



CMS OASIS Q&A - February 2019

Understanding OASIS Function M & GG Item Coding

Effective January 1, 2017, the OASIS instrument includes function items in both the M1800 series as well as GG0130 and GG1070. This document is intended to provide clarification that the intention is not for the codes on the GG and M items to be duplicative or always “match”. Each OASIS item should be considered individually and coded based on guidance specific to that item.

Question 1: Should we expect to see consistency between a patient’s OASIS “M” and “GG” function codes?

Answer 1: Not necessarily. There are differences between items that have the same or similar names. Coding differences may be a result of:

- what is included or excluded in the activity, or
- what coding instructions apply to the activity.

Each OASIS item should be considered individually and coded based on guidance specific to that item.

CODING difference can be due to what is included/excluded in each activity.

EXAMPLE: Patient can brush teeth and wash hands without assistance or set up, but requires some assistance with hair care, washing face, shaving and trimming nails.

(M1800)	Grooming: Current ability to tend safely to personal hygiene needs (specifically: washing face and hands, hair care, shaving or make up, teeth or denture care, or fingernail care).
Enter Code	0 Able to groom self unaided, with or without the use of assistive devices or adapted methods.
2	1 Grooming utensils must be placed within reach before able to complete grooming activities.
	2 Someone must assist the patient to groom self.
	3 Patient depends entirely upon someone else for grooming needs.

GG0130B	B. Oral Hygiene: The ability to use suitable items to clean teeth. Dentures (if applicable): The ability to insert and remove dentures into and from the mouth, and manage denture soaking and rinsing with use of equipment.
0 6	

06. Independent – Patient completes the activity by him/herself with no assistance from a helper.

CODING difference can be due to differing conventions related to assistive device use.

EXAMPLE: Patient is able to walk distance up to 20 feet with a walker and no human assistance.

(M1860)	Ambulation/Locomotion: Current ability to walk safely, once in a standing position, or use a wheelchair, once in a seated position, on a variety of surfaces.
Enter Code	
2	
0	Able to independently walk on even and uneven surfaces and negotiate stairs with or without railings (specifically: needs no human assistance or assistive device).
1	With the use of a one-handed device (for example, cane, single crutch, hemi-walker), able to independently walk on even and uneven surfaces and negotiate stairs with or without railings.
2	Requires use of a two-handed device (for example, walker or crutches) to walk alone on a level surface and/or requires human supervision or assistance to negotiate stairs or steps or uneven surfaces.
3	Able to walk only with the supervision or assistance of another person at all times.
4	Chairfast, <u>unable</u> to ambulate but is able to wheel self independently.
5	Chairfast, unable to ambulate and is <u>unable</u> to wheel self.
6	Bedfast, unable to ambulate or be up in a chair.

GG0170I

	I. Walk 10 feet: Once standing, the ability to walk at least 10 feet in a room, corridor, or similar space. <i>If SOC/ROC performance is coded 07, 09, 10 or 88, skip to GG0170M, 1 step (curb)</i>
0 6	

06. Independent – Patient completes the activity by him/herself with no assistance from a helper.

STRATEGIES for Accuracy:

Be familiar with and regularly use OASIS-D Guidance Manual and OASIS Q&As available on the Home Health Quality Reporting Program and QIES Technical Support Office (QTSO) websites.

- <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/HomeHealthQualityInits/HHQIOASISUserManual.html>
- <https://qtso.cms.gov/providers/home-health-agency-hha-providers/reference-manuals>

Each OASIS item should be considered individually and coded based on the guidance provided for that item. (CMS Home Health OASIS Q&As- July 2018 #9)

If providers have questions after reviewing the guidance manual instruction and relevant Q&As, questions may be submitted to the home health quality helpdesk @ homehealthqualityquestions@cms.hhs.gov.