

Home Health Line Tool

Discharge Function: Quick Guide to GG0170 (Mobility) Part 1

CMS has noted it plans to add the OASIS-based Discharge Function Score to the Home Health Quality of Patient Care Star Rating in the near future, according to the 2027 Home Health Prospective Payment System Proposed Rule. This is part of a series of one-page tools sharing expert tips and CMS instructions to address challenges clinicians face with accurate scoring for the Discharge Function measures.

- _____ **GG0170A (Roll left and right):** The ability to roll from lying on back to left and right side, and return to lying on back on the bed.
- _____ **GG0170C (Lying to sitting on side of bed):** The ability to move from lying on the back to sitting on the side of the bed with no back support
- _____ **GG0170D (Sit to stand):** The ability to come to a standing position from sitting in a chair, wheelchair or on the side of the bed.
- _____ **GG0170E (Chair/bed-to-chair transfer):** The ability to transfer to and from a bed to a chair (or wheelchair).

Scoring

Code the patient's usual performance for each activity using the six-point scale. If the activity wasn't attempted, code the reason.

Remember: Activities may be completed with assistive devices.

6. **Independent** – Patient completes the activity by themselves with no assistance from a helper.
5. **Setup or clean-up assistance** – Helper sets up or cleans up; patient completes activity. Helper assists only prior to or following the activity.
4. **Supervision or touching assistance** – Helper provides verbal cues and/or touching/steadying and/or contact guard assistance as patient completes activity. Assistance may be provided throughout the activity or intermittently.
3. **Partial/moderate assistance** – Helper does LESS THAN HALF the effort. Helper lifts, holds or supports trunk or limbs, but provides less than half the effort.

2. **Substantial/maximal assistance** – Helper does MORE THAN HALF the effort. Helper lifts or holds trunk or limbs and provides more than half the effort.

1. **Dependent** – Helper does ALL of the effort. Patient does none of the effort to complete the activity. Or, the assistance of 2 or more helpers is required for the patient to complete the activity.

If activity was not attempted, code reason:

7. **Patient refused**
9. **Not applicable** – Not attempted and the patient did not perform this activity prior to the current illness, exacerbation or injury.
10. **Not attempted due to environmental limitations (e.g., lack of equipment, weather constraints)**
88. **Not attempted due to medical condition or safety concerns**

Important notes

In order to accurately assess for these items, you will need to observe the patient as they normally would perform the activity.

While similar in topic, these GG items differ from M1850 (Transferring).

- M1850 evaluates transferring as a single task, assessing whether the patient can move safely between two surfaces, such as a bed or chair.
- In contrast, the GG0170A-E items break down transferring into multiple sub-tasks, scoring the effort level for each step rather than as a single movement. ([HHL 6/16/25](#))

Communicating the activity request (e.g., “Can you stand up from the toilet?”) would not be considered verbal cueing. If additional prompts are required for the patient to safely complete the activity (e.g., “Push down on the grab bar,” etc.), the assessing clinician may need to use clinical judgment to determine the most appropriate code.

New: According to the July 2026 OASIS Q&As, if a patient is restricted from rolling onto their right shoulder due to medical precautions

or restrictions, you would assign response “88 — Not attempted due to medical condition or safety concerns” for GG0170A. ([HHL 8/10/26](#))

Consider this scenario

Mr. James is being admitted to home health following subdural hematoma from a fall that has resulted in left-sided hemiparesis. Upon arrival the patient is sitting in a wheelchair in the living room. The nurse explains that she needs to assess his skin for open areas and requests the patient return to bed. The wife wheels the patient into the bedroom and, using the Hoyer lift, transfers the patient to the bed. During the transfer the patient assists by holding onto the chain for stabilization and assists in unhooking the right-side chains from the transfer mat.

How would you code GG0170E? The correct scoring for GG0170E would be “02 — Substantial/maximal assist” since the helper provided more than half of the effort with the transfer, which required the Hoyer lift, but the patient did contribute to the effort, including holding onto the chains and unhooking them.

Editor's note: The scenario was provided by Diane Link, owner of Link Healthcare Advantage, based in Littlestown, Pa.