

2.6 provides detailed instructions regarding return anticipated and return not anticipated types, and Section 2.8 provides detailed instructions regarding the Part A PPS Discharge type. Any of the following situations warrant a Discharge assessment, regardless of facility policies regarding opening and closing clinical records and bed holds:

- Resident is discharged from the facility to a private residence (as opposed to going on an LOA);
- Resident is admitted to a hospital or other care setting (regardless of whether the nursing home discharges or formally closes the record);
- Resident has a hospital observation stay greater than 24 hours, regardless of whether the hospital admits the resident.
- Resident is transferred from a Medicare- and/or Medicaid-certified bed to a non-certified bed.
- Resident's Medicare Part A stay ends, but the resident remains in the facility.

Discharge Assessment refers to an assessment required on resident discharge from the facility, or when a resident's Medicare Part A stay ends, but the resident remains in the facility (unless it is an instance of an interrupted stay, as defined below). This assessment includes clinical items for quality monitoring as well as discharge tracking information.

Entry is a term used for both an admission and a reentry and requires completion of an Entry tracking record.

Entry and Discharge Reporting MDS assessments and tracking records that include a select number of items from the MDS used to track residents and gather important quality data at transition points, such as when they enter a nursing home, leave a nursing home, or when a resident's Medicare Part A stay ends, but the resident remains in the facility. Entry/Discharge reporting includes Entry tracking record, OBRA Discharge assessments, Part A PPS Discharge assessment, and Death in Facility tracking record.

Interdisciplinary Team (IDT¹) is a group of professional disciplines that combine knowledge, skills, and resources to provide the greatest benefit to the resident.

¹ 42 CFR 483.21(b)(2) A comprehensive care plan must be (ii) Prepared by an interdisciplinary team, that includes but is not limited to - the attending physician, a registered nurse with responsibility for the resident, a nurse aide with responsibility for the resident, a member of food and nutrition services staff, and other appropriate staff or professionals in disciplines as determined by the resident's needs or as requested by the resident, and, to the extent practicable, the participation of the resident and the resident's representative(s).

Interrupted Stay is a Medicare Part A SNF stay in which a resident is discharged from SNF care (i.e., the resident is discharged from a Medicare Part A-covered stay) and subsequently resumes SNF care in the **same** SNF for a Medicare Part A-covered stay during the interruption window.

Interruption Window is a 3-day period, starting with the calendar day of Part A discharge and including the 2 immediately following calendar days. In other words, if a resident in a Medicare Part A SNF stay is discharged from Part A, the resident must resume Part A services, or return to the **same** SNF (if physically discharged) to resume Part A services, by 11:59 p.m. at the end of the third calendar day after their Part A-covered stay ended. The interruption window begins with the first non-covered day following a Part A-covered stay and ends at 11:59 p.m. on the third consecutive non-covered day following a Part A-covered SNF stay. If these conditions are met, the subsequent stay is considered a continuation of the previous Medicare Part A-covered stay for the purposes of both the variable per diem schedule and PPS assessment completion.

Examples of when there **is** an Interrupted Stay:

- If a resident is discharged from Part A, **remains in the facility, and resumes Part A within the 3-day interruption window**, this is an interrupted stay and no Part A PPS Discharge or OBRA Discharge is completed, nor is a 5-Day or Entry Tracking record required when Part A resumes.
- If a resident is discharged from Part A, **leaves the facility, and resumes Part A within the 3-day interruption window**, this is an interrupted stay and only an OBRA Discharge is required. An Entry Tracking record is required on reentry, but no 5-Day is required.

Examples of when there is **no** Interrupted Stay:

- If a resident is discharged from Part A, **remains in the facility, and does not resume Part A within the 3-day interruption window**, it is **not** an interrupted stay. Therefore, a Part A PPS Discharge and a 5-Day assessment are both required (as long as resumption of Part A occurs within the 30-day window allowed by Medicare).
- If a resident is discharged from Part A, **leaves the facility, and does not resume Part A within the 3-day interruption window**, it is not an interrupted stay and the Part A PPS Discharge and OBRA Discharge are both required and must be combined if the Medicare Part A stay ends on the day of, or one day before, the resident's Discharge Date (A2000) (see Part A PPS Discharge assessment in Section 2.5). Any return to the facility in this instance would be considered a new entry—that means that an Entry Tracking record, OBRA admission and/or 5-Day assessment would be required.

Item Set refers to the MDS items that are active on a particular assessment type or tracking form. There are 9 different item subsets for nursing homes and 5 for swing bed providers as follows:

- Nursing Home
 - **Comprehensive (NC)² Item Set.** This is the set of items active on an OBRA Comprehensive assessment (Admission, Annual, SCSA, and SCPA). This item set is used whether the OBRA Comprehensive assessment is standalone or combined with any other assessment (PPS assessment and/or Discharge assessment).
 - **Quarterly (NQ) Item Set.** This is the set of items active on an OBRA Quarterly assessment (including Significant Correction of Prior Quarterly assessment [SCQA]). This item set is used for a standalone Quarterly assessment or a Quarterly assessment combined with any type of PPS assessment and/or Discharge assessment.
 - **PPS (NP) Item Set.** This is the set of items active on a 5-Day PPS assessment.
 - **Interim Payment Assessment (IPA) Item Set.** This is the set of items active on an Interim Payment Assessment and used for PPS payment purposes. This is a standalone assessment.
 - **Discharge (ND) Item Set.** This is the set of items active on a standalone OBRA Discharge assessment (either return anticipated or not anticipated) to be used when a resident is physically discharged from the facility.
 - **Part A PPS Discharge (NPE) Item Set.** This is the set of items active on a standalone nursing home Part A PPS Discharge assessment for the purposes of the SNF QRP. It is completed when the resident's Medicare Part A stay ends, but the resident remains in the facility.
 - **Tracking (NT) Item Set.** This is the set of items active on an Entry Tracking Record or a Death in Facility Tracking Record.
 - **Inactivation Request (XX) Item Set.** This is the set of items active on a request to inactivate a record in iQIES.
- Swing Beds
 - **PPS (SP) Item Set.** This is the set of items active on a 5-Day PPS assessment.
 - **Discharge (SD) Item Set.** This is the set of items active on a standalone Swing Bed Discharge assessment (either return anticipated or not anticipated).
 - **Interim Payment Assessment (IPA) Item Set.** This is the set of items active on an Interim Payment Assessment and used for PPS payment purposes. This is a standalone assessment.
 - **Tracking (ST) Item Set.** This is the set of items active on an Entry Tracking Record or a Death in Facility Tracking Record.

² The codes in parentheses are the item set codes (ISCs) used in the data submission specifications.

- **Inactivation (XX) Item Set.** This is the set of items active on a request to inactivate a record in iQIES.

Printed layouts for the item sets are available in Appendix H of this manual.

The item set for a particular MDS record is completely determined by the Type of Provider, item A0200 (indicating nursing home or swing bed), and the reason for assessment items (A0310A, A0310B, A0310F, and A0310H). Item set determination is complicated and standard MDS software from CMS and private vendors will automatically make this determination. Section 2.14 of this chapter provides manual lookup tables for determining the item set when automated software is unavailable.

Item Set Codes are those values that correspond to the OBRA-required and PPS assessments represented in items A0310A, A0310B, A0310F, and A0310H of the MDS 3.0. They will be used to reference assessment types throughout the rest of this chapter.

Leave of Absence (LOA), which does not require completion of either a Discharge assessment or an Entry tracking record, occurs when a resident has a:

- Temporary home visit of at least one night; or
- Therapeutic leave of at least one night; or
- Hospital observation stay less than 24 hours and the hospital does not admit the resident.

Providers should refer to Chapter 6 and their State LOA policy for further information, if applicable.

Upon return of the resident to the facility, providers should make appropriate documentation in the medical record regarding any changes in the resident's status. If significant changes in status are noted after an LOA, a Significant Change in Status Assessment (SCSA) may be necessary (see Section 2.6).

Non-Comprehensive MDS assessments include a select number of items from the MDS used to track the resident's status between comprehensive assessments and to ensure monitoring of critical indicators of the gradual onset of significant changes in resident status. They do not include completion of the CAA process and care planning. Non-comprehensive assessments include Quarterly assessments and SCQAs.

Observation (Look-Back, Assessment) Period is the time period over which the resident's condition or status is captured by the MDS assessment. When the resident is first admitted to the nursing home, the RN assessment coordinator and the IDT will set the ARD. For subsequent assessments, the observation period for a particular assessment for a particular resident will be chosen based upon the regulatory requirements concerning timing and the ARDs of previous assessments. Most MDS items themselves require an observation period, such as 7 or 14 days, depending on the item. Since a day begins at 12:00 a.m. and ends at 11:59 p.m., the observation period must also cover this time period. When completing the MDS, only those occurrences during the look-back period will be captured. In other words, if it did not occur during the look-back period, it is not coded on the MDS.

OBRA-Required Tracking Records and Assessments are Federally mandated, and therefore, must be performed for all residents of Medicare and/or Medicaid certified nursing homes. These assessments are coded on the MDS 3.0 in items A0310A (Federal OBRA Reason for Assessment) and A0310F (Entry/discharge reporting). They include:

Tracking records

- Entry
- Death in facility

Assessments

- Admission (comprehensive)
- Quarterly
- Annual (comprehensive)
- SCSA (comprehensive)
- SCPA (comprehensive)
- SCQA
- Discharge (return not anticipated or return anticipated)

PPS Assessments provide information about the clinical condition of beneficiaries receiving Part A SNF-level care in order to be reimbursed under the SNF PPS for both SNFs and Swing Bed providers. These assessments are coded on the MDS 3.0 in items A0310B (PPS Assessment) and A0310H (Is this a Part A PPS Discharge Assessment?). They include:

- 5-Day assessment
- Interim Payment Assessment (IPA)
- Part A PPS Discharge Assessment

Reentry refers to the situation when all three of the following occurred prior to this entry: the resident was previously in this facility **and** was discharged return anticipated **and** returned within 30 days of discharge. Upon the resident's return to the facility, the facility is required to complete an Entry tracking record. In determining if the resident returned to the facility within 30 days, the day of discharge from the facility is not counted in the 30 days. For example, a resident who is discharged return anticipated on December 1 would need to return to the facility by December 31 to meet the "within 30 days" requirement.

Respite refers to short-term, temporary care provided to a resident to allow family members to take a break from the daily routine of care giving. The nursing home is required to complete an Entry tracking record and an OBRA Discharge assessment for all respite residents. If the respite stay is 14 days or longer, the facility must have completed an OBRA Admission.

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