



IRF and LTCH Virtual Training Program – Part 2

Section J: Pain Interview Workshop

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June 15, 2022



Section J: Health Conditions – Pain Interview



The pain interview in Section J is **new** to the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) and Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH) settings.

- J0510. Pain Effect on Sleep.
- J0520. Pain Interference with Therapy Activities.
- J0530. Pain Interference with Day-to-Day Activities.



J0510

Pain Effect on Sleep

J0510 – Coding Instructions

- **Code 0, Does not apply**, if the patient responds that they did not have any pain or hurting in the past 5 days.
- **Code 1, Rarely or not at all**, if the patient responds that pain has been present and the pain rarely or not at all made it hard to sleep in the past 5 days.
- **Code 2, Occasionally**, if the patient responds that pain has occasionally made it hard to sleep in the past 5 days.
- **Code 3, Frequently**, if the patient responds that pain has frequently made it hard to sleep in the past 5 days.
- **Code 4, Almost constantly**, if the patient responds that pain has almost constantly made it hard to sleep in the past 5 days.
- **Code 8, Unable to answer**, if the patient is unable to answer the question, does not respond, or gives a nonsensical response.

J0510: Practice Scenario 1

A patient is admitted to the post-acute care (PAC) setting after a 10-day stay in the acute care hospital for the repair of a right hip fracture. A nurse is completing the admission assessment.



J0510: Practice Scenario 1 (cont.)

The admitting nurse asks the patient, *“Over the past 5 days, how much of the time has pain made it hard for you to sleep at night?”*

The patient responds, *“The pain was unbearable at the hospital last week and I wasn’t sleeping. I know that I was on a lot of medication there. But now I’m not sure what day it is. Is this Saturday?”*

The nurse responds, *“Yes, this is Saturday. Can you recall when your most recent episode of pain was?”*

The patient responds, *“No, I really cannot remember.”*

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How would you code J0510. Pain Effect on Sleep?

- A. Code 2. Occasionally.
- B. Code 3. Frequently.
- C. Code 4. Almost constantly.
- D. Code 8. Unable to answer.



How would you code J0510. Pain Effect on Sleep?

- A. Code 2. Occasionally.
- B. Code 3. Frequently.
- C. Code 4. Almost constantly.
- D. Code 8. Unable to answer.**



J0510: Practice Scenario 1 – Rationale

Answer: The answer is D, **Code 8. Unable to answer.**

Rationale: The patient reports that pain has been present but is unsure of the day and cannot fully recall the last 5 days. The nurse reorients the patient to the correct day and prompts them to think about the most recent episode of pain to try to determine whether it occurred within the lookback period. Since the patient is unable to remember, the most appropriate response is “Code 8. Unable to answer.”

J0510: Practice Scenario 2



A patient is preparing for discharge from the PAC setting after recovering from a major automobile accident.

Upon discharge, the patient was asked by the nurse assessor:

“Over the past 5 days, how much of the time has pain made it hard for you to sleep at night?”

J0510: Practice Scenario 2 (cont. 1)




The patient responded:

“Some nights I do not sleep at all, especially when I have done too much during the day. On those nights, I pace a bit, sit up in the chair, and I might need to ask the nurse for an extra pain pill (as-needed medication) during the night before I can get back to sleep. Other nights, I just sleep through the night, no problem.”

How would you code J0510. Pain Effect on Sleep?

- A. Code 2. Occasionally, as it seems like the best fit.
- B. Code 3. Frequently, since it sounds like the patient was awake a lot due to pain.
- C. Ask the patient whether this pain has been occasionally or frequently over the past 5 days?
- D. Code 8. Unable to answer, as the patient did not give a clear answer.

How would you code J0510. Pain Effect on Sleep?

- A. Code 2. Occasionally, as it seems like the best fit.
- B. Code 3. Frequently, since it sounds like the patient was awake a lot due to pain.
-  C. **Ask the patient whether this pain has been occasionally or frequently over the past 5 days?**
- D. Code 8. Unable to answer, as the patient did not give a clear answer.



J0510: Practice Scenario 2 – Rationale

Answer: The answer is C, **Ask the patient whether they would consider this pain to be occasionally or frequently over the past 5 days?**

Rationale: Since the patient's initial response did not lead to a clear answer, the assessor should narrow down the response by asking additional follow-up questions about the frequency.

J0510: Practice Scenario 2 (cont. 2)



As a follow-up, the nurse asks the patient whether they would consider this pain to be occasionally or frequently over the past 5 days.

