

A2300: Assessment Reference Date

A2300. Assessment Reference Date

Observation end date:

- -
Month Day Year

Item Rationale

- Designates the end of the observation period so that all assessment items refer to the resident's status during the same period of time.

As the last day of the observation period, the ARD serves as the reference point for determining the care and services captured on the MDS assessment. Anything that happens after the ARD will not be captured on that MDS. For example, for an MDS item with a 7-day observation period, assessment information is collected for a 7-day period ending on and including the ARD which is the 7th day of this observation period. For an item with a 14-day observation period, the information is collected for a 14-day period ending on and including the ARD. The observation period includes observations and events through the end of the day (midnight) of the ARD.

A2300: Assessment Reference Date (cont.)

Steps for Assessment

1. Interdisciplinary team members should select the ARD based on the reason for the assessment and compliance with all timing and scheduling requirements outlined in Chapter 2.

Coding Instructions

- Enter the appropriate date on the lines provided. Do not leave any spaces blank. If the month or day contains only a single digit, enter a “0” in the first space. Use four digits for the year. For example, October 2, 2010, should be entered as: 10-02-2010.
- For detailed information on the timing of the assessments, see Chapter 2 on assessment schedules.
- For discharge assessments, the discharge date item (A2000) and the ARD item (A2300) must contain the same date.

Coding Tips and Special Populations

- When the resident dies or is discharged prior to the end of the observation period for a required assessment, the ARD must be adjusted to equal the discharge date.
- The observation period may not be extended simply because a resident was out of the nursing home during part of the observation period (e.g., a home visit, therapeutic leave, or hospital observation stay less than 24 hours when resident is not admitted). For example, if the ARD is set at day 13 and there is a 2-day temporary leave during the observation period, the 2 leave days are still considered part of the observation period.
- When collecting assessment information, data from the time period of the leave of absence is captured as long as the particular MDS item permits. For example, if the family takes the resident to their home for a holiday and the resident falls, the assessor will capture the fall in J1900: **Number of Falls Since Admission/Entry or Reentry or Prior Assessment** (OBRA or Scheduled PPS), whichever is more recent. This requirement applies to all assessments, regardless of whether they are being completed for clinical or payment purposes.

DEFINITION

ASSESSMENT REFERENCE DATE (ARD)

The specific end-point for the observation periods in the MDS assessment process. Almost all MDS items refer to the resident's status over a designated time period referring back in time from the Assessment Reference Date (ARD). Most frequently, this observation period, also called the look-back or assessment period, is a 7-day period ending on the ARD. Observation periods may cover the 7 days ending on this date, 14 days ending on this date, etc.

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