



Tool: MDS Section J Changes

The [MDS 3.0 version v1.8.11v2 final item sets](#) was updated June 7, 2023, and [draft RAI guidance](#) was released on April 3, 2023, and substantial changes were made to several sections. Changes to section J include the revision of the Pain Assessment Interview, including expanding questions to reflect pain effect on sleep, pain interference with therapy activities, and pain interference with day-to-day activities.

AHCA has created this resource document to help providers breakdown the changes. The information in this document outlines key changes to MDS Section J, Coding Instructions/RAI Guidelines for each item, and Actions to Consider for implementation across your facility. It is important to develop a training plan for your facility to ensure all staff impacted by the changes are trained in them.

Current MDS Question	Changes Effective 10/1/2023	RAI Coding Instructions	Actions to Consider
Revised Items			
J0200 Should Pain Assessment Interview be Conducted?		<i>*This interview has been added to the NPE (Part A PPS Discharge Assessment).</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update current policies and processes to ensure this interview is now completed on Medicare Part A discharges. Examine current processes to ensure they address training on interview process. Review and update current interview tools and cue cards used during the interview process.
J0400 Pain Frequency	J0410 Pain Frequency *Answer responses are reversed, with the first response being “rarely or not at all”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask the resident: “How much of the time have you experienced pain or hurting over the last 5 days?” Staff may present response options on a written sheet or cue card. This can help the resident respond to items. If the resident provides a related response but does not use the provided response scale, help clarify the best response by echoing (repeating) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine current processes to ensure they address training on interview process. Review and update current interview tools and cue cards used during the interview process.

		<p>the resident’s own comment and providing related response options. This interview approach frequently helps the resident clarify which response option they prefer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the resident, despite clarifying the statement and repeating response options, continues to have difficulty selecting between two of the provided responses, then select the more frequent of the two. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure care plan is updated to reflect resident responses. • Review and update current pain management policies to reflect new MDS Pain Interview questions. • Review and update policies and processes to ensure they address how responses will be communicated with the team. • Examine current processes to ensure they address training on revised interview process. • Review and update QAPI plan to monitor these expanded questions and potential trends in pain.
<p>J0500A Pain Effect on Function</p>	<p>J0510 Pain Effect on Sleep</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the question and response choices exactly as written. • No predetermined definitions are offered to the resident. The resident’s response should be based on their interpretation of frequency response options. • If the resident’s response does not lead to a clear answer, repeat the resident’s response and then try to narrow the focus of the response. For example, if the resident responded to the question, “Over the past 5 days, how much of the time has pain made it hard for you to sleep at night?” by saying, “I always have trouble sleeping,” then the assessor might reply, “You always have trouble sleeping. Is it your pain that makes it hard for you to sleep?” The assessor can then narrow down responses with additional follow-up questions about the frequency. • This item should be coded based on the resident’s interpretation of the provided response options for frequency. If the resident is unable to decide between two options, then the assessor should code for the option with the higher frequency. 	

<p>J0500B Pain Effect on Function</p>	<p>J0520 Pain Interference with Therapy Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the question and response choices as written. • This item should be coded based on the resident’s interpretation of the provided response options for frequency. If the resident is unable to decide between two options, then the assessor should code for the option with the higher frequency. • Rehabilitation therapies may include treatment supervised in person by a therapist or nurse or other staff or the resident carrying out a prescribed therapy program without staff members present. <p>Definition: Rehabilitation Therapy – special healthcare services or programs that help a person regain physical, mental, and/or cognitive (thinking and learning) abilities that have been lost or impaired as a result of disease, injury, or treatment. Can include, for example, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and cardiac and pulmonary therapies.</p>	
	<p>J0530 Pain Interference with Day-to-Day Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the question and response choices as written. • This item should be coded based on the resident’s interpretation of the provided response options for frequency. If the resident is unable to decide between two options, then the assessor should code for the option with the higher frequency. 	
<p>J2800 Involving male or female organs</p>	<p>J2800 Involving genital systems</p>	<p>*This question was updated to be gender neutral.</p>	<p>n/a</p>



Resources

[AHCA's MDS Updates Effective 10/1/2023](#)

[Skilled Nursing Facility \(SNF\) Quality Reporting Program \(QRP\) Training](#)

[SNF Understanding Changes to the MDS 3.0 RAI Manual v1.18.11 Training Webinar](#)

[SNF Section J. Health Conditions](#)

[2023 SNF Guidance Training Program](#)

Citations

[Draft MDS 3.0 RAI Manual v1.18.11](#)

[MDS 3.0 Final Item Set v1.18.11v2 for Oct 1 2023](#)