



AHCC Talk

November 17, 2025

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Hospice HOPE & Diagnosis Coding

Our Panel



Host

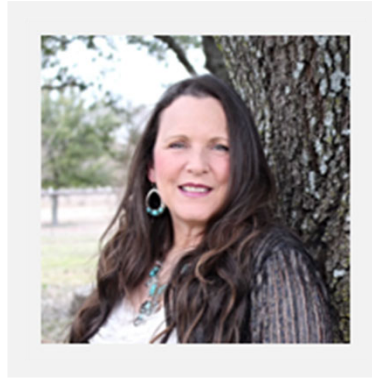
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Panelist

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Panelist

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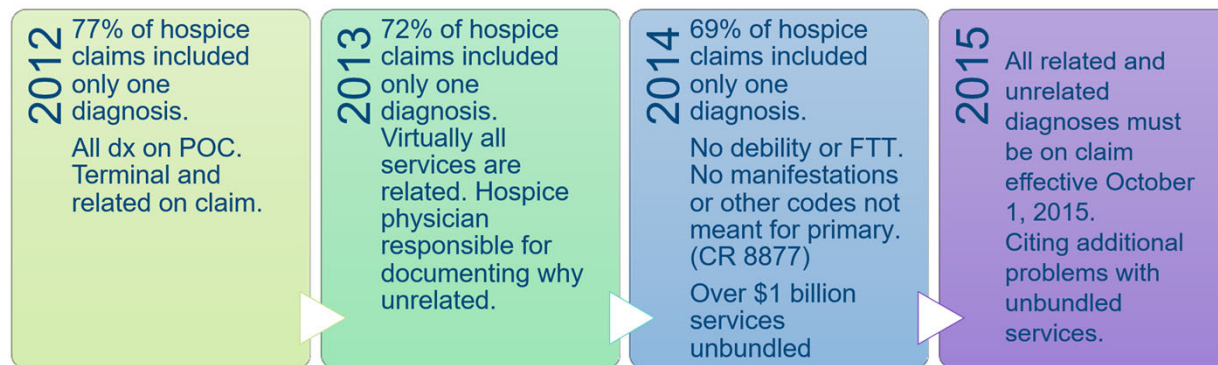


HOPE Assessment:
Diagnosis

ICD-10 Coding in Hospice

- *A look back in time...*

History



CMS Manual System	Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
Pub 100-04 Medicare Claims Processing	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
Transmittal 3032	Date: August 22, 2014
	Change Request 8877

The principal diagnosis listed is the diagnosis most contributory to the terminal prognosis.

Non-reportable Principal Diagnosis Codes to be returned to the provider for correction:

- Hospices may not report ICD-9CM v-codes and ICD-10-CM z-codes as the principal diagnosis on hospice claims.*
- Hospices may not report debility, failure to thrive, or dementia codes classified as unspecified as principal hospice diagnoses on the hospice claim.*
- Hospices may not report diagnosis codes that cannot be used as the principal diagnosis according to ICD-9-CM or ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines or require further compliance with various ICD-9-CM or ICD-10-CM coding conventions, such as those that have principal diagnosis code sequencing guidelines.*

Other Diagnosis Codes

The hospice enters diagnosis coding as required by ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines. *All of a patient's coexisting or additional diagnoses that are related to the terminal illness and related conditions should be reported on the hospice claim.*

CMS Manual System	Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
Pub 100-04 Medicare Claims Processing	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
Transmittal 13074	Date: March 13, 2025
	Change Request 13882

Non-reportable Principal Diagnosis Codes to be returned to the provider for correction:

- *Hospices may not report ICD-10-CM codes as the principal diagnosis on hospice claims if the ICD-10-CM code is listed on the unacceptable principal diagnosis list*
- Hospices may not report ICD-10-CM z-codes as the principal diagnosis on hospice claims.
- Hospices may not report ICD-10-CM codes describing debility or failure to thrive as principal hospice diagnoses on the hospice claim.
- Hospices may not report diagnosis codes that cannot be used as the principal diagnosis according to ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines or require further compliance with various ICD-10-CM coding conventions, such as those that have principal diagnosis code sequencing guidelines.

