

SNF Virtual Training Program – Part 2

Section J: Pain Interview Workshop

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Overview



This coding workshop focuses on the following Pain Assessment Interview data elements, which are **new** to the MDS RAI 3.0 v1.18.11:

- 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. Pain Effect on Sleep

J0510. Pain Effect on Sleep

Enter Code

☐

Ask resident: *"Over the past 5 days, how much of the time has pain made it hard for you to sleep at night?"*

1. Rarely or not at all
2. Occasionally
3. Frequently
4. Almost constantly
8. Unable to answer

J0510: Coding Instructions



Code for pain effect on sleep over the last 5 days.

If the resident responds that pain has _____ made it hard to sleep over the past 5 days.

If the resident is unable to answer the question, does not respond, or gives a nonsensical response.

Rarely or
not at all
Code 1

Occasionally
Code 2

Frequently
Code 3

Almost
constantly
Code 4

Unable to answer
Code 8

J0510: Practice Scenario 1

A resident is admitted to the SNF for continued care after a 10-day stay in the acute care hospital for repair of a right hip fracture resulting from a fall. A nurse is completing the Admission assessment.



J0510: Practice Scenario 1 (cont. 1)

The admitting nurse asks the resident,

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

The resident 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 replies,

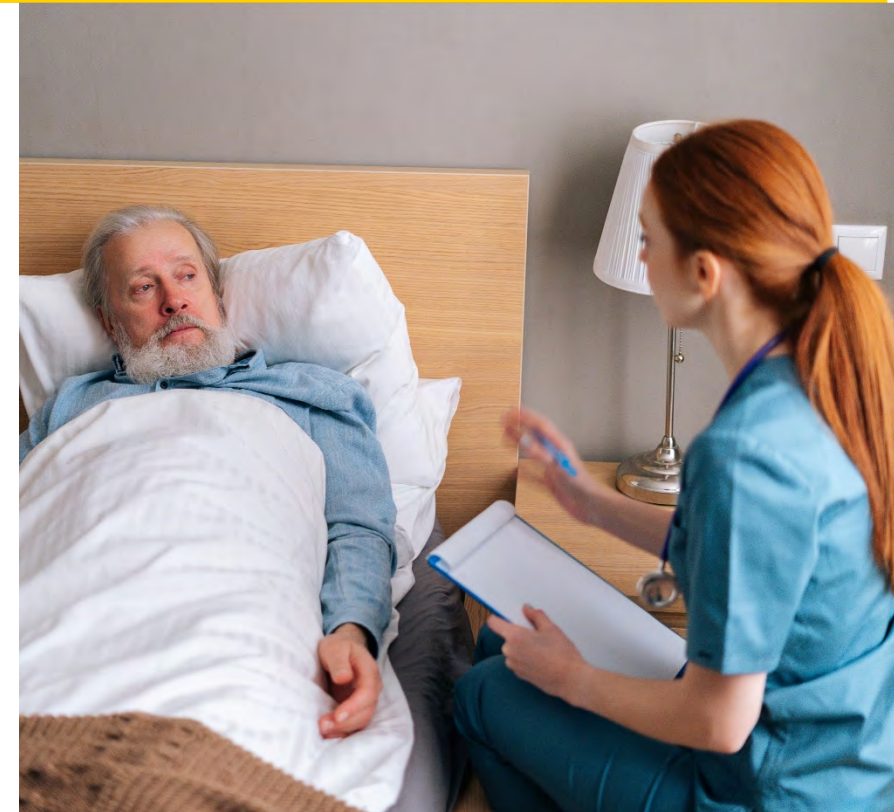
“Yes, today is Saturday. Can you recall when your most recent episode of pain was?”

The resident says,

“No, I really cannot remember.”

J0510: Practice Scenario 1 (cont. 2)

After indicating that they cannot recall when their most recent episode of pain was, the resident says that they do not want to discuss this any further.



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. Pain Effect on Sleep

Enter Code
☐

Ask resident: *"Over the past 5 days, how much of the time has pain made it hard for you to sleep at night?"*

1. Rarely or not at all


2. Occasionally

3. Frequently

4. Almost constantly

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. Pain Effect on Sleep

Enter Code
☐

Ask resident: *"Over the past 5 days, how much of the time has pain made it hard for you to sleep at night?"*

1. Rarely or not at all

2. Occasionally

3. Frequently

4. Almost constantly

8. Unable to answer

J0510: Practice Scenario 1 – Rationale

The resident reports that pain has been present but is unsure of the day and cannot fully recall the last 5 days. The nurse reorients the resident 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.

