

Chapter 6: Medicare Skilled Nursing Facility Prospective Payment System (SNF PPS)

6.1 Background

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 included the implementation of a Medicare Prospective Payment System (PPS) for skilled nursing homes, consolidated billing, and a number of related changes. The PPS system replaced the retrospective cost-based system for skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) under Part A of the program (**Federal Register** Vol. 63, No. 91, May 12, 1998, Final Rule).

The SNF PPS is the culmination of substantial research efforts beginning as early as the 1970s that focus on the areas of nursing home payment and quality. In addition, it is based on a foundation of knowledge and work by a number of States that developed and implemented similar case mix payment methodologies for their Medicaid nursing home payment systems.

The current focus in the development of State and Federal payment systems for nursing home care is based on recognizing the differences among residents, particularly in the utilization of resources. Some residents require total assistance with their activities of daily living (ADLs) and have complex nursing care needs. Other residents may require less assistance with ADLs but may require rehabilitation or restorative nursing services. The recognition of these differences is the premise of a case mix system. Reimbursement levels differ based on the resource needs of the residents. Residents with heavy care needs require more staff resources and payment levels should be higher than for those residents with less intensive care needs. In a case mix adjusted payment system, the amount of reimbursement to the nursing home is based on the resource intensity of the resident as measured by items on the Minimum Data Set (MDS). Case mix reimbursement has become a widely adopted method for financing nursing home care. The case mix approach serves as the basis for the PPS for skilled nursing facilities and swing bed hospitals and is increasingly being used by States for Medicaid reimbursement for nursing homes.

6.2 Using the MDS in the Medicare Prospective Payment System

A key component of the Medicare SNF PPS is the case mix reimbursement methodology used to determine resident care needs. A number of nursing home case mix systems have been developed over the last 20 years. Since the early 1990s, however, the most widely adopted approach to case mix has been the Resource Utilization Groups (RUGs). This classification system uses information from the MDS assessment to classify SNF residents into a series of groups representing the residents' relative direct care resource requirements.

In 2005, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) initiated a national nursing home staff time measurement (STM) study, the Staff Time and Resource Intensity Verification (STRIVE) Project. The STRIVE project represents the first nationwide time study for nursing

homes in the United States to be conducted since 1997, and the data collected has been used to update payment systems for Medicare SNFs and Medicaid nursing facilities (NFs). Based on this analysis, CMS has developed the RUG-IV classification system that incorporates the MDS 3.0 items.

Over half of the State Medicaid programs also use the MDS for their case mix payment systems. The RUG-IV system replaces the RUG-III for Medicare in October 2010. However, State Medicaid agencies have the option to continue to use the RUG-III classification systems or adopt the RUG-IV system. CMS also provides the States alternative RUG-IV classification systems with 66, 57, or 48 groups with varying numbers of Rehabilitation groups (similar to the RUG-III 53, 44, and 34 groups). States have the option of selecting the system (RUG-III or RUG-IV) with the number of Rehabilitation groups that better suits their Medicaid long-term care population. State Medicaid programs always have the option to develop nursing home reimbursement systems that meet their specific program goals. The decision to implement a RUG-IV classification system for Medicaid is a State decision. Please contact your State Medicaid agency if you have questions about your State Medicaid reimbursement system.

The MDS assessment data is used to calculate the RUG-IV classification necessary for payment. The MDS contains extensive information on the resident's nursing needs, ADL impairments, cognitive status, behavioral problems, and medical diagnoses. This information is used to define RUG-IV groups that form a hierarchy from the greatest to the least resources used. Residents with more specialized nursing requirements, licensed therapies, greater ADL dependency, or other conditions will be assigned to higher groups in the RUG-IV hierarchy. Providing care to these residents is more costly and is reimbursed at a higher level.

6.3 Resource Utilization Groups Version IV (RUG-IV)

The RUG-IV classification system has eight major classification categories: Rehabilitation Plus Extensive Services, Rehabilitation, Extensive Services, Special Care High, Special Care Low, Clinically Complex, Behavioral Symptoms and Cognitive Performance Problems, and Reduced Physical Function (see Table 6-1). The categories, except for Extensive Services, are further divided by the intensity of the resident's ADL needs. The Special Care High, Special Care Low, and Clinically Complex categories are also divided by the presence of depression. Finally, the Behavioral Symptoms and Cognitive Performance Problems and the Reduced Physical Function categories are divided by the provision of restorative nursing services.

A calculation worksheet was developed in order to provide clinical staff with a better understanding of how the RUG-IV classification system works. The worksheet translates the standard software code into plain language to assist staff in understanding the logic behind the classification system. A copy of the calculation worksheet for the RUG-IV classification system for nursing homes can be found at the end of this section.

Table 6-1
Eight Major RUG-IV Classification Categories

Major RUG-IV Category	Characteristics Associated With Major RUG-IV Category
Rehabilitation Plus Extensive Services	Residents satisfying all of the following three conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a minimum activity of daily living (ADL) dependency score of 2 or more. • Receiving physical therapy, occupational therapy, and/or speech-language pathology services while a resident. • While a resident, receiving complex clinical care and have needs involving tracheostomy care, ventilator/respirator, and/or infection isolation.
Rehabilitation	Residents receiving physical therapy, occupational therapy, and/or speech-language pathology services while a resident.
Extensive Services	Residents satisfying the following two conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a minimum ADL dependency score of 2 or more. • While a resident, receiving complex clinical care and have needs involving: tracheostomy care, ventilator/respirator, and/or infection isolation.
Special Care High	Residents satisfying the following two conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a minimum ADL dependency score of 2 or more. • Receiving complex clinical care or have serious medical conditions involving any one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — comatose, — septicemia, — diabetes with insulin injections and insulin order changes, — quadriplegia with a higher minimum ADL dependence criterion (ADL score of 5 or more), — chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) with shortness of breath when lying flat, — fever with pneumonia, vomiting, weight loss, or tube feeding with meeting intake requirement, — parenteral/IV feeding, or — respiratory therapy.

(continued)

**Table 6-1 (continued)
Eight Major RUG-IV Classification Categories**

Major RUG-IV Category	Characteristics Associated With Major RUG-IV Category
Special Care Low	<p>Residents satisfying the following two conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a minimum ADL dependency score of 2 or more. • Receiving complex clinical care or have serious medical conditions involving any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — cerebral palsy with ADL dependency score of 5 or more, — multiple sclerosis with ADL dependency score of 5 or more, — Parkinson’s disease with ADL dependency score of 5 or more, — respiratory failure and oxygen therapy while a resident, — tube feeding with meeting intake requirement, — ulcer treatment with two or more ulcers including venous ulcers, arterial ulcers or stage II or higher pressure ulcers, — ulcer treatment with any stage III or IV pressure ulcer, — foot infections or wounds with application of dressing, — radiation therapy while a resident, or — dialysis while a resident.
Clinically Complex	<p>Residents receiving complex clinical care or have conditions requiring skilled nursing management, interventions or treatments involving any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pneumonia, • hemiplegia with ADL dependency score of 5 or more, • surgical wounds or open lesions with treatment, • burns, • chemotherapy while a resident, • oxygen therapy while a resident, • IV medications while a resident, or • transfusions while a resident.

(continued)

**Table 6-1 (continued)
Eight Major RUG-IV Classification Categories**

Major RUG-IV Category	Characteristics Associated With Major RUG-IV Category
Behavioral Symptoms and Cognitive Performance	Residents satisfying the following two conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a maximum ADL dependency score of 5 or less. • Having behavioral or cognitive performance symptoms, involving any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — difficulty in repeating words, temporal orientation, or recall (score on the Brief Interview for Mental Status ≤ 9), — difficulty in making self understood, short term memory, or decision making (score on the Cognitive Performance Scale ≥ 3), — hallucinations, — delusions, — physical behavioral symptoms toward others, — verbal behavioral symptoms toward others, — other behavioral symptoms, — rejection of care, or — wandering.
Reduced Physical Function	Residents whose needs are primarily for support with activities of daily living and general supervision.

6.4 Relationship between the Assessment and the Claim

The SNF PPS establishes a schedule of Medicare assessments. Each required Medicare assessment is used to support Medicare PPS reimbursement. There are scheduled PPS assessments performed around Day 5, Day 14, Day 30, Day 60, and Day 90 of a Medicare Part A stay (as defined in Chapter 2). These scheduled assessments establish per diem payment rates for associated standard payment periods. Unscheduled off-cycle assessments are performed under certain circumstances when required under the regulations (e.g., when the resident’s condition changes). See Chapter 2 for greater detail on assessment types and requirements. These unscheduled assessments may impact the per diem payment rates for days within a standard payment period.

Numerous situations exist that impact the relationship between the assessment and the claim above and beyond the information provided in this chapter. It is the responsibility of the provider to ensure that claims submitted to Medicare are accurate and meet all Medicare requirements. For example, if resident’s status does not meet the criteria for Medicare Part A SNF coverage, the provider is not to bill Medicare for any non-covered days. The assignment of a RUG is not an indication that the requirements for SNF Part A have been met. Once the resident no longer

requires skilled services, the provider must not bill Medicare for days that are not covered. Therefore, the following information is not to be considered all inclusive and definitive. Refer to the **Medicare Claims Processing Manual**, Chapter 6, for detailed claims processing requirements and policies.

To verify that the Medicare bill accurately reflects the assessment information, three data items derived from the MDS assessment must be included on the Medicare claim:

Assessment Reference Date (ARD)

The ARD must be reported on the Medicare claim. CMS has developed internal mechanisms to link the assessment and billing records.

Health Insurance Prospective Payment System (HIPPS) Code

Each Medicare claim contains a five-position HIPPS code for the purpose of billing Part A covered days to the Part A/Part B Medicare Administrative Contractor (A/B MAC). The first three positions contain the RUG-IV group code to be billed for Medicare reimbursement.