Other Diagnosis Codes

The hospice enters diagnosis coding as required by ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines. Hospices will report all diagnoses identified in the initial and comprehensive assessments on hospice claims, whether related or unrelated to the terminal prognosis of the individual. This will also include the reporting of any mental health disorders and conditions that would affect the plan of care.

If CMS is not proof enough, here is a note from CHAP:



Providers who report an invalid diagnosis as the principle/primary diagnosis on a claim, the MAC will return the claim.

Fir

In the recent update to the HOPE manual, CMS made a clarification to this item's example that explains how to address any circumstance where a hospice patient may have both a primary and a secondary cancer (comorbidity). This example appears on page 55 of the updated manual. There are also coding tips to guide the clinician in completing the item.

Comorbidities and Coexisting Conditions

CMS advises clinicians to review the medical record or other available patient information to discover **any comorbidities** and/or coexisting conditions at the time of admission to hospice. Instructions direct the clinician to check all comorbid and/or coexisting diseases or medical conditions that will be addressed in the plan of care or that have the **potential** to impact the plan of care. The **certifying hospice physician** will review the comorbidities and/or coexisting conditions at the time of admission to **determine which are related to the terminal prognosis**. All diagnoses must be reported on the hospice claim form which can support up to twenty-five diagnoses.

Hospice interdisciplinary groups/teams, including the hospice and attending physician (if any) should review the principle/primary and comorbidities and/or coexisting conditions throughout the patient service period to determine if changes are required. It is possible for the principle/primary diagnosis to change depending on the disease trajectory of the primary diagnosis and related and comorbidities and/or coexisting conditions. If a change is required for the principle/primary diagnosis, there is no need to resubmit a new Notice of Election form to your MAC. The updated diagnosis can be included on the claim form when it's submitted.

A Tale of Two Charts – but it's the same patient

Version A – Basic

- I50.9 CHF
- L89.152 PU stage 2 coccyx
- G89.29 chronic pain



Version B - Complete

- I50.9 CHF
- E11.22 DM with CKD
- N18.30 CKD stage 3 unspecified
- D63.1 anemia in CKD
- L89.152 PU stage 2 coccyx
- E11.51 DM with PVD
- G89.29 chronic pain
- M54.50 low back pain
- R15.9 incont feces
- R32 incont urine
- Z74.01 bedfast

Section I: Active Diagnosis

The item in this section pertains to the principal diagnosis of the patient and any co-morbidities.

Disease processes and conditions can impact service delivery.

This section includes the most common principal diagnoses among hospice patients, as well as comorbidities and co-existing conditions.

I0010 Principal Diagnosis

I0010. Principal Diagnosis	
Enter Code	01. Cancer
<input type="text"/>	02. Dementia (including Alzheimer's disease)
<input type="text"/>	03. Neurological Condition (e.g., Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS))
	04. Stroke
	05. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
	06. Cardiovascular (excluding heart failure)
	07. Heart Failure
	08. Liver Disease
	09. Renal Disease
	99. None of the above
Comorbidities and Co-existing Conditions	
↓ Check all that apply	
	Cancer
<input type="checkbox"/>	I0100. Cancer
	Heart/Circulation
<input type="checkbox"/>	I0600. Heart Failure (e.g., congestive heart failure (CHF) and pulmonary edema)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I0900. Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD) or Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I0950. Cardiovascular (excluding heart failure)
	Gastrointestinal
<input type="checkbox"/>	I1101. Liver disease (e.g., cirrhosis)
	Genitourinary
<input type="checkbox"/>	I1510. Renal disease
	Infections
<input type="checkbox"/>	I2102. Sepsis
	Metabolic
<input type="checkbox"/>	I2900. Diabetes Mellitus (DM)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I2910. Neuropathy
	Neurological
<input type="checkbox"/>	I4501. Stroke
<input type="checkbox"/>	I4801. Dementia (including Alzheimer's disease)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I5150. Neurological Conditions (e.g., Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, ALS)
	I5401. Seizure Disorder
	Pulmonary
<input type="checkbox"/>	I6202. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	I8005. Other Medical Condition

Timepoint(s) Item Completed Admission (ADM)

I0010. Principal Diagnosis	
Enter Code	01. Can
<input type="text"/>	02. Den
<input type="text"/>	03. Neu
	04. Stro

Comorbidities and Co-existing Conditions	
↓ Check all that apply	
	Cancer
<input type="checkbox"/>	I0100. Cancer
	Heart/Circulation

