying to Sitting on Side of Bed**

- The activity includes patient transitions from lying on his/her back to sitting on the side of the bed with feet flat on the floor and sitting upright on the bed without back support.
- If a patient’s feet do not reach the floor upon lying to sitting, the clinician will determine if a bed height adjustment (if applicable), or a foot stool is required to accommodate foot placement on the floor/footstool.
- Back support refers to an object or person providing support of the patient’s back.
- If at the time of the assessment the patient is unable to lie flat due to medical conditions or restrictions, but could perform this activity prior to the current illness, exacerbation or injury, code 88, Not attempted due to medical condition or safety concerns.
  - If a clinician determines that a new patient medical need requires that the patient sit in an upright sitting position rather than a slightly elevated position, then code GG0170C, Lying to sitting on side of bed as 88, Not attempted due to medical or safety concerns.
- If at the time of the assessment the patient is unable to lie flat due to medical conditions or restrictions, and could not perform the activity prior to the current illness, exacerbation or injury, code 09, Not applicable.
- For GG0170C, Lying to sitting on side of bed, clinical judgment should be used to determine what is considered a “lying” position for the patient. For example, a clinician could determine that a patient’s preferred slightly elevated resting position is “lying” for that patient.

**Coding Tips and Examples, GG0170D, Sit to Stand**

- The activity includes the patient coming to a standing position from sitting in a chair, wheelchair, or on the side of the bed.
- If the only help a patient needs to complete the sit to stand activity is for a helper to retrieve an assistive device or adaptive equipment, such as a walker or ankle foot orthosis, then enter code 05, Setup or clean-up assistance.

**Coding Tips and Examples GG0170E, Chair/Bed-to-Chair Transfer**

- The activity begins with the patient sitting (in a chair, wheelchair, or at the edge of the bed) and transferring to sitting in a chair, wheelchair, or at the edge of the bed.
- Sit to lying and lying to sitting are not assessed as part of GG0170E.
If a mechanical lift is used to assist in transferring a patient for a chair/bed-to-chair transfer and two helpers are needed to assist with a mechanical lift transfer, then code 01, Dependent, even if the patient assists with any part of the chair/bed-to-chair transfer.

Coding Tips and Examples GG0170F, Toilet Transfer

- The activity includes the patient getting on and off a toilet or commode.
- Use of assistive device(s) and adaptive equipment (for instance a grab bar or elevated toilet) required to complete the toilet transfer should not affect coding of the activity.
- If the only help a patient needs to complete the toilet transfer activity is for a helper to retrieve and place the toilet seat riser, and remove it after patient use, then enter code 05, Setup or clean-up assistance.
- Toileting hygiene and clothing management are not considered part of the toilet transferring activity.
- If the patient requires assistance from two or more helpers to get on and off the toilet or commode, then enter code 01, Dependent.

Coding Tips and Examples GG0170G, Car Transfer

- The activity includes transferring in and out of a car or van on the passenger side.
- Does not include opening or closing the car door, or fastening seat belt.
- If the patient is not able to attempt car transfers (for example because no car is available, or there are weather or other environmental constraints), and the patient’s usual status cannot be determined based on patient or caregiver report, enter code 10, Not attempted due to environmental limitations.
- If at the time of the assessment the patient is unable to attempt car transfers, and could not perform the car transfers prior to the current illness, exacerbation or injury, code 09, Not applicable.

Coding Tips and Examples GG0170I, Walk 10 Feet

- Starting from standing, the activity includes walking at least 10 feet in a room, corridor, or similar space.
- Use of assistive device(s) and adaptive equipment (for instance a cane or leg brace) required to complete the walking activity should not affect coding of the activity.
- If the only help a patient needs to complete the walking activity is for a helper to retrieve and place the walker and/or put it away after patient use, then enter code 05, Setup or clean-up assistance.

Coding Tips and Examples GG0170J, Walk 50 Feet with Two Turns

- Starting from standing, the activity includes walking 50 feet and making two turns.
• The turns are 90 degree turns and may be in the same direction (two 90 degree turns to the right or two 90 degree turns to the left) or may be in different directions (one 90 degree turn to the right and one 90 degree turn to the left).
• The 90 degree turns should occur at the patient’s ability level (i.e., not jeopardizing patient safety), and can include the use of an assistive device (for example walker or crutches) without affecting coding of the activity.

