

# N2003: Medication Follow-up

N2003. Medication Follow-up - Complete only if N2001 = 1

Enter Code

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Did the facility contact a physician (or physician-designee) by midnight of the next calendar day and complete prescribed/recommended actions in response to the identified potential clinically significant medication issues?

- 0. No
- 1. Yes

## Item Rationale

### Health-related Quality of Life

- Integral to the process of safe medication administration practice is timely communication with a physician when a potential or actual clinically significant medication issue has been identified.
- Physician-prescribed/recommended actions in response to identified potential or actual clinically significant medication issues must be completed by the clinician in a time frame that maximizes the reduction in risk for medication errors and resident harm.

### Planning for Care

- When a potential or actual clinically significant medication issue is identified, prompt communication with the physician and implementation of prescribed actions is necessary to protect the health and safety of the resident.

## DEFINITION

### MEDICATION FOLLOW-UP

The process of contacting a physician to communicate an identified medication issue and completing all physician-prescribed/recommended actions by midnight of the next calendar day at the latest.

## Steps for Assessment

*This item is completed if one or more potential or actual clinically significant medication issues were identified during the admission drug regimen review (N2001 = 1).*

1. Review the resident's medical record to determine whether the following criteria were met for any potential or actual clinically significant medication issues that were identified upon admission:
  - Two-way communication between the clinician(s) and the physician was completed by midnight of the next calendar day, AND
  - All physician-prescribed/-recommended actions were completed by midnight of the next calendar day.

Medical record sources include medical records received from facilities where the resident received health care, the resident's most recent history and physical, transfer documents, discharge summaries, medication lists/records, clinical progress notes, and other resources as available.

Discussions (including with the acute care hospital, other staff and clinicians responsible for completing the drug regimen review, the resident, and the resident's family/significant other) may supplement and/or clarify the information gleaned from the resident's medical records.

## N2003: Medication Follow-up (cont.)

### Coding Instructions

- **Code 0, No:** if the facility did not contact the physician and complete prescribed/recommended actions in response to **each** identified potential or actual clinically significant medication issue by midnight of the next calendar day.
- **Code 1, Yes:** if the facility contacted the physician AND completed the prescribed/recommended actions by midnight of the next calendar day after each potential or actual clinically significant medication issue was identified.

### Coding Tips

- If the physician prescribes/recommends an action that will take longer than midnight of the next calendar day to complete, then **code 1, Yes**, should still be entered, if by midnight of the next calendar day the facility has taken the appropriate steps to comply with the prescribed/recommended action.
  - Example of a **physician-recommended action that would take longer than midnight of the next calendar day to complete:**
    - The physician writes an order instructing the clinician to monitor the medication issue over the next three days and call if the problem persists.
  - Examples of **by midnight of the next calendar day:**
    - A clinically significant medication issue is identified at 10:00 AM on 9/12/2017. The physician-prescribed/-recommended action is completed on or before 11:59 PM on 9/13/2017.
    - A clinically significant medication issue is identified at 11:00 PM on 9/12/2017. The physician-prescribed/-recommended action is completed on or before 11:59 PM on 9/13/2017.
- A dash (–) value is a valid response for this item; however, CMS expects dash use to be a rare occurrence.

#### DEFINITION

##### CONTACT WITH PHYSICIAN

- Communication with the physician to convey an identified potential or actual clinically significant medication issue, and a response from the physician to convey prescribed/recommended actions in response to the medication issue.
- Communication can be in person, by telephone, voice mail, electronic means, facsimile, or any other means that appropriately conveys the resident's status.

## N2003: Medication Follow-up (cont.)

### Examples

1. *Resident* P was admitted to the nursing facility with active diagnoses of pneumonia and atrial fibrillation. The acute care facility medication record indicated that *Resident* P was on a seven-day course of antibiotics and had three remaining days of this treatment plan. The nurse reviewing the discharge records from the acute care facility and the nursing facility admission medication orders noted that *Resident* P had an order for an anticoagulant medication that required INR monitoring, as well as the antibiotic. On the date of admission, the nurse contacted the physician responsible for *Resident* P and communicated a concern about a potential increase in *Resident* P's INR with this combination of medications that could place *them* at greater risk for bleeding. The physician provided orders for laboratory testing so that *Resident* P's INR levels would be monitored over the next three days, starting that day. However, the nurse did not request the first INR laboratory test until after midnight of the next calendar day.

**Coding:** N2003 would be coded **0, No.**

**Rationale:** A potential clinically significant medication issue was identified during the drug regimen review; the staff did contact the physician before midnight of the next calendar day, but did not complete, to the extent possible, the physician-prescribed actions related to the INR laboratory test until after midnight of the next calendar day.

2. *Resident* S was admitted to the facility from an acute care hospital. During the admitting nurse's review of *Resident* S's hospital discharge records, it was noted that *Resident* S had been prescribed metformin. However, laboratory tests at admission indicated that *Resident* S had a serum creatinine of 2.4, consistent with renal insufficiency. The admitting nurse contacted the physician to ask whether this medication would be contraindicated with *Resident* S's current serum creatinine level. Three hours after *Resident* S's admission to the facility, the physician provided orders to discontinue the metformin and start *Resident* S on a short-acting sulfonylurea for ongoing diabetes management. These medication changes were implemented within the hour.

**Coding:** N2003 would be coded **1, Yes.**

**Rationale:** A potential clinically significant medication issue was identified during the drug regimen review; the physician communication occurred, and the nurse completed the physician-prescribed actions, by midnight of the next calendar day.

