

Long-Term Care Survey Alert

Reader Question: When Can IV Fluids Be Part of Meds?

Question: I'm an MDS nurse and was debating the issue of IV meds with another MDS nurse. The RAI Manual states that you can NOT use IV fluids as a med, but the nurse I was speaking with said that you could use IV fluids (normal saline) if you had a diagnosis of dehydration and the lab results to prove it. Is she right?

Answer: You can include IV fluids if they are given as part of a hydration or nutritional program, answers **Marilyn Mines**, senior manager of clinical services for FR&R Healthcare Consulting, Inc. in Deerfield, IL. You must have documentation in the clinical record that clearly reflects the dietary need for the fluids.

Mines points to Section K of the MDS 3.0, pages 11 and 12 (emphasis added):

Check all that apply. If none apply, check K0510Z, None of the above

- **K0510A**, parenteral/IV feeding;
- **K0510B**, feeding tube nasogastric or abdominal (PEG);
- **K0510C**, mechanically altered diet require change in texture of food or liquids (e.g., pureed food, thickened liquids);
- **K0510D**, therapeutic diet (e.g., low salt, diabetic, low cholesterol);
- **K0510Z**, none of the above.

Coding Tips for K0510A

K0510A includes any and all nutrition and hydration received by the nursing home resident in the last 7 days either at the nursing home, at the hospital as an outpatient or an inpatient, **provided they were administered for nutrition or hydration.**

- Parenteral/IV feeding The following fluids may be included **when there is supporting documentation that reflects the need for additional fluid intake specifically addressing a nutrition or hydration need. This supporting documentation should be noted in the resident's medical record according to State and/or internal facility policy:**

- IV fluids or hyperalimentation, including total parenteral nutrition (TPN), administered continuously or intermittently
- IV fluids running at KVO (Keep Vein Open)
- IV fluids contained in IV Piggybacks
- Hypodermoclysis and subcutaneous ports in hydration therapy.