

MDS Alert

Look For These SCSA-Triggering Scenarios

Overall deterioration may include a pattern of changes.

When deciding whether to initiate a Significant Change in Status Assessment (SCSA), you don't have to wing it. The RAI Manual provides a variety of SCSA-related guidance, including some helpful scenarios.

The scenarios listed below are among those that would prompt an SCSA. According to the RAI Manual, pages 2-23 and 2-24, which provides SCSA criteria, you should watch for a decline in two or more of the following:

- Resident's decision-making changes for the worse;
- Presence of a resident mood item not previously reported by the resident or staff and/or an increase in the symptom frequency (PHQ-9©), for example, increase in the number of areas where behavioral symptoms are coded as being present and/or the frequency of a symptom increases for items in Section E □ Behavior;
- Any decline in an Activities of Daily Living (ADL) physical functioning area where a resident is newly coded as 3 □ Extensive assistance, 4 □ Total dependence, or 8 □ Activity did not occur since the last assessment;
- Resident's incontinence pattern changes or there was placement of an indwelling catheter;
- Emergence of unplanned weight loss problem (5 percent change in 30 days or 10 percent change in 180 days);
- Emergence of a new pressure ulcer at Stage 2 or higher, or worsening in pressure ulcer status;
- Resident begins to use trunk restraint or a chair that prevents rising when it was not used before; and/or
- Overall deterioration of resident's condition.

Also, watch for improvement in two or more of the following:

- Any improvement in an ADL physical functioning area where a resident is newly coded as 0 □ Independent, 1 □ Supervision, or 2 □ Limited assistance since the last assessment;
- Decrease in the number of areas where behavioral symptoms are coded as being present and/or the frequency of a symptom decreases;
- Resident's decision-making changes for the better;
- Resident's incontinence pattern changes for the better; and/or
- Overall improvement of resident's condition.