

# J1550: Problem Conditions

J1550. Problem Conditions	
↓	Check all that apply
<input type="checkbox"/>	A. Fever
<input type="checkbox"/>	B. Vomiting
<input type="checkbox"/>	C. Dehydrated
<input type="checkbox"/>	D. Internal bleeding
<input type="checkbox"/>	Z. None of the above

## J1550: Problem Conditions (cont.)

**Intent:** This item provides an opportunity for screening in the areas of fever, vomiting, fluid deficits, and internal bleeding. Clinical screenings provide indications for further evaluation, diagnosis and clinical care planning.

### Item Rationale

#### Health-related Quality of Life

- Timely assessment is needed to identify underlying causes and risk for complications.

#### Planning for Care

- Implementation of care plans to treat underlying causes and avoid complications is critical.

### Steps for Assessment

1. Review the medical record, interview staff on all shifts and observe the resident for any indication that the resident had vomiting, fever, potential signs of dehydration, or internal bleeding during the 7-day look-back period.

### Coding Instructions

Check all that apply (blue box)

- **J1550A**, fever
- **J1550B**, vomiting
- **J1550C**, dehydrated
- **J1550D**, internal bleeding
- **J1550Z**, none of the above

### Coding Tips

- **Fever:** Fever is defined as a temperature 2.4 degrees F higher than baseline. The resident's baseline temperature should be established prior to the Assessment Reference Date.
- **Fever assessment prior to establishing base line temperature:** A temperature of 100.4 degrees F (38 degrees C) on admission (i.e., prior to the establishment of the baseline temperature) would be considered a fever.
- **Vomiting:** Regurgitation of stomach contents; may be caused by many factors (e.g., drug toxicity, infection, psychogenic).

## J1550: Problem Conditions (cont.)

- **Dehydrated:** Check this item if the resident presents with two or more of the following potential indicators for dehydration:
  1. Resident takes in less than the recommended 1,500 ml of fluids daily (water or liquids in beverages and water in foods with high fluid content, such as gelatin and soups). Note: The recommended intake level has been changed from 2,500 ml to 1,500 ml to reflect current practice standards.
  2. Resident has one or more potential clinical signs (indicators) of dehydration, **including but not limited to** dry mucous membranes, poor skin turgor, cracked lips, thirst, sunken eyes, dark urine, new onset or increased confusion, fever, or abnormal laboratory values (e.g., elevated hemoglobin and hematocrit, potassium chloride, sodium, albumin, blood urea nitrogen, or urine specific gravity).
  3. Resident's fluid loss exceeds the amount of fluids they take in (e.g., loss from vomiting, fever, diarrhea that exceeds fluid replacement).
- **Internal Bleeding:** Bleeding may be frank (such as bright red blood) or occult (such as guaiac positive stools). Clinical indicators include black, tarry stools, vomiting "coffee grounds," hematuria (blood in urine), hemoptysis (coughing up blood), and severe epistaxis (nosebleed) that requires packing. However, nose bleeds that are easily controlled, menses, or a urinalysis that shows a small amount of red blood cells should not be coded as internal bleeding.