The patient responds,
“So, I guess I would say occasionally since it only happens now and then.”

How would you code J0510. Pain Effect on Sleep?

- A. Code 1. Rarely or not at all.
- B. Code 2. Occasionally.
- C. Code 3. Frequently.
- D. Code 4. Almost constantly.

How would you code J0510. Pain Effect on Sleep?



- A. Code 1. Rarely or not at all.
- B. Code 2. Occasionally.**
- C. Code 3. Frequently.
- D. Code 4. Almost constantly.



J0510: Practice Scenario 2 – Rationale (cont.)

Answer: The answer is B, **Code 2. Occasionally.**

Rationale: Upon further clarification by the nurse, the patient selects a designated response option and reports that over the past 5 days, pain has “occasionally” made it hard for them to sleep at night.

J0520

Pain Interference with Therapy Activities

J0520 – Coding Instructions

- **Code 0, Does not apply**, if the patient responds that they did not participate in rehabilitation therapy for reasons unrelated to pain (e.g., therapy not needed, unable to schedule) in the past 5 days.
- **Code 1, Rarely or not at all**, if the patient responds that pain has rarely or not at all limited participation in rehabilitation therapy sessions in the past 5 days.
- **Code 2, Occasionally**, if the patient responds that pain has occasionally limited participation in rehabilitation therapy sessions in the past 5 days.
- **Code 3, Frequently**, if the patient responds that pain has frequently limited participation in rehabilitation therapy sessions in the past 5 days.
- **Code 4, Almost constantly**, if the patient responds that pain has almost constantly limited participation in rehabilitation therapy sessions in the past 5 days.
- **Code 8, Unable to answer**, if the patient is unable to answer the question, does not respond, or gives a nonsensical response.



J0520: Practice Scenario 3

During the first week in the PAC setting,

A nurse is completing the admission assessment and asks: *“Over the past 5 days, how often have you limited your participation in rehabilitation therapy due to pain?”*

The patient reports: *“I have been receiving intravenous (IV) antibiotics for a week now for the infection in my foot and have not been seeing anyone for therapy. I hope they will take this IV out in a few days.”*





How would you code J0520. Pain Interference with Therapy Activities?

- A. Code 0. Does not apply.
- B. Code 1. Rarely or not at all.
- C. Code 8. Unable to answer, since the patient obviously has some confusion due to their infection.
- D. Check with the patient again tomorrow to see if the IV has been removed and therapy has started.



How would you code J0520. Pain Interference with Therapy Activities?



- A. **Code 0. Does not apply.**
- B. Code 1. Rarely or not at all.
- C. Code 8. Unable to answer, since the patient obviously has some confusion due to their infection.
- D. Check with the patient again tomorrow to see if the IV has been removed and therapy has started.



J0520: Practice Scenario 3 – Rationale

Answer: The answer is A, **Code 0. Does not apply.**

Rationale: The patient reports that they are not receiving rehabilitation therapy due to a foot infection and IV therapy. The most applicable response is “**Code 0. Does not apply**”, since the patient is not participating in rehabilitation therapy for reasons unrelated to pain.

J0520: Practice Scenario 4

Upon discharge from the PAC setting,

The assessor asks the patient, *“Over the past 5 days, how often have you limited your participation in rehabilitation therapy due to pain?”*

The patient reports: *“I have been able to go to therapy for most of my time here. I can recall only one instance in the past 5 days when my back pain was too severe to exercise.”*



How would you code J0520. Pain Interference with Therapy Activities?

- A. Code 0. Does not apply, since the patient will be receiving therapy as an outpatient.
- B. Code 1. Rarely or not at all, as the patient could only recall one instance of pain limiting therapy.
- C. Code 2. Occasionally, to be safe because the patient may have forgotten pain episodes and underreported their pain.
- D. Code 4. Almost constantly, because you have heard from other staff that the patient has had much more pain than they are mentioning.



How would you code J0520. Pain Interference with Therapy Activities?



- A. Code 0. Does not apply, since the patient will be receiving therapy as an outpatient.
- B. Code 1. Rarely or not at all, as the patient could only recall one instance of pain limiting therapy.**
- C. Code 2. Occasionally, to be safe because the patient may have forgotten pain episodes and underreported their pain.
- D. Code 4. Almost constantly, because you have heard from other staff that the patient has had much more pain than they are mentioning.



J0520: Practice Scenario 4 – Rationale

Answer: The answer is B, **Code 1. Rarely or not at all.**

Rationale: The patient reported that back pain limited their participation in therapy only one time in the past 5 days. The patient's report of pain frequency should be recorded, not the assessor's opinion or reports from other staff.

