

**Outcome and ASsessment
Information Set**

***OASIS-C1/ICD-9
Guidance Manual***

Revised: January 2015

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

PREFACE

This manual is an updated, streamlined version of the original OASIS-B1 Implementation Manual, originally published in 1999. The implementation manual is the first in a four-manual series on the Outcome and Assessment Information Set (OASIS), interpretation of the OASIS-based quality reports that CMS provides, and use of the reports for performance improvement. This manual provides guidance for home health agencies (HHAs) on how to ensure the collection of high-quality (accurate) OASIS data. It includes both general data collection conventions and item-specific guidance, as well as links to quality-related resources for agencies. The original manual has been archived, and while it will still be accessible on the CMS web site ([Archived OASIS Information](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/HomeHealthQualityInits/Downloads/HHQIArchivedOASISInformation.zip)¹), it will not be updated to reflect current or future changes to the OASIS data set.

The second manual, entitled “*Outcome-based Quality Improvement (OBQI) Manual*” is written for agencies wishing to implement activities to improve or maintain OASIS outcomes. The third manual, the “*Process Quality Measure Manual*,” provides information on the OASIS-derived process measure report and recommendations for using the process measures both as a starting place for increasing the use of best practices in home health care delivery, and in conjunction with OASIS outcomes to improve clinical outcomes. The “*Quality Monitoring Using Case Mix and Adverse Event Outcome Reports*” manual focuses on the measures on the Potentially Avoidable Event (adverse event outcome) reports, which can be helpful to agencies as part of a quality monitoring program.

Since OASIS collection was implemented in 1999, national interest in the area of home health care quality measurement and improvement has been ongoing. CMS received hundreds of comments about OASIS from a variety of sources: providers, professional organizations (e.g., American Nurses Association and the American Physical Therapy Association), home care provider organizations, accrediting organizations, researchers, etc. In addition, individuals and groups with expertise in health care quality measurement, such as the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC), the National Quality Forum (NQF), and several technical expert panels commissioned by CMS to guide OASIS evolution have offered suggestions for improving OASIS and expanding the domains of home health quality measurement to address the six aims (safety, timeliness, effectiveness, efficiency, equity, and patient-centeredness) articulated by the Institute of Medicine in their 2001 report “Crossing the Quality Chasm.”

Input from the NQF, a nonprofit organization that endorses national consensus standards for measuring and publicly reporting on performance, has been especially valuable in guiding the evolution of OASIS and associated performance reports. NQF-endorsed voluntary consensus standards are widely viewed as the gold standard for measurement of health care quality. Once a measure is NQF-endorsed, it can be used by government agencies like CMS for public reporting and quality improvement. NQF has endorsed a number of OASIS-based quality measures for public reporting. Endorsed measures are periodically reviewed for continuing endorsement, and, as measure development continues, new or revised measures are submitted to NQF for review.

¹ <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/HomeHealthQualityInits/Downloads/HHQIArchivedOASISInformation.zip>

REVISION HISTORY

1. OASIS C Guidance Manual Original Publication: September 2009.
2. Revision 1: December 2009
3. Revision 2: January 2011
4. Revision 3: January 2012
5. Revision 4: December 2012
6. OASIS-C1/ICD-9 Guidance Manual: June 2014

Note: Past revisions of the guidance manual have included an “errata” document that indicated where changes had occurred so that HHAs could replace only those manual pages that had changed. Because this revision is substantially more extensive than previous updates, this manual is intended to replace in its entirety the OASIS-C Guidance Manual, and changes to specific sections or pages are not tracked. However, there is a table at the beginning of Chapter 3 that indicates which OASIS items and which item-by-item guidance sections have been revised.

7. OASIS-C1/ICD-9 Guidance Manual: January 2015

Changes in this version include a new Chapter 2, in which the “draft” notation has been removed from the OASIS forms and the OMB number has been added to each timepoint version. The footer date throughout the entire manual has been changed to January 2015.

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