

Swing Bed MDS Section GG Sample Probing Questions (from the MDS Manual)

Examples of Probing Conversations with Staff – Often requires a nurse or therapists to ask probing questions in order to receive enough information to make an accurate assessment of the assistance a patient may require. Accurate coding is important for reporting on the type and amount of care provided. Be sure to consider each activity definition fully.

Eating:

Nurse: "Please describe to me how Mr. S eats his meals. Once the food and liquid are presented to him, does he use utensils to bring food to his mouth and swallow?"

CNA: "No, I have to feed him."

Nurse: "Do you always have to physically feed him or can he sometimes do some aspect of the eating activity with encouragement or cues to feed himself?"

CNA: "No, he can't do anything by himself. I scoop up each portion of the food and bring the fork or spoon to his mouth. I try to encourage him to feed himself or to help guide the spoon to his mouth but he can't hold the fork. I even tried encouraging him to eat food he could pick up with his fingers, but he will not eat unless he is completely assisted for food and liquid."

Coding: Would be coded 01, Dependent.

Rationale: The resident requires complete assistance from nursing to eat his meal

Oral hygiene:

Nurse: "Does Mrs. K help with brushing her teeth?"

CNA: "She can help clean her teeth."

Nurse: "How much help does she need to brush her teeth?"

CNA: "She usually gets tired after starting to brush her upper teeth. I have to brush most of her teeth."

Coding: GG0130B would be coded 02, Substantial/maximal assistance.

Rationale: Nursing provides more than half the effort to complete Mrs. K's oral hygiene.

Sit to lying:

Nurse: "Please describe how Mrs. H moves herself from sitting on the side of the bed to lying flat on the bed. When she is sitting on the side of the bed, how does she move to lying on her back?"

CNA: "She can lie down with some help."

Nurse: "Please describe how much help she needs and exactly how you help her."

CNA: "I have to lift and position her right leg, but once I do that, she can use her arms to position her upper body."

Coding: Would be coded 03, Partial/moderate assistance.

Rationale: Nursing lifts Mrs. H's right leg and helps her position it as she moves from a sitting position to a lying position. The helper does less than half the effort.

Lying to sitting on side of bed:

Nurse: "Please describe how Mrs. L moves herself in bed. When she is in bed, how does she move from lying on her back to sitting up on the side of the bed?"

CNA: "She can sit up by herself."

Nurse: "She sits up without any instructions or physical help?"

CNA: "No, I have to remind her to check on the position of her arm that has limited movement and sensation as she moves in the bed, but once I remind her to check her arm, she can do it herself."

Coding: Would be coded 04, Supervision or touching assistance.

Rationale: Nursing provides verbal instructions as the patient moves from a lying to sitting position.

Sit to stand:

Nurse: "Please describe how Mrs. L usually moves from sitting on the side of the bed or chair to a standing position. Once she is sitting, how does she get to a standing position?"

CNA: "She needs help to get to sitting up and then standing."

Nurse: "I'd like to know how much help she needs for safely rising up from sitting in a chair or sitting on the bed to get to a standing position."

CNA: "She needs two people to assist her to stand up from sitting on the side of the bed or when she is sitting in a chair."

Coding: Would be coded 01, Dependent.

Rationale: Mrs. L requires the assistance of two helpers to complete the activity.

Chair/bed-to-chair transfer:

Nurse: "Please describe how Mr. C moves into the chair from the bed. When he is sitting at the side of the bed, how much help does he need to move from the bed to the chair?"

CNA: "He needs me to help him move from the bed to the chair."

Nurse: "Does he help with these transfers when you give him any instructions, setup, or physical help?"

CNA: "Yes, he will follow some of my instructions to get ready to transfer, such as moving his feet from being spread out to placing them under his knees. I have to place the chair close to the bed and then I lift him because he is very weak. I then tell him to reach for the armrest of the chair. Mr. C follows these directions and that helps a little in transferring him from the bed to the chair. He does help with the transfer."

Coding: Would be coded 02, Substantial/maximal assistance.

Rationale: The helper provides more than half of the effort to complete the activity of Chair/bed-to-chair transfer.

Toilet transfer:

Nurse: "I understand that Mrs. M usually uses a wheelchair to get to her toilet. Please describe how Mrs. M moves from her wheelchair to the toilet. How does she move from sitting in a wheelchair to sitting on the toilet?"

CNA: "It is hard for her, but she does it with my help."

Nurse: "Can you describe the amount of help in more detail?"

CNA: "I have to give her a bit of a lift using a gait belt to get her to stand and then remind her to reach for the toilet grab bar while she pivots to the toilet."

Sometimes, I have to remind her to take a step while she pivots to or from the toilet, but she does most of the effort herself."

Coding: Would be coded 03, Partial/moderate assistance.

Rationale: The certified nursing assistant provides less than half the effort to complete this activity.

Walk 50 feet with two turns:

Nurse: "How much help does Mr. T need to walk 50 feet and make two turns once he is standing?"

CNA: "He needs help to do that."

Nurse: "How much help does he need?"

CNA: "He walks about 50 feet with one of us holding onto the gait belt and another person following closely with a wheelchair in case he needs to sit down."

Coding: GG0170J would be coded 01, Dependent.

Rationale: Mr. T requires two helpers to complete this activity.

Walk 150 feet:

Nurse: "Please describe how Mrs. D walks 150 feet in the corridor once she is standing."

CNA: "She uses a walker and some help."

Nurse: "She uses a walker and how much instructions or physical help does she need?"

CNA: "I have to support her by holding onto the gait belt that is around her waist so that she doesn't fall. She does push the walker forward most of the time."

Nurse: "Do you help with more than or less than half the effort?"

CNA: "I have to hold onto her belt firmly when she walks because she frequently loses her balance when taking steps. Her balance gets worse the further she walks, but she is very motivated to keep walking. I would say I help her with more than half the effort."

Coding: GG0170K would be coded 02, Substantial/maximal assistance.

Rationale: The certified nursing assistant provides trunk support that is more than half the effort as Mrs. D walks 150 feet.

Wheel 50 feet with two turns:

Nurse: "I understand that Ms. R uses a manual wheelchair. Describe to me how Ms. R wheels herself 50 feet and makes two turns once she is seated in the wheelchair."

CNA: "She wheels herself."

Nurse: "She wheels herself without any instructions or physical help?"

CNA: "Well yes, she needs help to get around turns, so I have to help her and set her on a straight path, but once I do, she wheels herself."

Coding: GG0170R would be coded 03, Partial/Moderate assistance.

Rationale: The certified nursing assistant must physically push the wheelchair at some points of the activity; however, the helper does less than half of the activity for the patient.

Wheel 150 feet:

Nurse: "I understand that Mr. G usually uses an electric scooter for longer distances. Once he is seated in the scooter, does he need any help to mobilize himself at least 150 feet?"

CNA: "He drives the scooter himself ... he's very slow."

Nurse: "He uses the scooter himself without any instructions or physical help?"

CNA: "That is correct."

Coding: GG0170S would be coded 06, Independent.

Rationale: The patient navigates in the corridor for at least 150 feet without assistance