I0010 Principal Diagnosis

I0010. Principal Diagnosis	
Enter Code <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">01. Cancer02. Dementia (including Alzheimer's disease)03. Neurological Condition (e.g., Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS))04. Stroke05. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)06. Cardiovascular (excluding heart failure)07. Heart Failure08. Liver Disease09. Renal Disease99. None of the above

- ⦿ The principal diagnosis is defined as the condition established after reviewing all available information to be chiefly responsible for the patient's admission.
- ⦿ For hospice patients, this is the diagnosis that most contributes to the patient's life expectancy of six months or less if the illness runs its normal course, per clinical record.
- ⦿ This item should be completed based on the patient's principal diagnosis at the time of admission to hospice.

I0010 Principal Diagnosis

I0010. Principal Diagnosis	
Enter Code <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">01. Cancer02. Dementia (including Alzheimer's disease)03. Neurological Condition (e.g., Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS))04. Stroke05. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)06. Cardiovascular (excluding heart failure)07. Heart Failure08. Liver Disease09. Renal Disease99. None of the above

- ⦿ **Code 99, None of the above**, if the patient's principal diagnosis is a disease or condition not listed.
- ⦿ **Code 01.** for all types of cancer, e.g., skin and blood cancers.
- ⦿ **Code 02** includes all types of dementia, e.g., Lewy body dementia and Pick's disease.
- ⦿ Note that two principal diagnosis response codes are related to cardiac conditions. One is for **cardiovascular conditions excluding heart failure (06)** and the other is specific to **heart failure (07)**.

Comorbidities and Coexisting Conditions

- Comorbidities: refers to diseases or medical conditions that occur simultaneously with the principal diagnosis.
- Do not include the principal diagnosis.
- Review the medical record for comorbidities and/or coexisting conditions at the time of admission to hospice.
- Check all comorbid and/or coexisting diseases or medical conditions that are addressed in the plan of care or that have the potential to impact the plan of care.

Comorbidities and Co-existing Conditions	
↓ Check all that apply	
	Cancer
<input type="checkbox"/>	I0100. Cancer
	Heart/Circulation
<input type="checkbox"/>	I0600. Heart Failure (e.g., congestive heart failure (CHF) and pulmonary edema)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I0900. Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD) or Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I0950. Cardiovascular (excluding heart failure)
	Gastrointestinal
<input type="checkbox"/>	I1101. Liver disease (e.g., cirrhosis)
	Genitourinary
<input type="checkbox"/>	I1510. Renal disease
	Infections
<input type="checkbox"/>	I2102. Sepsis
	Metabolic
<input type="checkbox"/>	I2900. Diabetes Mellitus (DM)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I2910. Neuropathy
	Neurological
<input type="checkbox"/>	I4501. Stroke
<input type="checkbox"/>	I4801. Dementia (including Alzheimer's disease)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I5150. Neurological Conditions (e.g., Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, ALS)
	I5401. Seizure Disorder
	Pulmonary
<input type="checkbox"/>	I6202. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	I8005. Other Medical Condition

Multiple Questions to CMS RE: Claim vs HOPE

Per the HOPE Guidance Manual CH 2, page 55-

🕒 Item-Specific Instructions

- The principal diagnosis is defined as the condition established after reviewing all available information to be **chiefly responsible for the patient's admission.**
- For hospice patients, **this is the diagnosis that most contributes to the patient's life expectancy of six months or less if the illness runs its normal course.** (This would be unlikely to be hypertension or diabetes as you suggest since those are not accurate predictors of prognosis)
- This item should be completed based on the patient's principal diagnosis at the time of admission to hospice.

