

## Home Health Line Fact Sheet

# 2026 Falls with Major Injury quality metrics primer

Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, CMS rolled out significant changes to how it is measuring falls during a home health stay. Use this fact sheet to help educate your team on what they need to know as what counts as a fall and a fall with major injury shifts. The following tips are collected from the OASIS-E2 Guidance Manual and, where noted, the OASIS Quarterly Q&As. (See story, p. 2)

### J1800 (Any falls since SOC/ROC)

Has the patient had any falls since SOC/ROC, whichever is more recent?

Code “0 - No” or “1 - Yes”

**Top tip:** Report falls that occurred at any time during the quality episode, regardless of where the fall occurred. For example, a fall that occurred at a doctor’s office during the home health episode would be reported. A fall during a hospital transfer would not be reported as it didn’t occur within the home health episode.

### J1900 (Number of falls since SOC/ROC)

For each, code “0 - None,” “1 - One” or “2 - Two”

A. **No injury:** No evidence of any injury is noted on physical assessment by the nurse or primary care clinician; no complaints of pain or injury by the patient; no change in the patient’s behavior is noted after the fall.

B. **Injury (except major):** As described in the OASIS manual.

*Examples include (but are not limited to) skin tears, abrasions, lacerations, superficial bruises, hematomas and sprains; or any fall-related injury that causes the patient to complain of pain.*

C. **Major injury:** As described in the OASIS manual.

*Examples include (but are not limited to) traumatic bone fractures, joint dislocations or subluxations, internal organ injuries, amputations, spinal cord injuries, head injuries and crush injuries.*

**Top tip:** The examples are not provided in the OASIS tool. As explained in the April 2026 OASIS Quarterly Q&As, while the item language and response options can’t be modified, reformatting of the presentation of the item is left to the user’s discretion, as long as the modification is presented in a way that makes it clear which items (assessment questions and response options) are part of the OASIS, and which are not.

### Falls with Major Injury Quality Measure

Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, the Falls with Major Injury (FMI) measure now includes falls recorded outside of the home health discharge/transfer OASIS.

Here’s how CMS determines what is counted as an FMI:

1. The easiest cases are those where a fall was recorded at J1800 and a major injury was recorded at J1900C in the OASIS. (Episode examples 3, 5 and 7 in the table)
2. If a fall was recorded at J1800, but no major injury was recorded, CMS will count it as an FMI if a hospital or emergency room claim for that patient includes a code for a major injury. (Episode example 4 in the table)
3. If no fall was recorded at J1800, but a hospital or emergency room claim for that patient includes a code for a major injury and a separate external cause code that notes the injury was due to a fall, it will be counted as an FMI. (Episode example 6 in the table)

See the table for examples of FMI incidents counted under the new measure specifications, with shaded boxes indicating when a fall or major injury is recorded.

Episode example	J1800 (Fall)	J1900C (Injury)	Claim injury	Claim fall	FMI?
1					No
2					No
3					Yes
4					Yes
5					Yes
6					Yes
7					Yes

**Top tip:** CMS has provided a list of ICD-10 codes that would identify a major injury in Appendix B of the FMI Respecification Technical Specification Report. Per the April Q&As, agencies may utilize the list in defining a major injury for the purposes of J1900C. (See link below). Examples include:

- S722 (Subtrochanteric fracture of femur)
- S525 (Fracture of lower end of radius)
- S223 (Fracture of one rib)
- S224 (Multiple fractures of ribs)
- S325 (Fracture of pubis)
- S323 (Fracture of ilium)
- S060 (Concussion)
- S320 (Fracture of lumbar vertebra)
- S422 (Fracture of upper end of humerus)
- S826 (Fracture of lateral malleolus)

See the full list of major injury codes at <https://tinyurl.com/4spkvx7>. — Greg Hambrick ([greg.hambrick@decision-health.com](mailto:greg.hambrick@decision-health.com))