Coding Tips and Examples GG0170K, Walk 150 Feet
• Starting from standing, the activity includes walking 150 feet in a corridor, or similar space.
• If the patient’s environment does not accommodate a walk of 150 feet without turns, but the patient demonstrates the ability to walk with or without assistance 150 feet with turns without jeopardizing the patient’s safety, code using the 6-point scale.
• Use of assistive device(s) and adaptive equipment (for instance a rolling walker or quad cane) required to complete the walking activity should not affect coding of the activity.

Coding Tips and Examples GG0170L, Walking 10 Feet on Uneven Surfaces
• Once standing, the activity includes walking 10 feet on uneven or sloping surfaces (indoor or outdoor), such as turf or gravel.
• If the patient is not able to attempt walking on uneven surfaces (for example because no uneven surfaces are available, or there are weather or other environmental constraints limiting access), and the patient’s usual status for walking 10 feet on uneven surfaces cannot be determined based on patient or caregiver report, enter code 10 Not attempted due to environmental limitations.
• Use of assistive device(s) and adaptive equipment (for instance a rolling walker or quad cane) required to complete the walking activity should not affect coding of the activity.

Coding Tips and Examples GG0170M, 1 Step (curb)
• The activity includes the patient going up and down a curb and/or one step.
• Use of assistive device(s) and adaptive equipment (for instance a railing or cane) required to complete the activity should not affect coding of the activity.

Coding Tips and Examples GG0170N, 4 Steps
• The activity includes the patient going up and down four steps with or without a rail.
• Use of assistive device(s) and adaptive equipment (for instance a railing or cane) required to complete the activity should not affect coding of the activity.
• If at the time of the assessment the patient is unable to complete the activity due to a physician prescribed restriction (for instance, no stair climbing for 2 weeks), but could perform this activity prior to the current illness, exacerbation or injury, code 88, Not attempted due to medical condition or safety concern.
Coding Tips and Examples GG0170O, 12 Steps

- The activity includes the patient going up and down 12 steps with or without a rail.
- Use of assistive device(s) and adaptive equipment (for instance a railing or cane) required to complete the activity should not affect coding of the activity.
- If at the time of the assessment the patient is unable to complete the activity due to a physician prescribed restriction (for instance, no stair climbing for 2 weeks), but could perform this activity prior to the current illness, exacerbation or injury, code 88, Not attempted due to medical condition or safety concern.

Coding Tips and Examples GG0170P, Picking up Object

- The activity includes the patient bending/stooping from a standing position to pick up a small object, such as a spoon, from the floor.
- Use of assistive device(s) and adaptive equipment (for instance a cane to support standing balance and a reacher to pick up the object) required to complete the activity should not affect coding of the activity.
- If at the time of the assessment the patient is unable to complete the activity (for instance is unable to stand), and could not stand to perform this activity prior to the current illness, exacerbation or injury, code 09, Not applicable.

Coding Tips and Examples GG0170Q, Does the Patient Use a Wheelchair/Scooter?

- The intent of the wheelchair mobility item is to assess the ability of patients who are learning how to self-mobilize using a wheelchair or patients who used a wheelchair prior to admission.
- Use clinical judgment to determine if the patient’s use of a wheelchair is for self-mobilization due to the patient’s medical condition or safety.
- If the patient is ambulatory and is not learning how to mobilize in a wheelchair, and only uses a wheelchair for transport within a larger living facility (assisted living facility or apartment complex), or for community mobility outside the home (for instance to a physician appointment or to dialysis), enter code 0 - No for GG0170Q Does the patient use a wheelchair/scooter, and skip all remaining wheelchair questions.

Coding Tips and Examples GG0170R, Wheel 50 Feet with Two Turns, and GG0170RR, Indicate the Type of Wheelchair or Scooter Used

- Once seated in the wheelchair or scooter, the activity includes wheeling at least 50 feet and making two turns.
- Indicate whether the wheelchair or scooter used is manual or motorized.
- The turns are 90 degree turns and may be in the same direction (two 90 degree turns to the right or two 90 degree turns to the left) or may be in different directions (one 90 degree turn to the right and one 90 degree turn to the left).
- The 90 degree turns should occur at the patient’s ability level (i.e., not jeopardizing patient safety).
Coding Tips and Examples GG0170S, Wheel 150 Feet and GG0170SS, Indicate the Type of Wheelchair/Scooter Used

- Once seated in the wheelchair or scooter, the activity includes wheeling at least 150 feet in a corridor or similar space.
- Indicate whether the wheelchair or scooter used is manual or motorized.
- If the patient’s environment does not accommodate wheelchair/scooter use of 150 feet without turns, but the patient demonstrates the ability to mobilize the wheelchair/scooter with or without assistance 150 feet with turns without jeopardizing the patient’s safety, code using the 6-point scale.