Despite this, the resident is still unable to remember. Since the resident is unable to remember and does not wish to discuss this any further, the most appropriate response is **Code 8. Unable to answer.**



J0510: Practice Scenario 2



A resident is preparing for discharge from the SNF after recovering from a major automobile accident and subsequent right lower lobe pneumonia.

During the discharge assessment, the nurse assessor asks the resident,

“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.)



The resident responds,

“Some nights I have a really hard time sleeping due to my pain—especially when I have done too much during the day. On those nights, I need to ask the nurse for additional pain medication before I can get back to sleep.”

What should the nurse assessor do next?

- A. Code 2. Occasionally, as the resident reported having pain only on some nights.
- B. Code 3. Frequently, since it sounds like the resident was awake a lot due to pain.
- C. Narrow down the resident's response by asking additional follow-up questions about the frequency of pain.
- D. Code 8. Unable to answer.

J0510. Pain Effect on Sleep

Enter Code

☐

Ask resident: "Over the past 5 days, how much of the time has pain made it hard for you to sleep at night?"

1. Rarely or not at all

2. Occasionally


3. Frequently

4. Almost constantly

8. Unable to answer



What should the nurse assessor do next?

- A. Code 2. Occasionally, as the resident reported having pain only on some nights.
- B. Code 3. Frequently, since it sounds like the resident was awake a lot due to pain.
-  C. **Narrow down the resident's response by asking additional follow-up questions about the frequency of pain.**
- D. Code 8. Unable to answer.

J0510. Pain Effect on Sleep

Enter Code

☐

Ask resident: *"Over the past 5 days, how much of the time has pain made it hard for you to sleep at night?"*

- 1. Rarely or not at all
- 2. Occasionally
- 3. Frequently
- 4. Almost constantly
- 8. Unable to answer

J0510: Practice Scenario 2 – Rationale

Since the resident'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.

Therefore, the correct answer is **C. Narrow down the resident's response by asking additional follow-up questions about the frequency of pain.**

J0510: Practice Scenario 2 – Follow-Up



As a follow-up, the nurse asks the resident whether this pain occurred occasionally or frequently over the past 5 days.

The resident responds,

“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.

J0510. Pain Effect on Sleep

Enter Code

☐

Ask resident: *"Over the past 5 days, how much of the time has pain made it hard for you to sleep at night?"*

1. Rarely or not at all

2. Occasionally

3. Frequently

4. Almost constantly

8. Unable to answer

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. Pain Effect on Sleep

Enter Code

☐

Ask resident: "Over the past 5 days, how much of the time has pain made it hard for you to sleep at night?"

1. Rarely or not at all

2. Occasionally

3. Frequently

4. Almost constantly

8. Unable to answer

J0510: Practice Scenario 2 – Follow-Up Rationale

Upon further clarification by the nurse, the resident 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.

The correct answer is **Code 2. Occasionally.**



J0520

Pain Interference with Therapy Activities

J0520. Pain Interference with Therapy Activities

J0520. Pain Interference with Therapy Activities

Enter Code:

☐

Ask resident: *"Over the past 5 days, how often have you limited your participation in rehabilitation therapy sessions due to pain?"*

- 0. Does not apply - I have not received rehabilitation therapy in the past 5 days
- 1. Rarely or not at all
- 2. Occasionally
- 3. Frequently
- 4. Almost constantly
- 8. Unable to answer

J0520: Coding Instructions



Code for pain interference with therapy activities over the last 5 days.

If the resident responds that they did not participate in rehabilitation therapy for reasons unrelated to pain (e.g., therapy not needed, unable to schedule).

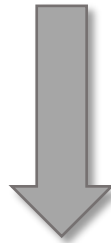


Does not apply
Code 0

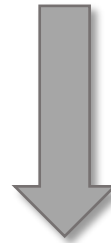
If the resident responds that pain has _____ limited their participation in rehabilitation therapy sessions over the past 5 days.



Rarely or not at all
Code 1



Occasionally
Code 2



Frequently
Code 3



Almost constantly
Code 4

If the resident is unable to answer the question, does not respond, or gives a nonsensical response.



Unable to answer
Code 8

J0520: Practice Scenario 3

During the first week in the SNF, a nurse is completing the admission assessment and asks the resident,

“Over the past 5 days, how often have you limited your participation in rehabilitation therapy sessions due to pain?”

The resident reports,

“I developed an infection in my foot and started intravenous (IV) antibiotics about 3 days ago. My doctor says that therapy will not start until this infection gets under control.”