The RUG-IV group is calculated from the MDS assessment data. CMS provides standard software and logic for RUG-IV calculation. The software used to encode and transmit the MDS assessment data calculates the RUG-IV group. CMS edits and validates the RUG-IV group code of transmitted MDS assessments. Skilled nursing facilities are not permitted to submit Medicare Part A claims until the assessments have been accepted into the CMS database, and they must use the RUG-IV code as validated by CMS when bills are filed, except in cases in which the facility must bill the default code (AAA). See Section 6.8 for details. The following RUG-IV group codes are used in the billing process.

RUX, RUL, RVX, RVL, RHX, RHL, RMX, RML, RLX
 RUA, RUB, RUC, RVA, RVB, RVC, RHA, RHB, RHC, RMA, RMB, RMC, RLA, RLB
 ES3, ES2, ES1
 HE2, HE1, HD2, HD1, HC2, HC1, HB2, HB1
 LE2, LE1, LD2, LD1, LC2, LC1, LB2, LB1
 CE2, CE1, CD2, CD1, CC2, CC1, CB2, CB1, CA2, CA1
 BB2, BB1, BA2, BA1
 PE2, PE1, PD2, PD1, PC2, PC1, PB2, PB1, PA2, PA1
 AAA (This is the "default" code)

There are two different Medicare HIPPS codes that may be recorded on the MDS 3.0 in items Z0100A (Medicare Part A HIPPS code) and Z0150A (Medicare Part A non-therapy HIPPS code). The Medicare Part A HIPPS code may consist of any RUG-IV group code. The Medicare Part A non-therapy HIPPS code is restricted to the RUG-IV groups of Extensive Services and below. Which of these HIPPS codes is included on the Medicare claim depends on the specific type of assessments involved.

The RUG group codes in Z0100A and Z0150A are validated by CMS when the assessment is submitted. If the submitted RUG code is incorrect, the validation report will include a warning giving the correct code, and the facility must use the correct code in the HIPPS code on the bill.

However, the provider must ensure that all Medicare assessment requirements are met. When the provider fails to meet the Medicare assessment requirements, such as when the assessment is late (as evidenced by a late ARD), the provider may be required to bill the default code. In these situations, the provider is responsible to ensure that the default code and not the RUG group validated by CMS in items Z0100A and Z01050A is billed for the applicable number of days. See Section 6.8 of this chapter for greater detail.

The last two positions of the HIPPS code represent the Assessment Indicator (AI), identifying the assessment type. CMS provides standard software and logic for AI code calculation. The AI coding system indicates the different types of assessments that define different PPS payment periods. The AI is validated by CMS when the assessment is submitted. If the submitted AI code is incorrect on the assessment, the validation report will include a warning and provide the correct code. The facility is to use the correct AI code in the HIPPS code on the bill. The code consists of two digits, which are defined below. In situations when the provider is to bill the default code, such as a late assessment, the AI provided on the validation report is to be used along with the default code, AAA, on the Medicare claim. Refer to the **Medicare Claims Processing Manual**, Chapter 6, for detailed claims processing requirements and policies.

First AI Digit. The first digit identifies scheduled PPS assessments that establish RUG payment for the standard PPS scheduled payment periods. These assessments are PPS 5-day, 14-day, 30-day, 60-day, 90-day, and readmission/return. The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA 1987) required assessments are also included, because they can be used under certain circumstances for payment (see Section 6.8). Table 6-2 displays the first AI code for each of the assessment types and the payment period for each assessment type.

**Table 6-2
Assessment Indicator First Digit Table**

1st Digit Values	Assessment Type (abbreviation)	Standard* Scheduled Payment Period
0	Unscheduled PPS assessment (unsched)	Not applicable
1	PPS 5-day or readmission return (5d or readm)	Day 1 through 14
2	PPS 14-day (14d)	Day 15 through 30
3	PPS 30-day (30d)	Day 31 through 60
4	PPS 60-day (60d)	Day 61 through 90
5	PPS 90-day (90d)	Day 91 through 100
6	OBRA assessment used for PPS (Not combined with any PPS assessment) when Part A eligibility unknown at time of assessment	Not applicable

* These are the payment periods that apply when only the Medicare-required assessments are completed. These are subject to change when other assessments are completed with a Medicare-required assessment, e.g., significant change in status, or when other requirements must be met.

Second AI Digit. The second digit identifies unscheduled assessments used for PPS; these assessments can change payments within a standard scheduled payment period. Unscheduled PPS assessments are conducted in addition to the required standard scheduled PPS assessments and include the following OBRA unscheduled assessments: Significant Change in Status Assessment (SCSA) and Significant Correction to Comprehensive Assessment (SCPA), as well as the following PPS unscheduled assessments: Start of Therapy Other Medicare-required Assessment (OMRA), End of Therapy OMRA, and the Swing Bed Clinical Change Assessment (CCA). Unscheduled assessments may be required at any time during the resident's Part A stay. They may be completed as separate assessments or combined with other assessments and, in some instances, will replace the scheduled PPS assessment.

When an unscheduled assessment replaces a scheduled PPS assessment, the unscheduled assessment establishes the payment rate for the standard payment period normally associated with the scheduled PPS assessment (as long as all coverage criteria continue to be met). The assessment should indicate both the scheduled PPS assessment being replaced and the type of the unscheduled assessment replacing the scheduled PPS assessment. For example, if an SCSA replaces the PPS 30-day assessment, then MDS item A0310A is coded 04, indicating an SCSA, and A0310B is coded 03, indicating a PPS 30-day assessment; thus the SCSA is replacing the PPS 30-day assessment. In this case, the first AI digit will be set to 3, and this assessment will establish the payment rate for the Day 31 through 60 standard payment period. Depending on the day of stay that the ARD is set, the assessment may impact the payment period for the 14-day assessment (days 15-30). Refer to the **Medicare Claims Processing Manual**, Chapter 6, and Chapter 2 of this manual for details.

Another example of an unscheduled assessment replacing a scheduled PPS assessment is a Start of Therapy OMRA replacing the PPS 14-day assessment. In this case, A0310B is coded 02, indicating a PPS 14-day assessment, and A0310C is coded 01, indicating the Start of Therapy OMRA. The Start of Therapy OMRA is replacing the PPS 14-day assessment. The first AI digit will be set to 2 and this assessment will establish the payment rate for the Day 15 through 30 standard payment period. Depending on the day of stay that the ARD is set, the assessment may impact the payment period for the 5-day assessment (days 1-14). Refer to the **Medicare Claims Processing Manual**, Chapter 6, and Chapter 2 of this manual for details.

Whether an unscheduled assessment is a separate assessment, is combined with another assessment, or replaces a scheduled PPS assessment, the unscheduled assessment impacts the payment for days within a standard payment period.

Table 6-3 presents the types of unscheduled assessments, the second AI digit associated with each assessment type, and the payment impact for standard payment periods.

**Table 6-3
Assessment Indicator Second Digit Table**

Second Digit Values	Assessment Type	Impact on Standard Payment Period
0	Scheduled PPS assessment not combined with another assessment	No impact on the standard payment period (the assessment is not unscheduled). If the second digit value is 0, then the first digit must be 1 through 6, indicating a scheduled PPS assessment or an OBRA assessment used for PPS.
1	<p>Either an unscheduled OBRA assessment or Swing Bed CCA</p> <p>Do NOT use if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined with any OMRA • Medicare Short Stay assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the ARD of the unscheduled assessment is not within the ARD window of any scheduled PPS assessment, including grace days (the first digit is 0): Use the Medicare RUG (Z0100A) from the ARD of this unscheduled assessment through the end of standard payment period. • If the ARD of the unscheduled assessment is within the ARD window of a scheduled PPS assessment, not using grace days: Use the Medicare RUG (Z0100A) from the ARD of this unscheduled assessment through the end of standard payment period. • If the ARD of the unscheduled assessment is a grace day of a scheduled PPS assessment: Use the Medicare RUG (Z0100A) from the start of the standard payment period for the scheduled PPS assessment.
2	<p>Start of Therapy OMRA</p> <p>Do NOT use if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare Short Stay assessment • Combined with End of Therapy OMRA • Combined with unscheduled OBRA • Combined with Swing Bed CCA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the unscheduled assessment gives a therapy group in the Medicare RUG (Z0100A): Use the Medicare RUG (Z0100A) from the unscheduled assessment's earliest start of therapy date (speech-language pathology services in O0400A5, occupational therapy in O0400B5, or physical therapy in O0400C5) through the end of standard payment period. • If the unscheduled assessment does not give a therapy group in the Medicare RUG (Z0100A), do not use the unscheduled assessment RUG for any part of standard payment period. This is not a valid assessment and it will not be accepted by CMS.

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Table 6-3 (continued)
Assessment Indicator Second Digit Table

Second Digit Values	Assessment Type	Impact on Standard Payment Period
3	Start of Therapy OMRA combined with either an unscheduled OBRA assessment or a Swing Bed CCA Do NOT use if <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare Short Stay assessment • Combined with End of Therapy OMRA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If unscheduled assessment gives a therapy group in the Medicare RUG (Z0100A): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the unscheduled assessment Medicare RUG (Z0100A) from the earliest start of therapy date through the end of standard payment period. • If unscheduled assessment does not give a therapy group in the Medicare RUG (Z0100A), do not use the unscheduled assessment RUG for any part of the standard payment period. This is not a valid assessment and it will not be accepted by CMS.^
4	End of Therapy OMRA; whether or not combined with unscheduled OBRA assessment and whether or not combined with Swing Bed CCA Do NOT use if <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined with Start of Therapy OMRA • Medicare Short Stay assessment 	Use the unscheduled assessment Medicare non-therapy RUG (Z0150A) from the day after the latest therapy end date (speech-language pathology services in O0400A6, occupational therapy in O0400B6, or physical therapy in O0400C6) through the end of standard payment period.
5	Start of Therapy OMRA combined with End of Therapy OMRA Do NOT use if <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare Short Stay assessment • Combined with unscheduled OBRA • Combined with Swing Bed CCA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If unscheduled assessment gives a therapy group Medicare RUG (Z0100A): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use the unscheduled assessment Medicare RUG (Z0100A) from the earliest start of therapy date through the latest therapy end date. 2. Use the unscheduled assessment Medicare non-therapy RUG (Z0150A) from the day after the latest therapy end date through the end of standard payment period. • If unscheduled assessment does not give a therapy group Medicare RUG (Z0100A), do not use the unscheduled assessment RUG for any part of the standard payment period. This is not a valid assessment and it will not be accepted by CMS.