- J0520 assesses pain interference with therapy over the past 5 days and does not evaluate anticipated outpatient therapy regimens after discharge from the IRF or LTCH.

J0530

Pain Interference with Day-to-Day Activities

J0530 – Coding Instructions

- **Code 1, Rarely or not at all**, if the patient responds that pain has rarely or not at all limited day-to-day activities (excluding rehabilitation therapy sessions) in the past 5 days.
- **Code 2, Occasionally**, if the patient responds that pain has occasionally limited day-to-day activities (excluding rehabilitation therapy sessions) in the past 5 days.
- **Code 3, Frequently**, if the patient responds that pain has frequently limited day-to-day activities (excluding rehabilitation therapy sessions) in the past 5 days.
- **Code 4, Almost constantly**, if the patient responds that pain has almost constantly limited day-to-day activities (excluding rehabilitation therapy sessions) in the past 5 days.
- **Code 8, Unable to answer**, if the patient is unable to answer the question, does not respond, or gives a nonsensical response.

J0530: Practice Scenario 5

A patient is preparing for discharge after a post-operative PAC stay for a total knee replacement. During the discharge assessment,

The nurse assessor asks the patient, *“Over the past 5 days, how often have you limited your day-to-day activities (excluding rehabilitation therapy sessions) because of pain?”*



J0530. Pain Interference with Day-to Day Activities – Coding Scenario 5 (cont.)

The patient replies, “*Most days I can do what I want to do, though I was disappointed that I could not attend the patient and staff Halloween party last week. I was afraid that sitting for a long time would be too much for me. I still have pain in my knee from the surgery. Some days are good, and others are more difficult. I’m not sure, I would say that pain limits my day-to-day activities occasionally to frequently.*”






How would you code J0530. Pain Interference with Day-to-Day Activities?

- A. Code 1. Rarely or not at all.
- B. Code 2. Occasionally.
- C. Code 3. Frequently.
- D. Code 8. Unable to answer, since the patient could not select a specific response.





How would you code J0530. Pain Interference with Day-to-Day Activities?

- A. Code 1. Rarely or not at all.
- B. Code 2. Occasionally.
-  C. **Code 3. Frequently.**
- D. Code 8. Unable to answer, since the patient could not select a specific response.



J0530: Practice Scenario 5 – Rationale

Answer: The answer is C, **Code 3. Frequently.**

Rationale: The patient reported that knee pain limited their participation in a holiday celebration at the facility, and that pain has occasionally to frequently limited their day-to-day activities. Since the patient could not decide between two frequency response options, the assessor should code for the option with the higher frequency.

J0530: Practice Scenario 6

A patient was transferred from the acute care hospital and has been in the PAC setting for just a few days recovering from an episode of congestive heart failure. The patient also has severe rheumatoid arthritis.

The nurse is completing the admission assessment and asks the patient, *“Over the past 5 days, how often have you limited your day-to-day activities (excluding rehabilitation therapy sessions) because of pain?”*



J0530: Practice Scenario 6 (cont.)

The patient replies, “I try to do as much as I can throughout the day and get out of my room, but I need to stop often to sit down and catch my breath. My feet are swollen and hurt almost all the time, so it’s hard to walk.”

“Between my feet and joints, I always have pain, so I would say that it limits my day-to-day activities. I don’t like taking the pain medication, so I tend to decline when the nurses offer it.”





How would you code J0530. Pain Interference with Day-to-Day Activities?

- A. Code 1. Rarely or not at all.
- B. Code 2. Occasionally.
- C. Code 3. Frequently.
- D. Code 4. Almost constantly.





How would you code J0530. Pain Interference with Day-to-Day Activities?

- A. Code 1. Rarely or not at all.
- B. Code 2. Occasionally.
- C. Code 3. Frequently.
- D. Code 4. Almost constantly.**



J0530: Practice Scenario 6 – Rationale

Answer: The answer is D, **Code 4. Almost constantly.**

Rationale: The patient reported that although they try to be active, pain related to congestive heart failure and rheumatoid arthritis almost constantly limits their day-to-day activities.

J0510 – J0530: Pain Interview Key Insights

- The Section J pain interview items are ***new*** for the IRF and LTCH settings.
- These items assess the effect of pain on sleep, interference with therapy activities, and interference with day-to-day activities.
- Code the Pain Interview based on the patient's interpretation of the provided response options for frequency.
 - If the patient is unable to decide between two response options, then the assessor should code for the option with the *higher* frequency.