What should the nurse assessor do next?

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

J0520. Pain Interference with Therapy Activities

Enter Code

☐

Ask resident: "Over the past 5 days, how often have you limited your participation in rehabilitation therapy sessions due to pain?"

0. Does not apply - I have not received rehabilitation therapy in the past 5 days

1. Rarely or not at all

2. Occasionally

3. Frequently

4. Almost constantly

8. Unable to answer



What should the nurse assessor do next?



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

J0520. Pain Interference with Therapy Activities

Enter Code

☐

Ask resident: "Over the past 5 days, how often have you limited your participation in rehabilitation therapy sessions due to pain?"

0. Does not apply - I have not received rehabilitation therapy in the past 5 days

1. Rarely or not at all

2. Occasionally

3. Frequently

4. Almost constantly

8. Unable to answer

J0520: Practice Scenario 3 – Rationale

The resident reports that they have not begun receiving rehabilitation therapy due to a foot infection and IV therapy.

The most applicable response is **Code 0. Does not apply**, since the resident is not participating in rehabilitation therapy for reasons unrelated to pain.



J0520: Practice Scenario 4

A resident with a history of osteoporosis has recovered from a spinal compression fracture and is about to be discharged from the SNF. The resident will be receiving outpatient therapy services after discharge. Staff have reported observing the resident experiencing a lot of pain during therapy sessions at the SNF.

The assessor reads the question and response choices as written.

The resident responds,

“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 the pain in my back was so severe that I had to limit my participation in therapy.”



J0520: Practice Scenario 4 (cont.)

The assessor confirms,

“The pain in your back limited your participation in therapy only one time in the past 5 days. If you had to choose an answer, would you say that you have limited your participation in rehabilitation therapy sessions due to pain rarely or occasionally?”

The resident responds,

“Rarely.”



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

- A. Code 0. Does not apply, since the resident will be receiving therapy as an outpatient.
- B. Code 1. Rarely or not at all, as this best describes the resident's response.
- C. Code 2. Occasionally, to be safe, because the resident may have forgotten pain episodes and underreported their pain.
- D. Code 4. Almost constantly, because you have heard from other staff that the resident has had much more pain than they are mentioning.

J0520. Pain Interference with Therapy Activities

Enter Code
☐

Ask resident: *"Over the past 5 days, how often have you limited your participation in rehabilitation therapy sessions due to pain?"*

0.

Does not apply - I have not received rehabilitation therapy in the past 5 days

1.

Rarely or not at all

2.

Occasionally

3.

Frequently

4.

Almost constantly

8.

Unable to answer

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



- A. Code 0. Does not apply, since the resident will be receiving therapy as an outpatient.
- B. Code 1. Rarely or not at all, as this best describes the resident's response.**
- C. Code 2. Occasionally, to be safe, because the resident may have forgotten pain episodes and underreported their pain.
- D. Code 4. Almost constantly, because you have heard from other staff that the resident has had much more pain than they are mentioning.

J0520. Pain Interference with Therapy Activities

Enter Code

☐

Ask resident: "Over the past 5 days, how often have you limited your participation in rehabilitation therapy sessions due to pain?"

0. Does not apply - I have not received rehabilitation therapy in the past 5 days

1. Rarely or not at all

2. Occasionally

3. Frequently

4. Almost constantly

8. Unable to answer

J0520: Practice Scenario 4 – Rationale

The resident reported that pain limited their participation in therapy only one time in the last 5 days and indicated that they would say that they have “rarely” limited their participation in rehabilitation therapy sessions due to pain. Therefore, the correct answer is **Code 1. Rarely or not at all.**

J0520 assesses pain interference with therapy over the past 5 days. This item should be coded *based on the resident’s interpretation of the provided response options for frequency.*

J0530

Pain Interference with Day-to-Day Activities

J0530. Pain Interference with Day-to-Day Activities

J0530. Pain Interference with Day-to-Day Activities

Enter Code

☐

Ask resident: "Over the past 5 days, how often have you limited your day-to-day activities (excluding rehabilitation therapy sessions) because of pain?"

1. Rarely or not at all
2. Occasionally
3. Frequently
4. Almost constantly
8. Unable to answer

J0530: Coding Instructions



Code for pain interference with day-to-day activities over the last 5 days.

*If the resident responds that pain has _____
limited their day-to-day activities
(excluding rehabilitation therapy sessions) over the past 5 days.*

*If the resident is unable to
answer the question, does
not respond, or gives a
nonsensical response.*

Rarely or
not at all
Code 1

Occasionally
Code 2

Frequently
Code 3

Almost
constantly
Code 4

Unable to answer
Code 8

J0530: Practice Scenario 5

A resident is preparing for discharge after a prolonged SNF stay following a total knee replacement with subsequent joint infection.

