

SECTION J: HEALTH CONDITIONS

Intent: These items are intended to code any falls since admission in addition to any injury caused by falls. However, if warranted by additional quality measures finalized by CMS for the Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH) Quality Reporting Program (QRP) through future rule-making cycles, CMS may add items to this section that document other health conditions.

J1800: Any Falls Since Admission

J1800. Any Falls Since Admission	
Enter Code	Has the patient had any falls since admission?
<input type="checkbox"/>	0. No → Skip to M0210. Unhealed Pressure Ulcer(s)
	1. Yes → Continue to J1900. Number of Falls Since Admission

Item Rationale

- Falls are a leading cause of morbidity and mortality among LTCH patients.
- Fear of falling can limit an individual's activity and negatively impact quality of life.

Steps for Assessment

- Review LTCH medical record (physician, nursing, therapy, and nursing assistant notes), incident reports, and fall logs.

Coding Instructions

Complete only if A0250 = 10 Planned Discharge, A0250 = 11 Unplanned Discharge, or A0250 = 12 Expired.

- Code 0, No, if the patient has not had any fall since admission.
- Code 1, Yes, if the patient has fallen since admission and continue to J1900. Number of Falls Since Admission.

DEFINITION

FALL

Unintentional change in position coming to rest on the ground, floor, or onto the next lower surface (e.g., onto a bed, chair, or bedside mat).

The fall may be witnessed, reported by the patient or an observer, or identified when a patient is found on the floor or ground. Falls are not a result of an overwhelming external force (e.g., a patient pushes another patient).

An intercepted fall occurs when the patient would have fallen if he or she had not caught him/herself or had not been intercepted by another person—this is still considered a fall.

Example

1. An incident report describes an event in which Mr. S was walking down the hall and appeared to slip on a wet spot on the floor. He lost his balance and bumped into the wall, but was able to grab onto the hand rail and steady himself.

Coding: J1800 would be coded 1, Yes.

Rationale: An intercepted fall is considered a fall.

J1900: Number of Falls Since Admission

J1900. Number of Falls Since Admission		
CODING:	Enter Codes in Boxes	
0. None	<input type="checkbox"/>	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
1. One	<input type="checkbox"/>	B. Injury (except major): Skin tears, abrasions, lacerations, superficial bruises, hematomas and sprains; or any fall-related injury that causes the patient to complain of pain
2. Two or more	<input type="checkbox"/>	C. Major injury: Bone fractures, joint dislocations, closed head injuries with altered consciousness, subdural hematoma

Steps for Assessment

1. Review LTCH medical record (physician, nursing, therapy, and nursing assistant notes), incident reports, and fall logs.

Coding Instructions for J1900

Complete only if A0250 = 10 Planned Discharge; A0250 = 11 Unplanned Discharge; or A0250 = 12 Expired.

*Determine the number of falls that occurred since admission and code the level of fall-related injury for each. Code each fall only once. **If the patient has multiple injuries in a single fall, code the fall for the highest level of injury.***

DEFINITION

INJURY RELATED TO A FALL

Any documented injury that occurred as a result of, or was recognized within a short period of time (e.g., hours to a few days) after the fall and attributed to the fall.

Coding Instructions for J1900A. No injury

- Code 0, None, if the patient had no injurious fall since admission.
- Code 1, One, if the patient had one non-injurious fall since admission.
- Code 2, Two or more, if the patient had two or more non-injurious falls since admission.

Coding Instructions for J1900B. Injury (except major)

- Code 0, None, if the patient had no injurious fall (except major) since admission.
- Code 1, One, if the patient had one injurious fall (except major) since admission.
- Code 2, Two or more, if the patient had two or more injurious falls (except major) since admission.

Coding Instructions for J1900C, Major injury

- Code 0, None, if the patient had no major injurious fall since admission.
- Code 1, One, if the patient had one major injurious fall since admission.
- Code 2, Two or more, if the patient had two or more major injurious falls since admission.

Examples

1. A nursing note states that Mrs. K slipped out of her wheelchair onto the floor during a transfer from the bed to the wheelchair. Before being assisted back into her bed, an assessment was completed that indicated no injury.

Coding: J1900A would be coded 1, One.

Rationale: Slipping onto the floor is a fall. No injury was noted.

2. A nurse's note describes a patient who climbed over his bedrail and fell to the floor. On examination, he had a cut over his left eye and some swelling on his arm. He was sent to the emergency room, where x-rays revealed no injury and neurological checks revealed no changes in mental status. The patient returned to the LTCH within 24 hours.

Coding: J1900B would be coded 1, One.

Rationale: Lacerations and swelling without fracture are classified as injury (except major).

3. A patient fell, lacerated her head, and was sent to the emergency room, where a head CT scan revealed a subdural hematoma. The patient received treatment and returned to the LTCH after 2 days.

Coding: J1900C would be coded 1, One.

Rationale: Subdural hematoma is a major injury, and it occurred as a result of a fall.

DEFINITIONS

INJURY (EXCEPT MAJOR)

Includes skin tears, abrasions, lacerations, superficial bruises, hematomas, and sprains; or any fall-related injury that causes the patient to complain of pain.

MAJOR INJURY

Includes bone fractures, joint dislocations, closed head injuries with altered consciousness, subdural hematoma.