Measuring Functional Change in Outpatient Therapy

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Uniform Data System for Medical Rehabilitation

Claims-Based Data Collection Reqs. for Outpatient Therapy Services

- Claims for physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services must be reported using the following:
  - 42 new non-payable functional G-codes
  - 7 new functional modifiers
- Applies to:
  - Medicare Part B outpatient therapy benefit
  - Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) Benefit
  - Therapy services furnished incident to the service of a physician and certain non-physician practitioners

G-codes and Functional Modifiers

- **G-codes**: Used to report on the status of functional limitations
- **Severity/complexity modifiers**: A modifier must be reported for each G-code, which indicates the severity/complexity for that measure
Function-Related G-codes

- Mobility (G8978, G8979, G8980)
- Changing and Maintaining Body Position (G8981, G8982, G8983)
- Carrying, Moving and Handling Objects (G8984, G8985, G8986)
- Self Care Other PT/OT Primary (G8987, G8988, G8989)
- Other PT/OT Primary (G8990, G8991, G8992)
- Other PT/OT Subsequent (G8993, G8994, G8995)
- Swallowing (G8996, G8997, G8998)
- Motor Speech (G8999, G9186, G9158)
- Spoken Language Comprehension (G9159, G9160, G9161)
- Spoken Language Expressive (G9162, G9163, G9164)
- Attention (G9165, G9166, G9167)
- Memory (G9168, G9169, G9170)
- Voice (G9171, G9172, G9173)
- Other Speech Language Pathology (G9174, G9175, G9176)

Functional Modifiers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modifier</th>
<th>Impairment Limitation Restriction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CH</td>
<td>0% impaired, limited, or restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CI</td>
<td>At least 1% but less than 20% impaired, limited, or restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CJ</td>
<td>At least 20% but less than 40% impaired, limited, or restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CK</td>
<td>At least 40% but less than 60% impaired, limited, or restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CL</td>
<td>At least 60% but less than 80% impaired, limited, or restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>At least 80% but less than 100% impaired, limited, or restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN</td>
<td>100% impaired, limited, or restricted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The LIFEwareSM System

- The LIFEwareSM System is a functional measurement system for outpatient treatment
- 130 measures and scales
- Most measures are self-reported by patients
- Some are standardized and clinician-assessed (e.g., FIM® instrument, EDSS)
- Subscribing facilities may use customized forms that are appropriate for the types of disorders that are represented in the patient group
- Longitudinal records track patients over time
A new “addition” to the LIFEwareSM System was created for G-code compliance and standardization in documentation, reporting, and benchmarking

- Pilot is currently underway
- It uses a common metric that consists of measures that have been tested and used in outpatient clinics for over ten years
- It complies with CMS requirements related to documenting impairment limitations (functional modifiers)

Outpatient Therapy Core Outcomes Instrument

- It can help manage patient care (determine burden of care needed by a caregiver and functional status) and set goals
- It can aid in improving quality by monitoring functional progress, treatment effectiveness, and the need for continued services

Sixteen Different Measures

- Body Movement and Control (nine items)
- Physical effort (one item)
- Driving Ability (one item)
- Cognitive Fatigue (two items)
- Cranial Symptoms (four items)
- Dyspnea (two items)
- IADL (four items)
- Swallowing Difficulties (three items)
- Sleep Problems (one item)
- Mood (one item)
- Pain (two items)
- Satisfaction in General (one item)
- Satisfaction with Care (one item)
- Participation/Importance (scale)
- SigmaFIM™ instrument (eighteen items)
**SigmaFIM™ Instrument**

- Derived from the FIM® instrument
- Uses the same eighteen items but a three-level rating system
- Does not require extensive training or a mastery exam
- Intended for use in outpatient facilities and for home health to assess function and burden of care
- Not sensitive enough to show changes and monitor outcomes (can detect large improvements in function, but not subtle ones)
- Takes five to ten minutes to administer

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**Outpatient Therapy Core Outcomes Instrument**

- Provided to patient and/or caregiver at the following times:
  - Initial visit
  - Every tenth visit
  - Discharge

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**Outpatient Therapy Core Outcomes Instrument**

- Page 1 is demographic information
  - Patient completes this page at initial visit only
- Pages 2–4 are completed by the patient at the initial visit, every 10th visit, and at the final/last visit
- Page 5 is completed by the clinician or multiple clinicians (PTs can complete some items, OTs can complete other items)
  - May be completed by prompting the patient and/or the caregiver/proxy
- The entire assessment must be completed, but the measures reported on for the functional modifiers may change based on the patient’s condition as presented to therapy
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stroke patient</td>
<td>Body Movement and Control is recommended for submission, as are Physical Effort, Cognitive Fatigue, IADL, perhaps Swallowing, and the SigmaFIM™ instrument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurological</td>
<td>Body Movement and Control, Physical Effort, Driving, Cognitive Fatigue, Cranial Symptoms, and the SigmaFIM™ instrument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardio/Pulmonary</td>
<td>Body Movement and Control, Physical Effort, and Dyspnea</td>
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