

OASIS Alert

Education: HHAs OFFER TWO APPROACHES TO EMPLOYEE TESTING

Just as there is more than one way to skin a cat, there is more than one way to test your employees' OASIS prowess.

One approach is to administer a standard, multiple-choice test to employees, notes **Mary Newberry**, director of **Riverside Home Health Care** in Kankakee, IL. Riverside's test includes the following questions, which Newberry has shared with **Eli**:

1. Data collection Time Points for OASIS are:
 - a. Start of Care/Resumption of Care
 - b. Follow-Up c. D/C
 - d. Transfer to inpatient facility
 - e. Death at home

2. The following is an example of an outcome measure of a patient's ability to ambulate:
 - a. Patient able to ambulate >20 feet
 - b. Improvement in ability to ambulate between admit and d/c
 - c. Patient obtained a walker
 - d. All of the above

Another approach is to provide employees in a classroom setting with a module that encourages discussion about the OASIS items and how best to answer them, notes **Estelle Wolfe**, manager of regulatory compliance with **Sharp Home Health** in San Diego, CA. Sharp's module includes items such as the following:

3. **(M0390) Vision** with corrective lenses if the patient usually wears them:

0: Normal Vision: sees adequately in most situations; can see medication labels, newsprint.

1: Partially impaired: cannot see medication labels or newsprint, but can see obstacles in path, and the surrounding layout, can count fingers at arms length.

2: Severely impaired: cannot locate objects without hearing or touching them or patient nonresponsive.

Guidelines:

4. Measure patient's vision with corrective lenses.

5. Note that scoring is the same for partial and severe impairment. 6 pts.

6. Can this patient sign consents without assistance?

7. **(M0420) Frequency of Pain** interfering with patient's activity or movement:

0: Patient has no pain or pain does not interfere with activity or movement

1: Less often than daily

2: Daily, but not constantly 5 pts.

3: All of the time 5 pts.

Guidelines:

8. Measure only pain that interferes with movement or activity. Observe the patient performing activities and assess for non-verbal clues.

9. Points awarded for box 2 and 3, no points for pain which occurs less often than daily.

Check medication list. If the patient takes pain medication daily to enable activity, then number 2 or 3 applies.

10. Carefully check M0700 ambulation/locomotion. It could be considered inconsistent that a person who experienced pain that interferes with movement could be independent with ambulation.