Examples for Hospice

*Patient has a diagnosis of end stage heart **failure** with hypertension as an additional condition*

- ⦿ I11.0 Hypertensive heart disease with heart failure
- ⦿ I50.84 End stage heart failure

*Patient has a diagnosis of end stage heart **disease** with hypertension as an additional condition*

- ⦿ I11.9 Hypertensive heart disease
- ⦿ I51.9 Heart disease unspecified

Applying Diagnoses to HOPE

I0010. Principal Diagnosis

I0010. Principal Diagnosis	
Enter Code	01. Cancer
	02. Dementia (including Alzheimer's disease)
	03. Neurological Condition (e.g., Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS))
	04. Stroke
	05. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
	06. Cardiovascular (excluding heart failure)
07	07. Heart Failure
	08. Liver Disease
	09. Renal Disease
	99. None of the above

Coded on POC and claim:
 I11.0 Hypertensive heart disease with heart failure
 I50.84 End stage heart failure

Comorbidities and Co-existing Conditions	
↓ Check all that apply	
	Cancer
<input type="checkbox"/>	I0100. Cancer
	Heart/Circulation
<input type="checkbox"/>	I0600. Heart Failure (e.g., congestive heart failure (CHF) and pulmonary edema)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I0900. Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD) or Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I0950. Cardiovascular (excluding heart failure)
	Gastrointestinal
<input type="checkbox"/>	I1101. Liver disease (e.g., cirrhosis)
	Genitourinary
<input type="checkbox"/>	I1510. Renal disease
	Infections
<input type="checkbox"/>	I2102. Sepsis
	Metabolic
<input type="checkbox"/>	I2900. Diabetes Mellitus (DM)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I2910. Neuropathy
	Neurological
<input type="checkbox"/>	I4501. Stroke
<input type="checkbox"/>	I4801. Dementia (including Alzheimer's disease)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I5150. Neurological Conditions (e.g., Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, ALS)
	I5401. Seizure Disorder
	Pulmonary
<input type="checkbox"/>	I6202. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	I8005. Other Medical Condition

Applying Diagnoses to HOPE

I0010. Principal Diagnosis

I0010. Principal Diagnosis	
Enter Code	01. Cancer
	02. Dementia (including Alzheimer's disease)
09	03. Neurological Condition (e.g., Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS))
	04. Stroke
	05. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
	06. Cardiovascular (excluding heart failure)
	07. Heart Failure
	08. Liver Disease
	09. Renal Disease
	99. None of the above

Coded on POC and claim:
E11.22 Diabetes with CKD
N18.6 ESRD

Comorbidities and Co-existing Conditions	
↓ Check all that apply	
	Cancer
<input type="checkbox"/>	I0100. Cancer
	Heart/Circulation
<input type="checkbox"/>	I0600. Heart Failure (e.g., congestive heart failure (CHF) and pulmonary edema)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I0900. Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD) or Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I0950. Cardiovascular (excluding heart failure)
	Gastrointestinal
<input type="checkbox"/>	I1101. Liver disease (e.g., cirrhosis)
	Genitourinary
<input type="checkbox"/>	I1510. Renal disease
	Infections
<input type="checkbox"/>	I2102. Sepsis
	Metabolic
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I2900. Diabetes Mellitus (DM)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I2910. Neuropathy
	Neurological
<input type="checkbox"/>	I4501. Stroke
<input type="checkbox"/>	I4801. Dementia (including Alzheimer's disease)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I5150. Neurological Conditions (e.g., Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, ALS)
	I5401. Seizure Disorder
	Pulmonary
<input type="checkbox"/>	I6202. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	I8005. Other Medical Condition

Applying Diagnoses to HOPE

I0010. Principal Diagnosis

I0010. Principal Diagnosis	
Enter Code	01. Cancer
	02. Dementia (including Alzheimer's disease)
03	03. Neurological Condition (e.g., Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS))
	04. Stroke
	05. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
	06. Cardiovascular (excluding heart failure)
	07. Heart Failure
	08. Liver Disease
	09. Renal Disease
	99. None of the above

Coded on POC and claim:
G20.A Parkinson's
F02.80 Dementia

Which one first?

Comorbidities and Co-existing Conditions	
↓ Check all that apply	
	Cancer
<input type="checkbox"/>	I0100. Cancer
	Heart/Circulation
<input type="checkbox"/>	I0600. Heart Failure (e.g., congestive heart failure (CHF) and pulmonary edema)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I0900. Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD) or Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I0950. Cardiovascular (excluding heart failure)
	Gastrointestinal
<input type="checkbox"/>	I1101. Liver disease (e.g., cirrhosis)
	Genitourinary
<input type="checkbox"/>	I1510. Renal disease
	Infections
<input type="checkbox"/>	I2102. Sepsis
	Metabolic
<input type="checkbox"/>	I2900. Diabetes Mellitus (DM)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I2910. Neuropathy
	Neurological
<input type="checkbox"/>	I4501. Stroke
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I4801. Dementia (including Alzheimer's disease)
<input type="checkbox"/>	I5150. Neurological Conditions (e.g., Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, ALS)
	I5401. Seizure Disorder
	Pulmonary
<input type="checkbox"/>	I6202. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	I8005. Other Medical Condition

