



# Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities Quality Reporting Program Provider Training



**INPATIENT  
REHABILITATION  
FACILITIES**

**POST-ACUTE CARE  
PROGRAM**

## **Section J:** **Health Conditions (Falls)**

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# Today's Presenter



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Vice President and Principal  
Qualidigm

# Section J: Objectives

- Illustrate a working knowledge of Section J: Health Conditions (Falls).
- Articulate the intent of Section J.
- Interpret the coding options for each new item and when they would be applied.
- Apply coding instructions in order to accurately code a practice scenarios.

# Section J: New Items

All items in Section J are **new**.

Item:	Assessed On:
<b>J1750</b> , History of Falls	Admission
<b>J1800</b> , Any Falls Since Admission	Discharge
<b>J1900</b> , Number of Falls Since Admission	Discharge
<b>J2000</b> , Prior Surgery	Admission

# Section J: Intent

- Code a history of falls.
- Code any falls since admission, including any injury caused by falls.

# Definition of a Fall

- Unintentional change in position coming to rest on the ground, floor, or onto the next lower surface.
- May be witnessed, reported by the patient or an observer, or identified when a patient is found on the floor or ground.

# Definition of a Fall (cont.)

- Not a result of an overwhelming external force.
  - E.g., a patient pushes another patient.
- **An intercepted fall is considered a fall.**
- An **intercepted fall** occurs when the patient:
  - Would have fallen if he or she had not caught him/herself.
  - Had not been intercepted by another person – **this is still considered a fall.**

# J1750

## History of Falls



# J1750 Item Rationale

- Falls are a leading cause of morbidity and mortality.
- The most important predictors of risk for future falls and injurious falls include:
  - Previous fall.
  - Recent fall.
  - Falls with significant injury.
- Persons with a history of falling may limit activities because of a fear of falling and should be evaluated for reversible causes of falling.

# J1750 Steps for Assessment

1. Indicate if the patient has had:
  - Two or more falls in the past year.
  - Any fall with injury in the past year.
2. Interview the patient if capable of reliably reporting fall history.
3. Speak with family members or significant others to obtain fall history.

# J1750 Coding Instructions

- Complete at the time of admission.

J1750. History of Falls	
Enter Code <input type="checkbox"/>	Has the patient had two or more falls in the past year or any fall with injury in the past year? 0. No 1. Yes 8. Unknown

0. **No**  
1. **Yes**  
8. **Unknown**

# J1750 Practice Coding Scenario (1)

- Ms. T reports that she fell 3 months ago and then again 1 month ago while walking outside.
- Ms. T stated she only bruised her arm during the first fall and her knee during the second fall.
- She reported she did not seek medical advice and was able to recover without apparent injury.

# J1750 Practice

## Coding Scenario (2)

- Mr. W. is unable to provide information on his fall history, but his wife is able to provide this information.
- Mrs. W. states that her husband fell 8 months ago at home, outside on the driveway.
- He hit his head and needed seven sutures to his scalp.
- This was his only fall in the past year.



# J1800

Any Falls Since Admission

# J1800 Item Rationale

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

# J1800 Steps for Assessment

- Review inpatient rehabilitation facility (IRF) medical record:
  - Physician, nursing, therapy, and nursing assistant notes.
  - Incident reports.
  - Fall logs.





# J1800 Coding Instructions

- Complete only at the time of discharge.

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

0. **No** → *Skip to M0210. Unhealed Pressure Ulcer(s)*  
1. **Yes** → *Continue to J1900. Number of Falls Since Admission*

# J1800 Practice Coding Scenario (1)

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

# J1800 Practice Coding Scenario (2)

- According to the therapy notes, Mrs. J was walking using parallel bars when she became weak and was assisted to the floor by the therapist.

# J1900

## Number of Falls Since Admission

# J1900 Steps for Assessment

- Review IRF medical record.
  - Physician, nursing, therapy, and nursing assistant notes.
  - Incident reports.
  - Fall logs.