(continued)

**Table 6-3 (continued)
Assessment Indicator Second Digit Table**

Second Digit Values	Assessment Type	Impact on Standard Payment Period
6	Start of Therapy OMRA combined with End of Therapy OMRA and combined with either an unscheduled OBRA assessment or Swing Bed CCA Do NOT use if <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare Short Stay assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If unscheduled assessment gives a therapy group Medicare RUG (Z0100A): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use the unscheduled assessment Medicare RUG (Z0100A) from the earliest start of therapy date through the latest therapy end date. 2. Use the unscheduled assessment non-therapy RUG (Z0150A) from the day after the latest therapy end date through the end of standard payment period. • If unscheduled assessment does not give a therapy group in the Medicare RUG (Z0100A), do not use the unscheduled assessment RUG for any part of the standard payment period. This is not a valid assessment and it will not be accepted by CMS.^
7	Medicare Short Stay Assessment (see Medicare Short Stay Assessment below for the definition of this assessment.)	See Medicare Short Stay Assessment below for impact on payment periods.

*The information presented in this table illustrates the impact of one unscheduled PPS assessment within a standard payment period. If there are additional unscheduled PPS assessments, then there may be additional impacts to the standard payment period. Refer to Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 6, and Chapter 2 of this manual for details.

When a Start of Therapy OMRA is combined with a scheduled PPS assessment, any OBRA assessment, or a Swing Bed CCA, and the RUG-IV classification is not a Rehabilitation Plus Extensive Services or a Rehabilitation group, the assessment will not be accepted by CMS. In these instances, the provider must still complete and submit an assessment that is accepted by CMS in order to be in compliance with OBRA and/or Medicare regulations.

Additional AI Codes. There are also two additional AI Codes (shown in Table 6-4) when a Medicare SNF Part A claim is filed without a corresponding PPS assessment having been completed or the assessment has invalid reasons for assessment.

Table 6-4
Additional Assessment Indicator Codes

Additional Assessment Indicator (AI) Codes	Description
00	This is the AI required when billing the default RUG code of AAA for a missed assessment only when specific circumstances are met (see Section 6.8 of this chapter for greater detail). The default code is paid based upon the payment associated with the lowest resource utilization group (RUG), PA1.
X	The AI "error" code provided by the RUG-IV grouper when RUG-IV cannot be calculated for the type of record (e.g., the record is an entry record). This is not an appropriate billing code.

Medicare Short Stay Assessment. To be considered a Medicare Short Stay assessment and use the special RUG-IV short stay rehabilitation therapy classification, the resident must have been discharged from Part A on or before day 8 of the Part A stay, and the resident must have completed only 1 to 4 days of therapy, with therapy having started during the last 4 days of the Part A stay. To be considered a Medicare Short Stay assessment and use the special RUG-IV short stay rehabilitation therapy classification, all six of the following conditions must be met:

1. **The assessment must be a Start of Therapy OMRA (A0310C = 1 or 3).** This assessment may be completed alone or combined with any OBRA assessment or combined with a PPS 5-day or readmission/return assessment. The Start of Therapy OMRA may not be combined with a PPS 14-day, 30-day, 60-day, or 90-day assessment. The Start of Therapy OMRA should also be combined with a discharge assessment when the end of Part A stay is the result of discharge from the facility, but not combined with a discharge if the resident dies in the facility or is transferred to another payer source in the facility.
2. **A PPS 5-day (A0310B = 01) or readmission/return assessment (A0310B = 06) has been completed.** The PPS 5-day or readmission/return assessment may be completed alone or combined with the Start of Therapy OMRA.
3. **The ARD (A2300) must be on or before the 8th day of the Part A Medicare covered stay.** The ARD minus the start of Medicare stay date (A2400B) must be 7 days or less.
4. **The ARD (A2300) of the Start of Therapy OMRA must be the last covered Medicare Part A day.** The Start of Therapy OMRA ARD must equal the end of Medicare stay date (A2400C). The end of the Medicare stay date is the date Part A ended. See instructions for A2400C in Chapter 3 for more detail.
5. **Rehabilitation therapy (speech-language pathology services, occupational therapy or physical therapy) started during the last 4 days of the Medicare Part A covered stay (including weekends).** The end of Medicare stay date (A2400C) minus the earliest

start date for the three therapy disciplines (O0400A5, O0400B5, or O0400C5) must be 3 days or less.

6. **At least one therapy discipline continued through the last day of the Medicare Part A covered stay.** At least one of the therapy disciplines must have a dash-filled end of therapy date (O0400A5, O0400B5, or O0400C5) indicating ongoing therapy or an end of therapy date equal to the end of covered Medicare stay date (A2400C).

If all six of these conditions are met, then the assignment of the RUG-IV rehabilitation therapy classification is calculated based on average daily minutes actually provided, and the resulting RUG-IV group is recorded in MDS item Z0100A (Medicare Part A HIPPS Code).

- 15-29 average daily therapy minutes → Rehabilitation Low category (RLx)
- 30-64 average daily therapy minutes → Rehabilitation Medium category (RMx)
- 65-99 average daily therapy minutes → Rehabilitation High category (RHx)
- 100-143 average daily therapy minutes → Rehabilitation Very High category (RVx)
- 144 or greater average daily therapy minutes → Rehabilitation Ultra High category (RUx)

The impacts on the payment periods for the Medicare Short Stay assessment are as follows:

1. If the earliest start of therapy date (O0400A5, O0400B5, or O0400C5) is the first day of the short stay, use the Medicare Short Stay assessment Medicare Part A RUG (Z0100) from the beginning of the short stay through the end of the stay.
2. If the earliest start of therapy date is after the first day of the short stay, the following apply:
 - a. If a 5-day or readmission/return assessment was completed prior to Medicare Short Stay assessment, use the Medicare Part A RUG (Z0100A) from that assessment for the first day of the short stay through the day before therapy started; then use the Medicare Part A RUG (Z0100A) from the Medicare Short Stay assessment from the day therapy started through the end of the short stay; or
 - b. If the Start of Therapy OMRA is combined with a 5-day or readmission/return assessment, use the Medicare Part A non-therapy RUG (Z0150A) for the first day of the short stay through the day before therapy started; then use the Medicare Part A RUG (Z0100A) from the day therapy started through the end of the short stay.

6.5 SNF PPS Eligibility Criteria

Under SNF PPS, beneficiaries must meet the established eligibility requirements for a Part A SNF-level stay. These requirements are summarized in this section. Refer to the **Medicare General Information, Eligibility, and Entitlement Manual**, Chapter 1 (Pub. 100-1), and the

Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 8 (Pub. 100-2), for detailed SNF coverage requirements and policies.

Technical Eligibility Requirements

The beneficiary must meet the following criteria:

- Beneficiary is Enrolled in Medicare Part A and has days available to use.
- There has been a three-day prior qualifying hospital stay (i.e., three midnights).
- Admission for SNF-level services is within 30 days of discharge from an acute care stay or within 30 days of discharge from a SNF level of care.

Clinical Eligibility Requirements

A beneficiary is eligible for SNF extended care if all of the following requirements are met:

- The beneficiary has a need for and receives medically necessary skilled care on a daily basis, which is provided by or under the direct supervision of skilled nursing or rehabilitation professionals.
- As a practical matter, these skilled services can only be provided in an SNF.
- The services provided must be for a condition:
 - for which the resident was treated during the qualifying hospital stay, or
 - that arose while the resident was in the SNF for treatment of a condition for which he/she was previously treated for in a hospital.

Physician Certification

The attending physician or a physician on the staff of the skilled nursing home who has knowledge of the case—or a nurse practitioner (NP) or clinical nurse specialist (CNS) who does not have a direct or indirect employment relationship with the facility but who is working in collaboration with the physician—must certify and then periodically recertify the need for extended care services in the skilled nursing home.

- **Certifications** are required at the time of admission or as soon thereafter as is reasonable and practicable (42 CFR 424.20). The initial certification
 - affirms, per the required content found in 42 CFR 424.20, that the resident meets the existing SNF level of care definition, or
 - validates via written statement that the beneficiary's assignment to one of the upper RUG-IV (Top 52) groups is correct.
- **Re-certifications** are used to document the continued need for skilled extended care services.
 - The first re-certification is required no later than the 14th day.
 - Subsequent re-certifications are required no later than 30 days after the date of the most recent prior re-certification.

6.6 RUG-IV 66-Group Model Calculation Worksheet for SNFs

The purpose of this RUG-IV Version 1.00 calculation worksheet for the 66-group model is to provide a step-by-step walk-through to manually determine the appropriate RUG-IV Classification based on the data from an MDS assessment. The worksheet takes the grouper logic and puts it into words. We have carefully reviewed the worksheet to ensure that it represents the standard logic.