Hospice HOPE Scenario 1 – Is this correct? Yes/No

I25.10 Athscl heart disease of native coronary artery w/o ang pctrs

10010 Principal Diagnosis * ⓘ

- Cancer
- Dementia (including Alzheimer's disease)
- Neurological Condition (e.g., Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS))
- Stroke
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Cardiovascular (excluding heart failure)
- Heart Failure
- Liver Disease
- Renal Disease
- None of the Above

I50.9 Heart failure, unspecified, J44.9 Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, unspecified, Z99.81 Dependence on supplemental oxygen, E11.22 Type 2 diabetes mellitus w diabetic chronic kidney disease, N18.9 Chronic kidney disease, unspecified, E11.51 Type 2 diabetes w diabetic peripheral angiopath w/o gangrene, Z95.1 Presence of aortocoronary bypass graft, Z95.0 Presence of cardiac pacemaker, Z87.891 Personal history of nicotine dependence, Z91.81 History of falling, Z51.5 Encounter for palliative care

Comorbidities and Co-existing Conditions (I0100-I8005) ⓘ

- Cancer
- Heart/Circulation
 - 10600 Heart Failure (e.g., congestive heart failure (CHF) and pulmonary edema)
 - 10900 Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD) or Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)
 - 10950 Cardiovascular (excluding heart failure)
- Gastrointestinal
- Genitourinary
 - 11510 Renal disease

Hospice HOPE Scenario 2 – Is this correct? Yes/No

Diagnosis

Terminal Diagnosis *
J96.10 Chronic respiratory failure, unsp w hypoxia or hypercapnia

10010 Principal Diagnosis * ⓘ

- Cancer
- Dementia (including Alzheimer's disease)
- Neurological Condition (e.g., Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS))
- Stroke
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Cardiovascular (excluding heart failure)
- Heart Failure
- Liver Disease
- Renal Disease
- None of the Above

Comorbidities

Comorbidities and Co-existing Conditions (I0100-I8005) ⓘ

- Cancer
- Heart/Circulation
 - I0600** Heart Failure (e.g., congestive heart failure (CHF) and pulmonary edema)
 - I0900** Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD) or Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)
 - I0950** Cardiovascular (excluding heart failure)
- Gastrointestinal
- Genitourinary
 - I1510** Renal disease
- Infections
- Metabolic
- Neurological
- Pulmonary
- Other

Hospice HOPE Scenario 3 – Is this correct? Yes/No

Diagnosis

Terminal Diagnosis *

K74.69 Other cirrhosis of liver

10010 Principal Diagnosis * ⓘ

- Cancer
- Dementia (including Alzheimer's disease)
- Neurological Condition (e.g., Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS))
- Stroke
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Cardiovascular (excluding heart failure)
- Heart Failure
- Liver Disease
- Renal Disease
- None of the Above

Comorbidities

D64.9 Anemia, unspecified, I10 Essential (primary) hypertension, F41.9 Anxiety disorder, unspecified, E44.1 Mild protein-calorie malnutrition, K21.9 Gastro-esophageal reflux disease without esophagitis, M81.0 Age-related osteoporosis w/o current pathological fracture, M06.9 Rheumatoid arthritis, unspecified, M19.90 Unspecified osteoarthritis, unspecified site, H40.9 Unspecified glaucoma, H81.4 Vertigo of central origin, R15.9 Full incontinence of feces, R32 Unspecified urinary incontinence, Z87.440 Personal history of urinary (tract) infections, Z91.81 History of falling, Z51.5 Encounter for palliative care, Z66 Do not resuscitate

Comorbidities and Co-existing Conditions (I0100-I8005) ⓘ

- Cancer
- Heart/Circulation
- Gastrointestinal
- Genitourinary
- Infections
- Metabolic
- Neurological
- Pulmonary
- Other