# Definition: Injury Related to a Fall

## Injury Related to a Fall:

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

# J1900 Coding Instructions

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

J1900. Number of Falls Since Admission	
<b>CODING:</b> 0. None 1. One 2. Two or more	<div><b>CODING:</b> 0. None 1. One 2. Two or more</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> 0. None <input type="checkbox"/> 1. One <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Two or more</div>
Physical assessment by the nurse or primary care clinician; change in the patient's behavior is noted after the fall	
B. Injury (except major): Skin tears, abrasions, lacerations, superficial bruises, hematomas and sprains; or any fall-related injury that causes the patient to complain of pain	
C. Major injury: Bone fractures, joint dislocations, closed head injuries with altered consciousness, subdural hematoma	

# J1900A Coding Instructions

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

## A. No injury: No

J1900. Number of Falls Since Admission							
<b>CODING:</b> 0. None 1. One 2. Two or more	<div>↓ Enter Codes in Boxes</div> <table><tbody><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><b>A. No injury:</b> No evidence of any injury is noted on physical assessment by the nurse or primary care clinician; no complaints of pain or injury by the patient; no change in the patient's behavior is noted after the fall</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><b>B. Injury (except major):</b> Skin tears, abrasions, lacerations, superficial bruises, hematomas and sprains; or any fall-related injury that causes the patient to complain of pain</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><b>C. Major injury:</b> Bone fractures, joint dislocations, closed head injuries with altered consciousness, subdural hematoma</td></tr></tbody></table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>A. No injury:</b> No evidence of any injury is noted on physical assessment by the nurse or primary care clinician; no complaints of pain or injury by the patient; no change in the patient's behavior is noted after the fall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>B. Injury (except major):</b> Skin tears, abrasions, lacerations, superficial bruises, hematomas and sprains; or any fall-related injury that causes the patient to complain of pain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>C. Major injury:</b> Bone fractures, joint dislocations, closed head injuries with altered consciousness, subdural hematoma
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>A. No injury:</b> No evidence of any injury is noted on physical assessment by the nurse or primary care clinician; no complaints of pain or injury by the patient; no change in the patient's behavior is noted after the fall						
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>B. Injury (except major):</b> Skin tears, abrasions, lacerations, superficial bruises, hematomas and sprains; or any fall-related injury that causes the patient to complain of pain						
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>C. Major injury:</b> Bone fractures, joint dislocations, closed head injuries with altered consciousness, subdural hematoma						



# J1900B Coding Instructions

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

J1900. Number of Falls Since Admission							
<b>CODING:</b> 0. None 1. One 2. Two or more	<div><b>B. Injury (except major):</b></div> <div>↓ Enter Codes in Boxes</div> <table><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><b>A. No injury:</b> No evidence of any injury is noted on physical assessment by the nurse or primary care clinician; no complaints of pain or injury by the patient; no change in the patient's behavior is noted after the fall</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><b>B. Injury (except major):</b> Skin tears, abrasions, lacerations, superficial bruises, hematomas and sprains; or any fall-related injury that causes the patient to complain of pain</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><b>C. Major injury:</b> Bone fractures, joint dislocations, closed head injuries with altered consciousness, subdural hematoma</td></tr></table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>A. No injury:</b> No evidence of any injury is noted on physical assessment by the nurse or primary care clinician; no complaints of pain or injury by the patient; no change in the patient's behavior is noted after the fall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>B. Injury (except major):</b> Skin tears, abrasions, lacerations, superficial bruises, hematomas and sprains; or any fall-related injury that causes the patient to complain of pain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>C. Major injury:</b> Bone fractures, joint dislocations, closed head injuries with altered consciousness, subdural hematoma
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>A. No injury:</b> No evidence of any injury is noted on physical assessment by the nurse or primary care clinician; no complaints of pain or injury by the patient; no change in the patient's behavior is noted after the fall						
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>B. Injury (except major):</b> Skin tears, abrasions, lacerations, superficial bruises, hematomas and sprains; or any fall-related injury that causes the patient to complain of pain						
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>C. Major injury:</b> Bone fractures, joint dislocations, closed head injuries with altered consciousness, subdural hematoma						

# Definition: Injury (Except Major)

## **Injury (except major) includes:**

- Skin tears.
- Abrasions.
- Lacerations.
- Superficial bruises.
- Hematomas.
- Sprains.
- Any fall-related injury that causes the patient to complain of pain.

