

## MDS Alert

### **READER QUESTION: How Do Mandatory Patient Lifting Requirements Affect ADL Coding?**

Question: Our facility is thinking about implementing ergonomic-related safety requirements for nursing staff and therapists to use a two-person assist when transferring heavier or more dependent patients, or we may use a mechanic lift with two persons operating it in specified cases. If we do so, how would we go about assessing and coding ADLs?

Answer: Always code the MDS based on what actually occurred. Thus, if two people provided assistance, then that is what you should capture on the MDS.

One note of caution: If one person is actually providing the assistance, and a second person is standing by, you should only capture the hands-on assistance. There is not a coding category that captures hands-on physical assistance and supervision/oversight in the same transfer for either column A or column B.

Expert advice provided by **Rena Shephard, MHA, RN, RAC-MT, C-NE**, president and CEO of RRS Healthcare Consulting Services in San Diego, and founding chair and executive editor of the American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordinators.