

OASIS Alert

Education: BE AWARE THAT 'INTERFERES' DIFFERS FROM 'INTERRUPTS'

True or False: When answering M0420 (Frequency of pain interfering with patient's activity or movement), "interfere" means the pain must totally prevent the patient from doing the activity.

Answer: False. Pain can interfere with an activity without totally preventing it, instructs the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** in Question 70 of the new questions and answers found on CMS' Web site. "Interfere" can mean the activity takes longer to perform, is done less frequently, or requires additional assistance, CMS explains.

Note: Access CMS' Q&As at www.qtso.com/hhdownload.html scroll down to OASIS Q&As and select Category 4.