# J1900C Coding Instructions

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

J1900. Number of Falls Since Admission							
<b>CODING:</b> 0. None 1. One 2. Two or more	<div><b>C. Major injury:</b></div> <div>↓ Enter Codes in Boxes</div> <table><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><b>A. No injury:</b> No evidence of any injury is noted on physical assessment by the nurse or primary care clinician; no complaints of pain or injury by the patient; no change in the patient's behavior is noted after the fall</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><b>B. Injury (except major):</b> Skin tears, abrasions, lacerations, superficial bruises, hematomas and sprains; or any fall-related injury that causes the patient to complain of pain</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td><b>C. Major injury:</b> Bone fractures, joint dislocations, closed head injuries with altered consciousness, subdural hematoma</td></tr></table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>A. No injury:</b> No evidence of any injury is noted on physical assessment by the nurse or primary care clinician; no complaints of pain or injury by the patient; no change in the patient's behavior is noted after the fall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>B. Injury (except major):</b> Skin tears, abrasions, lacerations, superficial bruises, hematomas and sprains; or any fall-related injury that causes the patient to complain of pain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>C. Major injury:</b> Bone fractures, joint dislocations, closed head injuries with altered consciousness, subdural hematoma
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>A. No injury:</b> No evidence of any injury is noted on physical assessment by the nurse or primary care clinician; no complaints of pain or injury by the patient; no change in the patient's behavior is noted after the fall						
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>B. Injury (except major):</b> Skin tears, abrasions, lacerations, superficial bruises, hematomas and sprains; or any fall-related injury that causes the patient to complain of pain						
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>C. Major injury:</b> Bone fractures, joint dislocations, closed head injuries with altered consciousness, subdural hematoma						

# Definition: Major Injury

## Major Injury includes:

- Bone fractures.
- Joint dislocations.
- Closed head injuries with altered consciousness.
- Subdural hematoma.

# J1900 Coding Scenario (1)

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

# How would you code J1900?

J1900. Number of Falls Since Admission		
<b>CODING:</b> 0. None 1. One 2. Two or more	↓	<b>Enter Codes in Boxes</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>A. No injury:</b> No evidence of any injury is noted on physical assessment by the nurse or primary care clinician; no complaints of pain or injury by the patient; no change in the patient's behavior is noted after the fall
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>B. Injury (except major):</b> Skin tears, abrasions, lacerations, superficial bruises, hematomas and sprains; or any fall-related injury that causes the patient to complain of pain
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>C. Major injury:</b> Bone fractures, joint dislocations, closed head injuries with altered consciousness, subdural hematoma

# J1900B Coding Scenario (2)

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



# How would you code J1900?

J1900. Number of Falls Since Admission		
<b>CODING:</b> 0. None 1. One 2. Two or more	↓	<b>Enter Codes in Boxes</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>A. No injury:</b> No evidence of any injury is noted on physical assessment by the nurse or primary care clinician; no complaints of pain or injury by the patient; no change in the patient's behavior is noted after the fall
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>B. Injury (except major):</b> Skin tears, abrasions, lacerations, superficial bruises, hematomas and sprains; or any fall-related injury that causes the patient to complain of pain
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>C. Major injury:</b> Bone fractures, joint dislocations, closed head injuries with altered consciousness, subdural hematoma



# J1900 Coding Scenario (3)

- A patient fell, lacerated her head, and was sent to the emergency department.
- A head CT scan revealed a subdural hematoma.
- The patient received treatment and returned to the IRF after 2 days.