Would this scoring trigger a Symptom Follow-up Visit (SFV)? Yes/No

J2051A Pain Impact * i	N/A / Not Experiencing Symptoms										0 - Not at all		1 - Slight		2 - Moderate		3 - Severe			
J2030A Shortness of Breath * i	0										1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
J2030C Did the screening indicate the patient had shortness of breath? i	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes																			
J2051B Shortness of Breath Impact * i	N/A / Not Experiencing Symptoms										0 - Not at all		1 - Slight		2 - Moderate		3 - Severe			
Anxiety	0										1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
J2051C Anxiety Impact * i	N/A / Not Experiencing Symptoms										0 - Not at all		1 - Slight		2 - Moderate		3 - Severe			
Nausea	0										1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
J2051D Nausea Impact * i	N/A / Not Experiencing Symptoms										0 - Not at all		1 - Slight		2 - Moderate		3 - Severe			

Would this scoring trigger a Symptom Follow-up Visit (SFV)? Yes/No

J2051A Pain Impact * ⓘ											
N/A / Not Experiencing Symptoms		0 - Not at all			1 - Slight			2 - Moderate		3 - Severe	
J2030A Shortness of Breath * ⓘ											
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
J2030C Did the screening indicate the patient had shortness of breath? ⓘ											
<input type="radio"/> No											
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes											
J2051B Shortness of Breath Impact * ⓘ											
N/A / Not Experiencing Symptoms		0 - Not at all			1 - Slight			2 - Moderate		3 - Severe	
Anxiety											
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
J2051C Anxiety Impact * ⓘ											
N/A / Not Experiencing Symptoms		0 - Not at all			1 - Slight			2 - Moderate		3 - Severe	
Nausea											
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
J2051D Nausea Impact * ⓘ											
N/A / Not Experiencing Symptoms		0 - Not at all			1 - Slight			2 - Moderate		3 - Severe	

Scenario Spotlight

October Scenario

OASIS Scenario: GG0170I – Walk 10 Feet

Mrs. P is an 82-year-old patient with COPD and continuous oxygen use at 2 L/min via nasal cannula. She is being seen at home following a recent hospitalization for a COPD exacerbation.

During the Start of Care (SOC) assessment, the clinician observes Mrs. P's ability to walk 10 feet in her living room. Upon standing, she becomes mildly short of breath and requires frequent cues to maintain her balance. The clinician provides steadying assistance by holding her gait belt for safety, while the patient's husband walks alongside to manage the oxygen tubing and ensure it does not catch on furniture. Mrs. P initiates the movement but needs significant physical support.

What's the best code selection for **GG0170I – Walk 10 feet**?

- A.** 04 – Supervision or touching assistance
- B.** 03 – Partial/moderate assistance
- C.** 02 – Substantial / maximal assistance
- D.** 01 – Dependent

October Scenario Answer

Correct Answer: D – 01 (Dependent)

Rationale: Mrs. P required the assistance of **two helpers** — one to provide physical support and one to manage oxygen equipment.

Per OASIS guidance: **Code 01, Dependent**, for this item if two helpers are required to complete an activity, even if the second helper was there for supervision or to manage equipment.

Product Spotlight

The Must-Attend Home Care Leadership Summit of 2026

Attention leaders in Medicare home health, hospice, and private pay home care—this is the premier event you won't want to miss in Orlando, FL May 19-21, 2026. Connect with top executives from high-performing agencies and gain valuable insights through real-world success stories. Learn proven strategies to grow your client base, reduce operational costs, boost profitability, navigate third-party payers.

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Medicare & Private Pay
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What's new with AHCC

Hospice HOPE Tool Training Refresher

Get a refresher on HOPE tool best practices with this session from DecisionHealth's recent Payment and Compliance virtual summit to the AHCC website.

Nanette Minton, RN, HCS-D, HCS-H, HCS-O, Senior Clinical Coding Manager with MAC Legacy walks you through what you need to know to be successful with HOPE.

AHCC website: <https://ahcc.decisionhealth.com/hope-tool-training-for-easy-compliant-rollout/>

DecisionHealth website: <https://web.hcpro.com/hope-training-tool>



A close-up, side-view photograph of a person's hands typing on a silver laptop. The person is wearing a light blue, long-sleeved button-down shirt. The laptop is open and sits on a bright orange desk mat. To the right of the laptop is a clear glass of water. In the background, a blurred cityscape is visible through a window. The overall lighting is bright and clean.

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Next episode: December 15