

OASIS Alert

Reader Question: Watch Confusion Build in M1710

Question: Our patient was confused both when encountering a new situation and on awakening in the morning. OASIS item M1710 -- When Confused is not a "Mark All That Apply" item, could you please clarify when it's appropriate to select each of the response options?

Answer:

The response options for M1710 -- When Confused identify the time of day or situations when the patient experienced confusion, if at all, within the last 14 days.

You'll select response 0 -- Never if the patient had no confusion in the last 14 days.

If your patient has experienced confusion, you'll look to responses 1-4. Each of these responses builds upon the previous response to indicate a worsening of confusion.

Select response 1 -- In new or complex situations only when your patient's confusion is isolated to a new or a complex situation, CMS said in the October 2012 Quarterly OASIS Q&As. For example, if the patient became confused when she first met a new caregiver or when she was being taught a complicated procedure for the first time.

If neither response 0 nor response 1 seem accurate for your patient, you should consider responses 2 -- On awakening or at night only, 3 -- During the day and evening, but not constantly, and 4 -- Constantly. These responses are appropriate when your patient experiences confusion without the stimulus of a new or complex situation, or when the confusion initially occurs with a new or complex situation but then persists days after the new or complex situation has become more routine, CMS said.

Responses 2, 3 and 4 differ from each other based on the time when the confusion occurred, CMS said. Select response 2 if the confusion only occurred when the patient was awakening from a sleep or during the night. Choose response 3 if the confusion occurs during the day and evening, but is not constant. And if the confusion wasn't constant, but occurred more often than just upon awakening or at night, you should select Response 3.