# How would you code J1900?

J1900. Number of Falls Since Admission		
<b>CODING:</b> 0. None 1. One 2. Two or more	↓	<b>Enter Codes in Boxes</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>A. No injury:</b> No evidence of any injury is noted on physical assessment by the nurse or primary care clinician; no complaints of pain or injury by the patient; no change in the patient's behavior is noted after the fall
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>B. Injury (except major):</b> Skin tears, abrasions, lacerations, superficial bruises, hematomas and sprains; or any fall-related injury that causes the patient to complain of pain
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>C. Major injury:</b> Bone fractures, joint dislocations, closed head injuries with altered consciousness, subdural hematoma

# J2000

## Prior Surgery

# J2000 Item Rationale

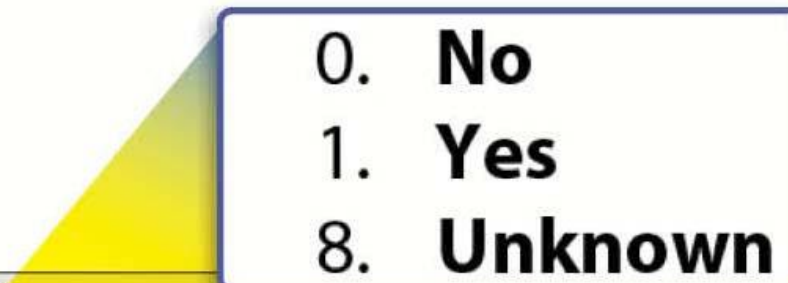
- Identifies whether the patient had major surgery during the 100 days prior to admission.
- A recent history of major surgery can affect a patient's recovery.

# J2000 Steps for Assessment

- Interview the patient and review the patient's medical record to determine whether the patient had major surgery during the 100 days prior to admission.

# J2000 Coding Instructions

- Complete only at the time of admission.
- **Code 0, No**, if the patient did not have major surgery during the 100 days prior to admission.
- **Code 1, Yes**, if the patient did have major surgery during the 100 days prior to admission.



J2000. Prior Surgery	
Enter Code <input type="checkbox"/>	Did the patient have major surgery during the 100 days prior to admission? 0. No 1. Yes 8. Unknown

# Definition: Major Surgery

- Generally, major surgery refers to a procedure requiring general anesthesia.
- In addition, major surgery usually carries some degree of risk to the patient's life, or the potential for severe disability if something goes wrong during the surgery.
- A patient would be expected to stay at least one overnight in an acute care hospital.

# J2000 Practice Coding Scenario

- Mrs. T reported that she required surgical removal of a skin tag from her neck a month and a half ago.
- She had the procedure in outpatient. Mrs. T reports that she had no other surgeries in the last 100 days.



# Section J: Summary

- Items **J1750**, History of Falls, and **J2000**, Prior Surgery, are completed on admission only.
- Items **J1800**, Any Falls Since Admission, and **J1900**, Number of Falls Since Admission, are completed at discharge only.
- It is important to remember the definition of a fall.

# Section J: Summary (cont.)

## Fall Definition:

- Unintentional change in position coming to rest on the ground, floor, or onto the next lower surface (e.g., onto a bed, chair, or bedside mat).
- May be witnessed, reported by the patient or an observer, or identified when a patient is found on the floor or ground.
- Not a result of an overwhelming external force (e.g., a patient pushes another patient).
- An **intercepted fall** occurs when the patient:
  - Would have fallen if he or she had not caught him/herself.
  - Had not been intercepted by another person—this is still considered a fall.

# Section J: Action Plan

- Evaluate current documentation to ensure terminology aligns with items in the IRF-PAI v1.4.
- Practice coding a variety of scenarios with staff.

# Questions?