In the RUG-IV 66-group model, there are 23 different Rehabilitation Plus Extensive Services and Rehabilitation groups, representing 10 different levels of rehabilitation services. In the 66-group model, the residents in the Rehabilitation Plus Extensive Services groups have the highest level of combined nursing and rehabilitation need, while residents in the Rehabilitation groups have the next highest level of need. Therefore, the 66-group model has the Rehabilitation Plus Extensive Services groups first followed by the Rehabilitation groups, the Extensive Services groups, the Special Care High groups, the Special Care Low groups, the Clinically Complex groups, the Behavioral Symptoms and Cognitive Performance groups, and the Reduced Physical Function groups.

There are two basic approaches to RUG-IV Classification: (1) hierarchical classification and (2) index maximizing classification. The current worksheet was developed for the hierarchical methodology. Instructions for adapting this worksheet to the index maximizing approach are included below (see “Index Maximizing Classification”). Note that the RUG classification used for Medicare PPS Part A billing is based on the index maximizing approach.

Hierarchical Classification. The present worksheet employs the hierarchical classification method. Hierarchical classification is used in some payment systems, in staffing analysis, and in many research projects. In the hierarchical approach, start at the top and work down through the RUG-IV model; the assigned classification is the first group for which the resident qualifies. In other words, start with the Rehabilitation Plus Extensive Services groups at the top of the RUG-IV model. Then go down through the groups in hierarchical order: Rehabilitation Plus Extensive Services, Rehabilitation, Extensive Services, Special Care High, Special Care Low, Clinically Complex, Behavioral Symptoms and Cognitive Performance, and Reduced Physical Function. When you find the first of the 66 individual RUG-IV groups for which the resident qualifies, assign that group as the RUG-IV classification.

If the resident qualifies in the Extensive Services group and a Special Care High group, always choose the Extensive Services classification because it is higher in the hierarchy. Likewise, if the resident qualifies for Special Care Low and Clinically Complex, always choose Special Care Low. In hierarchical classification, always pick the group nearest the top of the model.

Index Maximizing Classification. Index maximizing classification is used in Medicare PPS (and most Medicaid payment systems). There is a designated Case Mix Index (CMI) that represents the relative resource utilization for each RUG-IV group. For index maximizing, first determine all of the RUG-IV groups for which the resident qualifies. Then, from the qualifying groups, choose the RUG-IV group that has the highest CMI. For Medicare PPS, the index maximizing method uses the CMIs effective with RUG-IV implementation on October 1, 2010.

While the present worksheet illustrates the hierarchical classification method, it can be adapted for index maximizing. For index maximizing, evaluate all classification groups rather than assigning the resident to the first qualifying group. In the index maximizing approach, again start at the beginning of the worksheet. Then work down through all of the 66 RUG-IV Classification groups, ignoring instructions to skip groups and noting each group for which the resident qualifies. When finished, record the CMI for each of these groups. Select the group with the highest CMI. This group is the index-maximized classification for the resident.

Non-Therapy Classification. In some instances, the SNF provider may be required to report, on the SNF Medicare claim, a non-therapy RUG-IV classification according to the SNF PPS policies (as noted elsewhere in this chapter, Chapter 8 of the **Medicare Benefit Policy Manual**, and Chapter 6 of the **Medicare Claims Processing Manual**). The non-therapy classification uses all the RUG-IV payment items except the rehabilitation therapy items (O0400A,B,C) to determine a non-therapy, clinical RUG. To obtain a non-therapy RUG with this worksheet, skip Category I (Rehabilitation Plus Extensive Services) and Category II (Rehabilitation) and start with Category III (Extensive Services). Both the standard Medicare Part A RUG reported in Item Z0100A and the Medicare Part A non-therapy RUG in Item Z0150A are recorded on the MDS 3.0. When rehabilitation services are not provided, the standard Medicare Part A RUG will match the Medicare Part A non-therapy RUG.

CALCULATION OF TOTAL “ADL” SCORE RUG-IV, 66-GROUP HIERARCHICAL CLASSIFICATION

The ADL score is a component of the calculation for placement in all RUG-IV groups. The ADL score is based upon the four “late loss” ADLs (bed mobility, transfer, toilet use, and eating), and this score indicates the level of functional assistance or support required by the resident. It is a very important component of the classification process.

STEP # 1

To calculate the ADL score use the following chart for bed mobility (G0110A), transfer (G0110B), and toilet use (G0110I). **Enter the ADL score for each item.**

Self- Performance Column 1 =	and	Support Column 2 =	ADL Score =	SCORE
-, 0, 1, 7, or 8	and	(any number)	0	G0110A = ___
2	and	(any number)	1	G0110B = ___
3	and	-, 0, 1, or 2	2	G0110I = ___
4	and	-, 0, 1, or 2	3	
3 or 4	and	3	4	

STEP # 2

To calculate the ADL score for eating (G0110H), use the following chart. Enter ADL score.

Self-Performance Column 1 (G0110H) =	and	Support Column 2 =	ADL Score =	SCORE
-, 0, 1, 2, 7, or 8	and	-, 0, 1, or 8	0	G0110H = ___
-, 0, 1, 2, 7, or 8	and	2 or 3	2	
3 or 4	and	-, 0, or 1	2	
3	and	2 or 3	3	
4	and	2 or 3	4	

STEP # 3

Add the four scores for the total ADL score. This is the **RUG-IV TOTAL ADL SCORE**. The total ADL score ranges from 0 through 16.

TOTAL RUG-IV ADL SCORE _____

Other ADLs are also very important, but the research indicates that the late loss ADLs predict resource use most accurately. The early loss ADLs do not significantly change the classification hierarchy or add to the prediction of resource use.

CALCULATION OF TOTAL REHABILITATION THERAPY MINUTES

RUG-IV, 66-GROUP HIERARCHICAL CLASSIFICATION

For Speech-Language Pathology Services (Items at O0400A), Occupational Therapy (Items at O0400B), and Physical Therapy (Items at O0400C), the MDS 3.0 separately captures minutes that the resident was receiving individual, concurrent, and group therapy (see Chapter 3, Section O for definitions) during the last 7 days. For each therapy discipline, the total minutes used for RUG-IV classification include all minutes in individual therapy, one-half of the minutes in concurrent therapy (although total minutes received are documented on each resident's MDS), and all minutes in group therapy. For Medicare Part A there is a limitation that the group minutes cannot exceed 25% of the total minutes. Such a limitation may also be used for other payment systems.

Skip this section if therapy is not provided.

STEP # 1

Calculate the total minutes for speech-language pathology services as follows:

Add the individual minutes (O0400A1), one-half of the concurrent minutes (O0400A2), and the group minutes (O0400A3) and record as Total Minutes.

Total Minutes = _____

When the 25% group therapy limitation applies (i.e., for Medicare Part A residents), calculate the adjusted total minutes as follows:

If group minutes (O0400A3) divided by Total Minutes is greater than 0.25, then add individual minutes (O0400A1) and one-half of concurrent minutes (O0400A2), multiply this sum by 1.33, and record as Adjusted Minutes.

Adjusted Minutes = _____

Record Total Minutes or Adjusted Minutes as appropriate:

Speech-Language Pathology Services Minutes = _____

STEP # 2

Calculate the total minutes for occupational therapy as follows:

Add the individual minutes (O0400B1), one-half of the concurrent minutes (O0400B2), and the group minutes (O0400B3) and record as Total Minutes.

Total Minutes = _____

When the 25% group therapy limitation applies (i.e., for Medicare Part A residents), calculate the adjusted total minutes as follows:

If group minutes (O0400B3) divided by Total Minutes are greater than 0.25, then add individual minutes (O0400B1) and one-half of concurrent minutes (O0400B2), multiply this sum by 1.33, and record as Adjusted Minutes.

Adjusted Minutes = _____

Record Total Minutes or Adjusted Minutes as appropriate:

Occupational Therapy Minutes = _____

STEP # 3

Calculate the total minutes for physical therapy as follows:

Add the individual minutes (O0400C1), one-half of the concurrent minutes (O0400C2), and the group minutes (O0400C3) and record as Total Minutes.

Total Minutes = _____

When the 25% group therapy limitation applies (i.e., for Medicare Part A residents), calculate the adjusted total minutes as follows:

If group minutes (O0400C3) divided by Total Minutes is greater than 0.25, then add individual minutes (O0400C1) and one-half of concurrent minutes (O0400C2), multiply this sum by 1.33, and record as Adjusted Minutes.

Adjusted Minutes = _____

Record Total Minutes or Adjusted Minutes as appropriate:

Physical Therapy Minutes = _____

STEP # 4

Sum the speech-language pathology services minutes, occupational therapy minutes, and physical therapy minutes and record as Total Therapy Minutes. These are the minutes that will be used for RUG-IV rehabilitation therapy classification.

TOTAL THERAPY MINUTES = _____

MEDICARE SHORT STAY ASSESSMENT

RUG-IV, 66-GROUP HIERARCHICAL CLASSIFICATION

STEP # 1

Set the Medicare Short Stay Indicator (Z0100C) as follows:

RUG-IV uses an alternative rehabilitation therapy classification when an assessment is a Medicare Short Stay assessment. To be considered a Medicare Short Stay assessment and use the special RUG-IV short stay rehabilitation therapy classification, all six of the following conditions must be met:

1. **The assessment must be a Start of Therapy OMRA (A0310C = 1 or 3).** This assessment may be completed alone or combined with any OBRA assessment or combined with a PPS 5-day or readmission/return assessment. The Start of Therapy OMRA may not be combined with a PPS 14-day, 30-day, 60-day, or 90-day assessment. The Start of Therapy OMRA should also be combined with a discharge assessment when the end of Part A stay is the result of discharge from the facility, but should not be combined with a discharge if the resident dies in the facility or is transferred to another payer source in the facility.
2. **A PPS 5-day (A0310B = 01) or readmission/return assessment (A0310B = 06) has been completed.** The PPS 5-day or readmission/return assessment may be completed alone or combined with the Start of Therapy OMRA.
3. **The ARD (A2300) must be on or before the 8th day of the Part A Medicare covered stay.** The ARD minus the start of Medicare stay date (A2400B) must be 7 days or less.
4. **The ARD (A2300) of the Start of Therapy OMRA must be the last covered Medicare Part A day.** The Start of Therapy OMRA ARD must equal the end of Medicare stay date (A2400C). The end of the Medicare stay date is the date Part A ended. See instructions for A2400C in Chapter 3 for more detail.
5. **Rehabilitation therapy (speech-language pathology services, occupational therapy or physical therapy) started during the last 4 days of the Medicare Part A covered stay (including weekends).** The end of Medicare stay date (A2400C) minus the earliest start date for the three therapy disciplines (O0400A5, O0400B5, or O0400C5) must be 3 days or less.
6. **At least one therapy discipline continued through the last day of the Medicare Part A covered stay.** At least one of the therapy disciplines must have a dash-filled end of therapy date (O0400A5, O0400B5, or O0400C5) indicating ongoing therapy or an end of therapy date equal to the end of covered Medicare stay date (A2400C).

