

Eli's Rehab Report

Count Therapy Assistance When Coding Daily Activities

Ask therapists for all documentation upfront.

Question: Can a facility count activities of daily living (ADL) assistance provided by rehab therapists in the facility when coding activities of daily living in Section G of the MDS 3.0?

Answer: Yes, says **Shehla Rooney, PT**, principal of **Premier Therapy Solutions** in Cookeville, Tenn. "But considering that therapists tend to focus documentation on how well the patient is doing in therapy to show progress toward [achieving] goals, usually therapy ADL assistance does not show the worst the patient is doing."

Even so, to ensure MDS accuracy and optimize reimbursement, it's important to capture the highest level of assistance provided to the patient, Rooney says. Therefore, therapists should share their documentation and all pertinent information with the person completing the MDS, she says.