

OASIS Alert

Know When Past Pain Is Pertinent

Discontinuing an activity is one form of "interfering" with activity. The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** has provided some guidance regarding the timeframe to consider when an activity is discontinued, says **Pat Jump**, with Rice Lake, Wis.-based **Acorn's End Training & Consulting**.

In the July 2011 Quarterly CMS OCCB Q&As, CMS said, "The timeframe under consideration when answering M1242, Frequency that Pain interferes with Activity or Movement is the day of assessment and recent pertinent past. If the patient has stopped performing an activity in order to be free of pain, the patient HAS pain that is interfering with activity."

However, if a patient at some point stopped performing an activity because of pain and there is no reasonable expectation that he could or would ever perform the activity again, it's up to your judgment as the assessing clinician to determine whether the activity should be considered part of the pertinent past, CMS says.

For example: If your patient stopped skiing after a knee injury 20 years ago, this is likely not part of the pertinent past.