If all six conditions are satisfied, record "Yes" in the Medicare Short Stay Indicator; otherwise record "No."

MEDICARE SHORT STAY INDICATOR Yes _____ No _____

STEP # 2

If the Medicare Short Stay Indicator is “Yes,” then calculate the Medicare Short Stay Average Therapy Minutes as follows:

This average is the Total Therapy Minutes (calculated above in Calculation of Total Rehabilitation Therapy Minutes) divided by the number of days from the start of therapy (earliest date in O0400A5, O0400B5, and O0400C5) through the assessment reference date (A2300). For example, if therapy started on August 1 and the assessment reference date is August 3, the average minutes is calculated by dividing by 3 days. Round the result to the nearest minute. If the value after the decimal place is equal to 0 through 4, round the value down to the nearest integer (i.e., discard the fractional portion of the number). If the value after the decimal place is equal to 5 through 9, round the value up to the next largest integer.

MEDICARE SHORT STAY AVERAGE THERAPY MINUTES = _____

CATEGORY I: REHABILITATION PLUS EXTENSIVE SERVICES

RUG-IV, 66-GROUP HIERARCHICAL CLASSIFICATION

Start the classification process beginning with the Rehabilitation Plus Extensive Services category. In order for a resident to qualify for this category, he/she must meet three requirements: (1) have an ADL score of 2 or more, (2) meet one of the criteria for the Extensive Services category, and (3) meet the criteria for one of the Rehabilitation categories.

STEP # 1

Check the resident's ADL score. If the resident's ADL score is 2 or higher, **go to Step #2.**

If the ADL score is less than 2, skip to Category II now.

STEP # 2

Determine whether the resident is coded for **one** of the following treatments or services:

O0100E2	Tracheostomy care while a resident
O0100F2	Ventilator or respirator while a resident
O0100M2	Infection isolation while a resident

If the resident does not receive one of these treatments or services, skip to Category II now.

STEP # 3

Determine if the resident's rehabilitation therapy services (speech-language pathology services, or occupational or physical therapy) satisfy the criteria for one of the RUG-IV Rehabilitation categories. **If the resident does not meet all of the criteria for a Rehabilitation category (e.g., Ultra High Intensity), then move to the next category (e.g., Very High Intensity).**

A. **Ultra High Intensity Criteria** (the resident qualifies if either [1] or [2] is satisfied)

1. In the past 7 days:
 - Total Therapy Minutes (calculated on page 6-19) of 720 minutes or more
 - and**
 - One discipline (O0400A4, O0400B4 or O0400C4) for at least 5 days
 - and**
 - A second discipline (O0400A4, O0400B4 or O0400C4) for at least 3 days
2. **If the Medicare Short Stay Assessment Indicator (determined on page 6-20) is "Yes":**
 - Medicare Short Stay Average Therapy Minutes (calculated on page 6-21) of 144 minutes or more

<u>RUG-IV ADL Score</u>	<u>RUG-IV Class</u>
11-16	RUX
2-10	RUL

B. Very High Intensity Criteria (the resident qualifies if either [1] or [2] is satisfied)

1. In the last 7 days:
 Total Therapy Minutes (calculated on page 6-19) of 500 minutes or more
and
 At least 1 discipline (O0400A4, O0400B4 or O0400C4) for at least 5 days
2. **If the Medicare Short Stay Assessment Indicator (determined on page 6-20) is “Yes”:**
 Medicare Short Stay Average Therapy Minutes (calculated on page 6-21) of between 100 and 143 minutes

<u>RUG-IV ADL Score</u>	<u>RUG-IV Class</u>
11-16	RVX
2-10	RVL

C. High Intensity Criteria (the resident qualifies if either [1] or [2] is satisfied)

1. In the last 7 days:
 Total Therapy Minutes (calculated on page 6-19) of 325 minutes or more
and
 At least 1 discipline (O0400A4, O0400B4, or O0400C4) for at least 5 days
2. **If the Medicare Short Stay Assessment Indicator (determined on page 6-20) is “Yes”:**
 Medicare Short Stay Average Therapy Minutes (calculated on page 6-21) of between 65 and 99 minutes

<u>RUG-IV ADL Score</u>	<u>RUG-IV Class</u>
11-16	RHX
2-10	RHL

D. Medium Intensity Criteria (the resident qualifies if either [1] or [2] is satisfied)

1. In the last 7 days:
 Total Therapy Minutes (calculated on page 6-19) of 150 minutes or more
and
 At least 5 days of any combination of the three disciplines (O0400A4 plus O0400B4 plus O0400C4)
2. **If the Medicare Short Stay Assessment Indicator (determined on page 6-20) is “Yes”:**
 Medicare Short Stay Average Therapy Minutes (calculated on page 6-21) of between 30 and 64 minutes

<u>RUG-IV ADL Score</u>	<u>RUG-IV Class</u>
11-16	RMX
2-10	RML

E. **Low Intensity Criteria** (the resident qualifies if either [1] or [2] is satisfied):

1. In the last 7 days:
 - Total Therapy Minutes (calculated on page 6-19) of 45 minutes or more
 - and**
 - At least 3 days of any combination of the 3 disciplines (O0400A4, plus O0400B4 plus O0400C4)
 - and**
 - Two or more restorative nursing services* received for 6 or more days for at least 15 minutes a day
2. **If the Medicare Short Stay Assessment Indicator (determined on page 6-20) is “Yes”:**
 - Medicare Short Stay Average Therapy Minutes (calculated on page 6-21) of between 15 and 29 minutes

*Restorative Nursing Services

- H0200C, H0500** Urinary toileting program and/or bowel toileting program
- O0500A,B** Passive and/or active ROM
- O0500C Splint or brace assistance
- O0500D,F** Bed mobility and/or walking training
- O0500E Transfer training
- O0500G Dressing and/or grooming training
- O0500H Eating and/or swallowing training
- O0500I Amputation/prostheses care
- O0500J Communication training

**Count as one service even if both provided

RUG-IV ADL Score

2-16

RUG-IV Class

RLX

RUG-IV Classification _____

If the resident does not classify in the Rehabilitation Plus Extensive Services Category, proceed to Category II.

CATEGORY II: REHABILITATION

RUG-IV, 66-GROUP HIERARCHICAL CLASSIFICATION

Rehabilitation therapy is any combination of the disciplines of physical therapy, occupational therapy, or speech-language pathology services, and is located in Section O (Items at O0400A,B,C). Nursing rehabilitation is also considered for the low intensity classification level. It consists of urinary or bowel toileting program, providing active or passive range of motion, providing splint/brace assistance, training in bed mobility or walking, training in transfer, training in dressing/grooming, training in eating/swallowing, training in amputation/prosthesis care, and training in communication. This information is found in Sections H0200C, H0500, and O0500.

STEP # 1

Determine whether the resident's rehabilitation therapy services satisfy the criteria for one of the RUG-IV Rehabilitation categories. **If the resident does not meet all of the criteria for one Rehabilitation category (e.g., Ultra High Intensity), then move to the next category (e.g., Very High Intensity).**

A. **Ultra High Intensity Criteria** (the resident qualifies if either [1] or [2] is satisfied)

1. In the last 7 days:
 - Total Therapy Minutes (calculated on page 6-19) of 720 minutes or more
 - and**
 - One discipline (O0400A4, O0400B4 or O0400C4) for at least 5 days
 - and**
 - A second discipline (O0400A4, O0400B4 or O0400C4) for at least 3 days
2. **If the Medicare Short Stay Assessment Indicator (determined on page 6-20) is "Yes":**
 - Medicare Short Stay Average Therapy Minutes (calculated on page 6-21) of 144 minutes or more

<u>RUG-IV ADL Score</u>	<u>RUG-IV Class</u>
11-16	RUC
6-10	RUB
0-5	RUA

B. **Very High Intensity Criteria** (the resident qualifies if either [1] or [2] is satisfied)

1. In the last 7 days:
 - Total Therapy Minutes (calculated on page 6-19) of 500 minutes or more
 - and**
 - At least 1 discipline (O0400A4, O0400B4 or O0400C4) for at least 5 days
2. **If the Medicare Short Stay Assessment Indicator (determined on page 6-20) is "Yes":**
 - Medicare Short Stay Average Therapy Minutes (calculated on page 6-21) of between 100 and 143 minutes

<u>RUG-IV ADL Score</u>	<u>RUG-IV Class</u>
11-16	RVC
6-10	RVB
0-5	RVA

C. High Intensity Criteria (the resident qualifies if either [1] or [2] is satisfied)

1. In the last 7 days:
 Total Therapy Minutes (calculated on page 6-19) of 325 minutes or more
and
 At least 1 discipline (O0400A4, O0400B4 or O0400C4) for at least 5 days
2. **If the Medicare Short Stay Assessment Indicator (determined on page 6-20) is “Yes”:**
 Medicare Short Stay Average Therapy Minutes (calculated on page 6-21) of between 65 and 99 minutes

