

Question of the Month

April 2025

A1005, Ethnicity, and A1010, Race.

Question: Can the social determinants of health items A1005, Ethnicity, and A1010, Race, be asked and answered on the admission assessment and that answer remain true for the rest of a resident's stay? Is it okay to have these questions auto-populated for all assessments after the admission assessment? Also, what if the interviews and medical record review are not completed for these two items by the Assessment Reference Date (ARD)? The item sets do not give an option to dash.

Answer: Assessors should follow the steps for assessment for the social determinants of health (SDOH) items with each assessment. Auto-population of these items is not acceptable. The RAI 3.0 User's Manual outlines several steps assessors should take to complete the SDOH items. Steps for assessment for item A1005, Ethnicity, begin on page A-17. Steps for assessment for item A1010, Race, begin on page A-20. If the assessor did not ask the resident or the resident's family during the appropriate assessment period, they should move to the next step in the Coding Instruction (e.g., use medical record documentation).

A0310A 04, Significant Change in Status Assessment.

Question: A resident was enrolled in hospice on Nov. 11, 2024, and the interdisciplinary team scheduled a Significant Change in Status Assessment (SCSA) with an Assessment Reference Date (ARD) of Dec. 11, 2024. The resident was disenrolled from hospice on Dec. 12, 2025. Is an SCSA still required for enrollment and/or disenrollment?

Answer: The intent of the SCSA upon enrollment in or change in hospice provider is to ensure coordination of care between the nursing home and hospice. As such, if the resident elects hospice and then revokes hospice prior to the ARD of the SCSA, there is no need to complete the SCSA.

GG0130A, Eating.

Question: We have a resident who is receiving tube feeding for nutrition and also has an order for ice chips orally. Would the ability to bring the ice chips to the mouth and swallow be evaluated for coding item GG0130A, Eating?

Answer: The intent of item GG0130A, Eating, is to assess the resident's ability to use suitable utensils to bring food and/or liquid to the mouth and swallow food and/or liquid once the

meal is placed before the resident. The clinician should use clinical judgment to determine if the situation of eating ice chips allows the clinician to adequately assess the resident's ability to complete the activity.

If the clinician determines that this observation is adequate, you should code based on the type and amount of assistance the resident requires to complete the entire activity. If the clinician determines this situation does not provide adequate information to support determination of a performance code, select an appropriate "activity not attempted" code.

If you have a Question of the Month to submit, please email Cheryl.Moya@odh.ohio.gov and place Question of the Month in the subject line.