

MDS Alert

ADL Coding Tipster: Dig Deeper When You See Limited Assistance

That holds especially true for a rehab patient.

You don't want inaccurately reported limited assistance for ADLs to limit fair reimbursement for residents who actually required more help.

So when CNAs tell you a resident has that level of self-performance, take a closer look before coding the MDS.

It's very rare that a rehab patient, in particular, requires only guided maneuvering in which the staff person doesn't bear the person's weight, notes **Garry Woessner**, regional director of rehabilitation for **Benedictine Health System** in Duluth, MN.

"So we take a closer look at that [and sometimes find] the CNAs are actually partially lifting the person's limbs or helping the person in that way," says Woessner.

You would code "extensive assistance" if the resident received weight-bearing assistance three or more times in the lookback.