<u>RUG-IV ADL Score</u>	<u>RUG-IV Class</u>
11-16	RHC
6-10	RHB
0-5	RHA

D. Medium Intensity Criteria (the resident qualifies if either [1] or [2] is satisfied)

1. In the last 7 days:
 Total Therapy Minutes (calculated on page 6-19) of 150 minutes or more
and
 At least 5 days of any combination of the three disciplines (O0400A4, plus O0400B4 plus O0400C4)
2. **If the Medicare Short Stay Assessment Indicator (determined on page 6-20) is “Yes”:**
 Medicare Short Stay Average Therapy Minutes (calculated on page 6-21) of between 30 and 64 minutes

<u>RUG-IV ADL Score</u>	<u>RUG-IV Class</u>
11-16	RMC
6-10	RMB
0-5	RMA

E. Low Intensity Criteria (the resident qualifies if either [1] or [2] is satisfied):

1. In the last 7 days:
 Total Therapy Minutes (calculated on page 6-19) of 45 minutes or more
and
 At least 3 days of any combination of the three disciplines (O0400A4 plus O0400B4 plus O0400C4)
and
 Two or more restorative nursing services* received for 6 or more days for at least 15 minutes a day

2. If the Medicare Short Stay Assessment Indicator (determined on page 6-20) is “Yes”:

Medicare Short Stay Average Therapy Minutes (calculated on page 6-21) of between 15 and 29 minutes

***Nursing Restorative Services**

H0200C, H0500** Urinary toileting program and/or bowel toileting program

O0500A,B** Passive and/or active ROM

O0500C Splint or brace assistance

O0500D,F** Bed mobility and/or walking training

O0500E Transfer training

O0500G Dressing and/or grooming training

O0500H Eating and/or swallowing training

O0500I Amputation/prostheses care

O0500J Communication training

**Count as one service even if both provided

RUG-IV ADL Score

11-16

0-10

RUG-IV Class

RLB

RLA

RUG-IV Classification _____

If the resident does not classify in the Rehabilitation Category, proceed to Category III.

CATEGORY III: EXTENSIVE SERVICES

RUG-IV, 66-GROUP HIERARCHICAL CLASSIFICATION

The classification groups in this category are based on various services provided. Use the following instructions to begin the calculation:

STEP # 1

Determine whether the resident is coded for **one** of the following treatments or services:

- O0100E2 Tracheostomy care while a resident
- O0100F2 Ventilator or respirator while a resident
- O0100M2 Infection isolation while a resident

If the resident does not receive one of these treatments or services, skip to Category IV now.

STEP # 2

If at least **one** of these treatments or services is coded and the resident has a total RUG-IV ADL score of 2 or more, he/she classifies as Extensive Services. **Move to Step #3. If the resident's ADL score is 0 or 1, s/he classifies as Clinically Complex. Skip to Category VI, Step #2.**

STEP # 3

The resident classifies in the Extensive Services category according to the following chart:

<u>Extensive Service Conditions</u>	<u>RUG-IV Class</u>
Tracheostomy care* and ventilator/respirator*	ES3
Tracheostomy care* or ventilator/respirator*	ES2
Infection isolation*	ES1
without tracheostomy care*	
without ventilator/respirator*	

*while a resident

RUG-IV Classification _____

If the resident does not classify in the Extensive Services Category, proceed to Category IV.

CATEGORY IV: SPECIAL CARE HIGH

RUG-IV, 66-GROUP HIERARCHICAL CLASSIFICATION

The classification groups in this category are based on certain resident conditions or services. Use the following instructions:

STEP # 1

Determine whether the resident is coded for **one** of the following conditions or services:

B0100, ADLs	Comatose and completely ADL dependent or ADL did not occur (G0110A1, G0110B1, G0110H1, and G0110I1 all equal 4 or 8)
I2100	Septicemia
I2900, N0350A,B	Diabetes with both of the following: Insulin injections (N0350A) for all 7 days Insulin order changes on 2 or more days (N0350B)
I5100, ADL Score	Quadriplegia with ADL score ≥ 5
I6200, J1100C	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and shortness of breath when lying flat
J1550A, others	Fever and one of the following; I2000 Pneumonia J1550B Vomiting K0300 Weight loss (1 or 2) K0500B Feeding tube*
K0500A	Parenteral/IV feedings
O0400D2	Respiratory therapy for all 7 days

*Tube feeding classification requirements:

- (1) K0700A is 51% or more of total calories OR
- (2) K0700A is 26% to 50% of total calories and K0700B is 501 cc or more per day fluid enteral intake in the last 7 days.

If the resident does not have one of these conditions, skip to Category V now.

STEP # 2

If at least **one** of the special care conditions above is coded and the resident has a total RUG-IV ADL score of 2 or more, he or she classifies as Special Care High. **Move to Step #3. If the resident's ADL score is 0 or 1, he or she classifies as Clinically Complex. Skip to Category VI, Step #2.**

STEP # 3

Evaluate for depression. Signs and symptoms of depression are used as a third-level split for the Special Care High category. Residents with signs and symptoms of depression are identified by the Resident Mood Interview (PHQ-9[®]) or the Staff Assessment of Resident Mood (PHQ-9-OV[®]). Instructions for completing the PHQ-9 are in Chapter 3, Section D. The following items compromise the PHQ-9:

Resident	Staff	Description
D0200A	D0500A	Little interest or pleasure in doing things
D0200B	D0500B	Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless
D0200C	D0500C	Trouble falling or staying asleep, sleeping too much
D0200D	D0500D	Feeling tired or having little energy
D0200E	D0500E	Poor appetite or overeating
D0200F	D0500F	Feeling bad or failure or let self or others down
D0200G	D0500G	Trouble concentrating on things
D0200H	D0500H	Moving or speaking slowly or being fidgety or restless
D0200I	D0500I	Thoughts better off dead or hurting self
-	D0500J	Short-tempered, easily annoyed

These items are used to calculate a Total Severity Score for the resident interview at Item D0300 and for the staff assessment at Item D0600. The resident qualifies as depressed for RUG-IV classification in either of the two following cases:

The D0300 Total Severity Score is greater than or equal to 10 but not 99,

or

The D0600 Total Severity Score is greater than or equal to 10.

Resident Qualifies as Depressed Yes _____ No _____

STEP # 4

Select the Special Care High classification based on the ADL score and the presence or absence of depression record this classification:

<u>RUG-IV ADL Score</u>	<u>Depressed</u>	<u>RUG-IV Class</u>
15-16	Yes	HE2
15-16	No	HE1
11-14	Yes	HD2
11-14	No	HD1
6-10	Yes	HC2
6-10	No	HC1
2-5	Yes	HB2
2-5	No	HB1

RUG-IV CLASSIFICATION _____

CATEGORY V: SPECIAL CARE LOW

RUG-IV, 66-GROUP HIERARCHICAL CLASSIFICATION

The classification groups in this category are based on certain resident conditions or services. Use the following instructions:

STEP # 1

Determine whether the resident is coded for **one** of the following conditions or services:

I4400, ADL Score	Cerebral palsy, with ADL score ≥ 5
I5200, ADL Score	Multiple sclerosis, with ADL score ≥ 5
I5300, ADL Score	Parkinson's disease, with ADL score ≥ 5
I6300, O0100C2	Respiratory failure and oxygen therapy while a resident
K0500B	Feeding tube*
M0300B1	Two or more stage 2 pressure ulcers with two or more selected skin treatments**
M0300C1,D1,F1	Any stage 3 or 4 pressure ulcer with two or more selected skin treatments**
M1030	Two or more venous/arterial ulcers with two or more selected skin treatments**
M0300B1, M1030	1 stage 2 pressure ulcer and 1 venous/arterial ulcer with 2 or more selected skin treatments**
M1040A,B,C; M1200I	Foot infection, diabetic foot ulcer or other open lesion of foot with application of dressings to the feet
O0100B2	Radiation treatment while a resident
O0100J2	Dialysis treatment while a resident

*Tube feeding classification requirements:

- (1) K0700A is 51% or more of total calories OR
- (2) K0700A is 26% to 50% of total calories and K0700B is 501 cc or more per day fluid enteral intake in the last 7 days.

**Selected skin treatments:

- M1200A,B# Pressure relieving chair and/or bed
- M1200C Turning/repositioning
- M1200D Nutrition or hydration intervention
- M1200E Ulcer care
- M1200G Application of dressings (not to feet)
- M1200H Application of ointments (not to feet)

#Count as one treatment even if both provided

If the resident does not have one of these conditions, skip to Category VI now.

STEP # 2

If at least **one** of the special care conditions above is coded and the resident has a total RUG-IV ADL score of 2 or more, he or she classifies as Special Care Low. **Move to Step #3. If the resident's ADL score is 0 or 1, he or she classifies as Clinically Complex. Skip to Category VI, Step #2.**

STEP # 3

Evaluate for depression. Signs and symptoms of depression are used as a third-level split for the Special Care Low category. Residents with signs and symptoms of depression are indentified by the Resident Mood Interview (PHQ-9[®]) or the Staff Assessment of Resident Mood (PHQ-9-OV[®]). Instructions for completing the PHQ-9 are in Chapter 3, Section D. The following items compromise the PHQ-9:

Resident	Staff	Description
D0200A	D0500A	Little interest or pleasure in doing things
D0200B	D0500B	Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless
D0200C	D0500C	Trouble falling or staying asleep, sleeping too much
D0200D	D0500D	Feeling tired or having little energy
D0200E	D0500E	Poor appetite or overeating
D0200F	D0500F	Feeling bad or failure or let self or others down
D0200G	D0500G	Trouble concentrating on things
D0200H	D0500H	Moving or speaking slowly or being fidgety or restless
D0200I	D0500I	Thoughts better off dead or hurting self
-	D0500J	Short-tempered, easily annoyed

These items are used to calculate a Total Severity Score for the resident interview at Item D0300 and for the staff assessment at Item D0600. The resident qualifies as depressed for RUG-IV classification in either of the two following cases:

The D0300 Total Severity Score is greater than or equal to 10 but not 99,

or

The D0600 Total Severity Score is greater than or equal to 10.

