

Home Health Line Tool

Discharge Function: Quick Guide to GG0130C, GG0170F (Toileting)

CMS 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 guide is part of a series of one-page tools offering expert tips and CMS instructions to help clinicians score the Discharge Function items accurately.

- _____ **GG0130C (Toileting hygiene):** The ability to maintain perineal hygiene, adjust clothes before and after voiding or having a bowel movement. If managing an ostomy, include wiping the opening but not managing equipment.
- _____ **GG0170F (Toilet transfer):** The ability to get on and off a toilet or commode.

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, 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 two 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

GG0130C: Clinicians can evaluate toileting hygiene assistance needs while assessing the patient's skin. Odor, soiled skin and soiled undergarments/incontinence products likely indicate the patient needs assistance or may be fully dependent with toileting hygiene. Dirty toilets or commodes might also signal that the patient cannot safely or effectively manage their toilet hygiene.

Note that GG0130C requires attention to redressing the lower body, including the ability to pull up undergarments and pants (if worn).

GG0170F: Simply assess the patient's ability to safely get on and off the toilet or commode. Performance for GG0170F may be based on clinician judgment and assessment via observation of similar activities.

Unlike M1840 (Toilet Transferring), GG0170F does not account for getting to the location of the toilet/commode and use of DME for safe performance.

Consider these scenarios

Scenario 1: A 79-year-old female is admitted to home health with congestive heart failure. Upon assessment, the patient is identified as having fair balance that requires supervision when ambulating with a four-wheel walker. The patient has stress incontinence and wears in-

continent undergarments during the day and night. Upon observation of the patient toileting, the nurse observes her ability to lower pants and undergarments using one hand at a time without issue. Upon rising, the patient requires caregiver assistance to obtain a new incontinence product, remove her pants to dispose of the soiled undergarment and pull up her undergarment and pants when she loses balance.

How would you score GG0130C? You would score this patient with "03 — Partial/moderate assistance." The patient needs caregiver assistance with less than half of the effort. The patient was able to manage clothing up until the time that she needed additional assistance with obtaining and changing the soiled undergarment.

Scenario 2: A 71-year-old female is entering home care for a post-operative assessment following a CABG procedure. She needs verbal cueing when ambulating to the bathroom for safety, but once at the toilet, she can safely and independently transfer on and off during the day. At night, she prefers using a bedpan to reduce trips to the toilet, as her higher Lasix dose increases urination. She is also independent in bedpan transfers.

How would you score this patient for GG0170F? The correct scoring would be "06 — Independent" as this item only assesses getting on and off the toilet or bedside commode and the patient is able to do this independently.

Editor's note: The first scenario was provided by Diane Link, owner of Link Healthcare Advantage in Littlestown, Pa. The second scenario was provided by Adriana Molina, coding and OASIS educator for Trilogy/Humana CenterWell.