

SECTION B: HEARING, SPEECH, AND VISION

Intent: For the April 1, 2014, release of the LTCH CARE Data Set, Version 2.01, one item (B0100: Comatose) is included in this section. The intent of this item is to document the status of a patient who is in a coma or in a persistent vegetative state. However, if warranted by additional quality measures finalized by CMS for the LTCHQR Program through future rule-making cycles, CMS may add additional items to this section that document the patient's ability to (1) hear (with assistive hearing devices, if they are used), (2) understand and communicate with others, and (3) see.

B0100: Comatose

B0100. Comatose	
Enter Code	Persistent vegetative state/no discernible consciousness at time of assessment.
<input type="checkbox"/>	0. No
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Yes

Item Rationale

- Patients who are in a coma or persistent vegetative state are at risk for the complications of immobility, including skin breakdown and joint contractures.

Steps for Assessment

- Review the medical record to determine whether a neurological diagnosis of comatose or persistent vegetative state has been documented by a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or clinical nurse specialist, as allowable under State licensure laws.

Coding Instructions

Complete only if A0250 = 01 Admission

- Code 0, no, if a diagnosis of coma or persistent vegetative state is not present during the 3-day assessment period.
- Code 1, yes, if the record indicates that a physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist has documented a diagnosis of coma or persistent vegetative state that is applicable during the assessment period.

Coding Tips

- Only **code 1, yes**, if a diagnosis of coma or persistent vegetative state is documented in the patient's medical record. Other terms such as "unresponsive" and "severe encephalopathy" should not be used to infer a diagnosis of "comatose."

DEFINITIONS

COMATOSE (coma)
A pathological state in which neither arousal (wakefulness, alertness) nor awareness exists. The person is unresponsive and cannot be aroused; he/she does not open his/her eyes, does not speak and does not move his/her extremities on command or in response to noxious stimuli (e.g., pain).

PERSISTENT VEGETATIVE STATE
Sometimes patients who were comatose after an anoxic-ischemic injury (i.e., not enough oxygen to the brain) from a cardiac arrest, head trauma, or massive stroke, regain wakefulness, but do not evidence any purposeful behavior or cognition. Their eyes are open and they may grunt, yawn, pick with their fingers, and have random body movements. Neurological exam shows extensive damage to both cerebral hemispheres.