Resident Qualifies as Depressed Yes _____ No _____

STEP # 4

Select the Special Care Low classification based on the ADL score and the presence or absence of depression; record this classification:

<u>RUG-IV ADL Score</u>	<u>Depressed</u>	<u>RUG-IV Class</u>
15-16	Yes	LE2
15-16	No	LE1
11-14	Yes	LD2
11-14	No	LD1
6-10	Yes	LC2
6-10	No	LC1
2-5	Yes	LB2
2-5	No	LB1

RUG-IV CLASSIFICATION _____

CATEGORY VI: CLINICALLY COMPLEX RUG-IV, 66-GROUP HIERARCHICAL CLASSIFICATION

The classification groups in this category are based on certain resident conditions or services. Use the following instructions:

STEP # 1

Determine whether the resident is coded for **one** of the following conditions or services:

I2000	Pneumonia
I4900, ADL Score	Hemiplegia/hemiparesis with ADL score ≥ 5
M1040D,E	Surgical wounds or open lesions with any selected skin treatment*
M1040F	Burns
O0100A2	Chemotherapy while a resident
O0100C2	Oxygen therapy while a resident
O0100H2	IV medications while a resident
O0100I2	Transfusions while a resident

*Selected Skin Treatments

- M1200F Surgical wound care
- M1200G Application of dressing (not to feet)
- M1200H Application of ointments (not to feet)

If the resident does not have one of these conditions, skip to Category VII now.

STEP # 2

Evaluate for depression. Signs and symptoms of depression are used as a third-level split for the Clinically Complex category. Residents with signs and symptoms of depression are identified by the Resident Mood Interview (PHQ-9[®]) or the Staff Assessment of Resident Mood (PHQ-9-OV[®]). Instructions for completing the PHQ-9 are in Chapter 3, section D. The following items comprise the PHQ-9:

Resident	Staff	Description
D0200A	D0500A	Little interest or pleasure in doing things
D0200B	D0500B	Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless
D0200C	D0500C	Trouble falling or staying asleep, sleeping too much
D0200D	D0500D	Feeling tired or having little energy
D0200E	D0500E	Poor appetite or overeating
D0200F	D0500F	Feeling bad or failure or let self or others down
D0200G	D0500G	Trouble concentrating on things
D0200H	D0500H	Moving or speaking slowly or being fidgety or restless
D0200I	D0500I	Thoughts better off dead or hurting self
-	D0500J	Short-tempered, easily annoyed

These items are used to calculate a Total Severity Score for the resident interview at Item D0300 and for the staff assessment at Item D0600. A higher Total Severity Score is associated with more symptoms of depression. For the resident interview, a Total Severity Score of 99 indicates that the interview was not successful.

The resident qualifies as depressed for RUG-IV classification in either of the two following cases:

The D0300 Total Severity Score is greater than or equal to 10 but not 99,

or

The D0600 Total Severity Score is greater than or equal to 10.

Resident Qualifies as Depressed Yes _____ No _____

STEP # 3

Select the Clinically Complex classification based on the ADL score and the presence or absence of depression record this classification:

<u>RUG-IV ADL Score</u>	<u>Depressed</u>	<u>RUG-IV Class</u>
15-16	YES	CE2
15-16	NO	CE1
11-14	YES	CD2
11-14	NO	CD1
6-10	YES	CC2
6-10	NO	CC1
2-5	YES	CB2
2-5	NO	CB1
0-1	YES	CA2
0-1	NO	CA1

RUG-IV CLASSIFICATION _____

CATEGORY VII: BEHAVIORAL SYMPTOMS AND COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE

RUG-IV, 66-GROUP HIERARCHICAL CLASSIFICATION

Classification in this category is based on the presence of certain behavioral symptoms and the resident's cognitive performance. Use the following instructions:

STEP # 1

Determine the resident's ADL score. If the resident's ADL score is 5 or less, go to Step #2.

If the ADL score is greater than 5, skip to Category VIII now.

STEP # 2

If the resident interview using the Brief Interview for Mental Status (BIMS) was not conducted (indicated by a value of "0" for Item C0100), skip the remainder of this step and proceed to Step #3 to check staff assessment for cognitive impairment.

Determine the resident's cognitive status based on resident interview using the BIMS. Instructions for completing the BIMS are in Chapter 3, Section C. The BIMS items involve the following:

C0200	Repetition of three words
C0300	Temporal orientation
C0400	Recall

Item C0500 provides a BIMS Summary Score for these items and indicates the resident's cognitive performance, with a score of 15 indicating the best cognitive performance and 0 indicating the worst performance. If the resident interview is not successful, then the BIMS Summary Score will equal 99.

Determine whether the resident is cognitively impaired. **If the resident's Summary Score is less than or equal to 9, he or she is cognitively impaired and classifies in the Behavioral Symptoms and Cognitive Performance category. Skip to Step #5.**

If the resident's summary score is greater than 9 but not 99, proceed to Step #4 to check behavioral symptoms.

If the resident's Summary Score is 99 (resident interview not successful) or the Summary Score is blank (resident interview not attempted and skipped), proceed to Step #3 to check staff assessment for cognitive impairment.

STEP # 3

Determine whether the resident is cognitively impaired based on the staff assessment rather than on resident interview. The RUG-IV Cognitive Performance Scale (CPS) is used to determine cognitive impairment.

The resident is cognitively impaired if **one** of the three following conditions exists:

1. B0100 Coma (B0100 = 1) and completely ADL dependent or ADL did not occur (G0110A1, G0110B1, G0110H1, G0100I1 all = 4 or 8)
2. C1000 Severely impaired cognitive skills (C1000 = 3)
3. B0700, C0700, C1000 Two or more of the following impairment indicators are present:
 - B0700 > 0 Problem being understood
 - C0700 = 1 Short-term memory problem
 - C1000 > 0 Cognitive skills problem

and

One or more of the following severe impairment indicators are present:

 - B0700 >= 2 Severe problem being understood
 - C1000 >= 2 Severe cognitive skills problem

If the resident meets the criteria for being cognitively impaired, then he or she classifies in Behavioral Symptoms and Cognitive Performance. Skip to Step #5. If he or she does not present with a cognitive impairment, proceed to Step #4.

STEP # 4

Determine whether the resident presents with **one** of the following behavioral symptoms:

- | | |
|--------|---|
| E0100A | Hallucinations |
| E0100B | Delusions |
| E0200A | Physical behavioral symptoms directed toward others (2 or 3) |
| E0200B | Verbal behavioral symptoms directed toward others (2 or 3) |
| E0200C | Other behavioral symptoms not directed toward others (2 or 3) |
| E0800 | Rejection of care (2 or 3) |
| E0900 | Wandering (2 or 3) |

If the resident presents with one of the symptoms above, then he or she classifies in Behavioral Symptoms and Cognitive Performance. Proceed to Step #7. If he or she does not present with behavioral symptoms or a cognitive impairment, skip to Category VIII.

STEP # 5

Determine Restorative Nursing Count

Count the number of the following services provided for 15 or more minutes a day for 6 or more of the last 7 days:

H0200C, H0500**	Urinary toileting program and/or bowel toileting program
O0500A,B**	Passive and/or active ROM
O0500C	Splint or brace assistance
O0500D,F**	Bed mobility and/or walking training
O0500E	Transfer training
O0500G	Dressing and/or grooming training
O0500H	Eating and/or swallowing training
O0500I	Amputation/prostheses care
O0500J	Communication training

**Count as one service even if both provided

Restorative Nursing Count _____

STEP # 6

Select the final RUG-IV Classification by using the total RUG-IV ADL score and the Restorative Nursing Count.

<u>RUG-IV ADL Score</u>	<u>Restorative Nursing</u>	<u>RUG-IV Class</u>
2-5	2 or more	BB2
2-5	0 or 1	BB1
0-1	2 or more	BA2
0-1	0 or 1	BA1

RUG-IV CLASSIFICATION _____

CATEGORY VIII: REDUCED PHYSICAL FUNCTION

RUG-IV, 66-GROUP HIERARCHICAL CLASSIFICATION

STEP # 1

Residents who do not meet the conditions of any of the previous categories, including those who would meet the criteria for the Behavioral Symptoms and Cognitive Performance category but have a RUG-IV ADL score greater than 5, are placed in this category.

STEP # 2

Determine Restorative Nursing Count

Count the number of the following services provided for 15 or more minutes a day for 6 or more of the last 7 days:

H0200C, H0500**	Urinary toileting program and/or bowel toileting program
O0500A,B**	Passive and/or active ROM
O0500C	Splint or brace assistance
O0500D,F**	Bed mobility and/or walking training
O0500E	Transfer training
O0500G	Dressing and/or grooming training
O0500H	Eating and/or swallowing training
O0500I	Amputation/prostheses care
O0500J	Communication training

**Count as one service even if both provided

Restorative Nursing Count _____

STEP # 3

Select the RUG-IV Classification by using the RUG-IV ADL score and the Restorative Nursing Count.

