

E0900: Wandering—Presence & Frequency

E0900. Wandering - Presence & Frequency

Enter Code ☐

Has the resident wandered?

0. Behavior not exhibited → Skip to E1100, Change in Behavior or Other Symptoms
1. Behavior of this type occurred 1 to 3 days
2. Behavior of this type occurred 4 to 6 days, but less than daily
3. Behavior of this type occurred daily

Item Rationale

Health-related Quality of Life

- Wandering may be a pursuit of exercise or a pleasurable leisure activity, or it may be related to tension, anxiety, agitation, or searching.

Planning for Care

- It is important to assess for reason for wandering. Determine the frequency of its occurrence, and any factors that trigger the behavior or that decrease the episodes.
- Assess for underlying tension, anxiety, psychosis, drug-induced psychomotor restlessness, agitation, or unmet need (e.g., for food, fluids, toileting, exercise, pain relief, sensory or cognitive stimulation, sense of security, companionship) that may be contributing to wandering.

E0900: Wandering—Presence & Frequency (cont.)

Steps for Assessment

1. Review the medical record and interview staff to determine whether wandering occurred during the 7-day look-back period.
 - Wandering is the act of moving (walking or locomotion in a wheelchair) from place to place with or without a specified course or known direction. Wandering may or may not be aimless. The wandering resident may be oblivious to *their* physical or safety needs. The resident may have a purpose such as searching to find something, but *they* persist without knowing the exact direction or location of the object, person or place. The behavior may or may not be driven by confused thoughts or delusional ideas (e.g., when a resident believes *they* must find *their parent*, who staff know is deceased).
2. If wandering occurred, determine the frequency of the wandering during the 7-day look-back period.

Coding Instructions for E0900

- **Code 0, behavior not exhibited:** if wandering was not exhibited during the 7-day look-back period. Skip to **Change in Behavior or Other Symptoms** item (E1100).
- **Code 1, behavior of this type occurred 1-3 days:** if the resident wandered on 1-3 days during the 7-day look-back period, regardless of the number of episodes that occurred on any one of those days. Proceed to answer **Wandering—Impact** item (E1000).
- **Code 2, behavior of this type occurred 4-6 days, but less than daily:** if the resident wandered on 4-6 days during the 7-day look-back period, regardless of the number of episodes that occurred on any one of those days. Proceed to answer **Wandering—Impact** item (E1000).
- **Code 3, behavior of this type occurred daily:** if the resident wandered daily during the 7-day look-back period, regardless of the number of episodes that occurred on any one of those days. Proceed to answer **Wandering—Impact** item (E1000).

Coding Tips and Special Populations

- Pacing (repetitive walking with a driven/pressured quality) within a constrained space is not included in wandering.
- Wandering may occur even if resident is in a locked unit.
- Traveling via a planned course to another specific place (such as going to the dining room to eat a meal or to an activity) is not considered wandering.