<u>RUG-IV ADL Score</u>	<u>Restorative Nursing</u>	<u>RUG-IV Class</u>
15-16	2 or more	PE2
15-16	0 or 1	PE1
11-14	2 or more	PD2
11-14	0 or 1	PD1
6-10	2 or more	PC2
6-10	0 or 1	PC1
2-5	2 or more	PB2
2-5	0 or 1	PB1
0-1	2 or more	PA2
0-1	0 or 1	PA1

RUG-IV CLASSIFICATION _____

ADJUSTMENT FOR START OF THERAPY OMRA RUG-IV, 66-GROUP HIERARCHICAL CLASSIFICATION

If an assessment is a Start of Therapy OMRA (indicated by MDS Item A0310C = 1 or 3 [whether or not it is combined with other types of assessments]), then RUG-IV classification must be in a Rehabilitation Plus Extensive Services group or a Rehabilitation group. Lower classifications are not allowed. If the classification for a Start of Therapy OMRA is not in a Rehabilitation Plus Extensive Services group or a Rehabilitation group, then adjust the classification to AAA (the default group) for both the Medicare Part A RUG reported in Item Z0100A and the Medicare Part A non-therapy RUG in Item Z0150A. The Quality Improvement Evaluation System (QIES) Assessment Submission and Processing (ASAP) system will reject the assessment.

A Start of Therapy OMRA (MDS Item A0310C = 1 or 3) will not support a Medicare Part A non-therapy RUG, unless that Start of Therapy OMRA is combined with an OBRA or other PPS assessment. If the Start of Therapy OMRA is not combined with an OBRA assessment (Item A0310A = 99) and not combined with a scheduled PPS assessment (Item A310B = 07 or 99) and not combined with a Swing Bed clinical change assessment (A0310D = 0 or skipped), then adjust the Medicare Part A non-therapy RUG classification to AAA, the default group.

6.7 SNF PPS Policies

Requirements and policies for SNF PPS are described in greater detail in the **Medicare Benefit Policy Manual**. Here are some situations that the SNF may encounter that may impact Medicare Part SNF coverage for a resident, affect the PPS assessment schedule, or impact the reimbursement received by the SNF.

Delay in Requiring and Receiving Skilled Services (30-Day Transfer)

There are instances in which the beneficiary does not require SNF level of care services when initially admitted to the SNF. When the beneficiary requires and receives SNF level of care services within 30 days from the hospital discharge, Day 1 for the Medicare assessment schedule is the day on which SNF level of care services begins. For example, if a beneficiary is discharged from the hospital on August 1 and the SNF determines on August 31 that the beneficiary requires skilled service for a condition that was treated during the qualifying hospital stay, then the SNF would start the Medicare assessment schedule with a 5-day Medicare-required assessment, with August 31 as Day 1 for scheduling purposes. However, if the beneficiary requires and receives a SNF level of care 31 or more days after the hospital discharge, the beneficiary does not qualify for a SNF Part A stay (see Medical Appropriateness Exception below).

Medical Appropriateness Exception (Deferred Treatment)

An elapsed period of more than 30 days is permitted for starting SNF Part A services when a resident's condition makes it inappropriate to begin an active course of treatment in a SNF immediately after a qualifying hospital stay discharge. It is applicable only where, under accepted medical practice, the established pattern of treatment for a particular condition indicates that a covered level of SNF care will be required within a predeterminable time frame, and it is medically predictable at the time of hospital discharge that the beneficiary will require SNF level of care within a predetermined time period (for more detailed information see Chapter 8 of the **Medicare Benefit Policy Manual**). For example, a beneficiary is admitted to the SNF after a qualifying hospital stay for an open reduction and internal fixation of a hip. It is determined upon hospital discharge that the beneficiary is not ready for weight-bearing activity but will most likely be ready in 4-6 weeks. The physician writes an order to start therapy when the beneficiary is able to tolerate weight bearing. Once the resident is able to start therapy, the Medicare Part A stay begins, and the Medicare-required 5-day assessment will be completed. Day 1 of the stay will be the first day on which the resident starts therapy services.

Resident Discharged from Part A Skilled Services and Returns to SNF Part A Skilled Level Services

In the situation in which a beneficiary is discharged from Medicare Part A services and later requires SNF Part A skilled level of care services, the resident may be eligible for Medicare Part A SNF coverage if the following criteria are met:

1. Less than 30 days have elapsed since the last day on which SNF level of care services were required and received,

2. SNF-level services required by the resident are for a condition that was treated during the qualifying hospital stay or for a condition that arose while receiving care in the SNF for a condition for which the beneficiary was previously treated in the hospital,
3. Services must be reasonable and necessary,
4. Services can only be provided on an inpatient basis,
5. Resident must require and receive the services on a daily basis, and
6. Resident has remaining days in the SNF benefit period.

For greater detail, refer to the **Medicare Benefit Policy Manual**, Chapter 8.

6.8 Non-compliance with the SNF PPS Assessment Schedule

To receive payment under the SNF PPS, the SNF must complete scheduled and unscheduled assessments as described in Chapter 2.

According to 42 CFR 413.343, an assessment that does not have an ARD within the prescribed ARD window will be paid at the default rate for the number of days the ARD is out of compliance. Frequent early or late assessment scheduling practices may result in a review. The default rate (AAA) takes the place of the otherwise applicable Federal rate. It is equal to the rate paid for the RUG group reflecting the lowest acuity level, and would generally be lower than the Medicare rate payable if the SNF had submitted an assessment in accordance with the prescribed assessment schedule.

Early Assessment

An assessment must be completed according to the designated Medicare PPS assessment schedule. If a scheduled Medicare-required assessment or an OMRA is performed earlier than the schedule indicates (the ARD is not in the defined window), the provider will be paid at the default rate for the number of days the assessment was out of compliance. For example, a Medicare-required 14-day assessment with an ARD of Day 10 (1 day early) would be paid at the default rate for the first day of the payment period that begins on day 15.

Late Assessment

The SNF must complete a late assessment if the SNF fails to set the ARD within the defined ARD window for a scheduled Medicare-required assessment (including the grace days) or an OMRA when the resident is still on Part A coverage. The ARD can be no earlier than the day the omission was identified. If the ARD on the late assessment is set prior to the end of the payment period for the Medicare-required assessment that was missed, the SNF will bill all covered days up to the ARD at the default rate and on and after the ARD at the HIPPS rate code established by the late assessment. For example, a Medicare-required 30-day assessment with an ARD of Day 41 would be paid the default rate for Days 31 through 40 and at the HIPPS classification from the assessment beginning on Day 41.

If the ARD of the late assessment is set after the end of the payment period for the Medicare-required assessment that was missed and the resident is still on Part A, the provider must still

complete an assessment. The ARD can be no earlier than the day the omission was identified. The SNF must bill all covered days for that payment period at the default rate regardless of the HIPPS code calculated from the late assessment. For example, a Medicare-required 14-day assessment with an ARD of Day 32 would be paid at the default rate for Days 15 through 30. A late assessment cannot be used to replace the next regularly scheduled Medicare-required assessment. The SNF would then need to complete the 30-day Medicare-required assessment that covers Days 31 through 60 as long as the beneficiary has SNF days remaining and is eligible for SNF Part A services.

Missed Assessment

If the SNF fails to set the ARD prior to the end of the last day of the ARD window, including grace days, and as a result an assessment does not exist in the QIES ASAP for the payment period, and the resident was already discharged from Medicare Part A when this is discovered, an assessment may not be completed (see exceptions below). The provider must bill the RUG category that is verified by the system.

The provider may not bill for days when an assessment does not exist in the QIES ASAP. In order to bill for Medicare SNF Part A services, the provider must submit a valid assessment that is accepted into the QIES ASAP. The provider must bill the RUG category that is verified by the system.

However, there are instances when the SNF may bill the default code when an assessment does not exist in the QIES ASAP system. These exceptions are:

1. The stay is less than 8 days within a spell of illness,
2. The SNF is notified on an untimely basis of or is unaware of a Medicare Secondary Payer denial,
3. The SNF is notified on an untimely basis of the revocation of a payment ban,
4. The beneficiary requests a demand bill, or
5. The SNF is notified on an untimely basis or is unaware of a beneficiary's disenrollment from a Medicare Advantage plan.

In situations 2-5, the provider may use the OBRA Admission assessment to bill for all days of covered care associated with Medicare-required 5-day and 14-day assessments, even if the beneficiary is no longer receiving therapy services that were identified under the most recent clinical assessment. For covered days associated with the Medicare-required 30-day, 60-day, or 90-day assessments, the SNF must have an assessment in the QIES ASAP system that falls within the ARD window of the PPS assessment (including grace days) in order to receive full payment at the RUG category in which the resident grouped. If an assessment falls outside the ARD window of the PPS assessment (including grace days), the SNF must bill the default code.

Under all situations other than exceptions 1-5, the following apply when the SNF failed to set the ARD prior to the end of the last day of the ARD window, including grace days, or later and the resident was already discharged from Medicare Part A when this was discovered:

1. If an assessment exists in the QIES ASAP system with an ARD that is within the ARD window of the PPS assessment (including grace days), the SNF may bill the RUG category in which the resident classified.
2. If an assessment exists in the QIES ASAP system with an ARD that is outside the ARD window of the Medicare-required assessment (including grace days), the SNF may not bill for any days associated with the missing PPS assessment.
3. If an assessment does not exist in the QIES ASAP system, the SNF may not bill for any days associated with the missing PPS assessment.

ARD Outside the Medicare Part A SNF Benefit

A SNF may not use a date outside the SNF Medicare Benefit (i.e., 100 days) as the ARD for a PPS assessment. For example, the resident returns to the SNF on December 11 following a hospital stay, requires and receives SNF skilled services (and meets all other required coverage criteria), and has 3 days left in his/her SNF benefit period. The SNF must set the ARD for the PPS assessment on December 11, 12, or 13 to bill for the RUG category associated with the assessment.

6.9 {placeholder for future insertion}