During the discharge assessment, the nurse assessor asks the resident,

“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 5 (cont.)

The resident replies,

“Most days I can do what I want to do, though I was disappointed that I couldn’t attend the resident and staff Memorial Day celebration last week as I was having some pain on the day of the event. 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.”

The assessor asks if the resident is able to narrow down their response choices, but the resident indicates that they are not.



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 resident could not select a specific response.


J0530. Pain Interference with Day-to-Day Activities

Enter Code ☐

Ask resident: "Over the past 5 days, how often have you limited your day-to-day activities (excluding rehabilitation therapy sessions) because of pain?"

- 1. Rarely or not at all
- 2. Occasionally
- 3. Frequently
- 4. Almost constantly
- 8. Unable to answer

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 resident could not select a specific response.

J0530. Pain Interference with Day-to-Day Activities

Enter Code

☐

Ask resident: "Over the past 5 days, how often have you limited your day-to-day activities (excluding rehabilitation therapy sessions) because of pain?"

1. Rarely or not at all
2. Occasionally
3. **Frequently**
4. Almost constantly
8. Unable to answer

J0530: Practice Scenario 5 – Rationale

The resident reported that knee pain kept them from participating in a holiday celebration at the facility and that their pain has occasionally to frequently limited day-to-day activities.

Since the resident could not decide between two frequency response options, *the assessor should code for the option with the higher frequency.* In this case, the correct answer is **Code 3. Frequently.**

J0530: Practice Scenario 6

A resident was transferred from the acute care hospital and has been in the SNF recovering from an episode of congestive heart failure. The resident also has severe rheumatoid arthritis.

The nurse is completing the admission assessment and asks the resident,

“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 resident 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 ache, and my joints hurt almost all the time, so it’s hard to walk.

Between my feet and joints, I always have pain that almost constantly 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.

J0530. Pain Interference with Day-to-Day Activities


Enter Code

☐

Ask resident: "Over the past 5 days, how often have you limited your day-to-day activities (excluding rehabilitation therapy sessions) because of pain?"

1. Rarely or not at all
2. Occasionally
3. Frequently
4. Almost constantly
8. Unable to answer

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. Pain Interference with Day-to-Day Activities

Enter Code

☐

Ask resident: "Over the past 5 days, how often have you limited your day-to-day activities (excluding rehabilitation therapy sessions) because of pain?"

1. Rarely or not at all

2. Occasionally

3. Frequently

4. Almost constantly

8. Unable to answer

J0530: Practice Scenario 6 – Rationale

The resident reported that although they try to be active, pain related to their rheumatoid arthritis and their swollen, achy feet almost constantly limits their day-to-day activities. Therefore, the correct answer is **Code 4. Almost constantly.**



J0530: Practice Scenario 7

A resident with a diagnosis of debility, Parkinson's disease, and dementia was recently transferred to the SNF from an acute care hospital after experiencing a fall at home. The resident is sometimes able to respond to questions.

Staff report that the resident has seemed to be in a lot of pain since arriving. The resident's daughter has also stated that their father seems to be experiencing a lot of pain since arriving to the facility.

The assessor completing the admission assessment asks the resident,

“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 7 (cont.)

The resident responds, *"I want to go home."*

The assessor repeats the question in order to attempt to obtain a response. However, the resident repeatedly states that they want to go home and then becomes agitated. The assessor is unable to obtain a response from the resident. The resident's daughter, who is present during the assessment, reports that their father has frequently been complaining of pain.



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.

J0530. Pain Interference with Day-to-Day Activities

Enter Code

☐

Ask resident: "Over the past 5 days, how often have you limited your day-to-day activities (excluding rehabilitation therapy sessions) because of pain?"

1. Rarely or not at all

2. Occasionally

3. Frequently

4. Almost constantly

8. Unable to answer



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.**



J0530. Pain Interference with Day-to-Day Activities

Enter Code

☐

Ask resident: "Over the past 5 days, how often have you limited your day-to-day activities (excluding rehabilitation therapy sessions) because of pain?"

1. Rarely or not at all

2. Occasionally

3. Frequently

4. Almost constantly

8. Unable to answer

J0530: Practice Scenario 7 – Rationale

The resident was unable to select a response, so the correct answer is **Code 8. Unable to answer.**

This item should be coded *based on the resident's interpretation of the provided response options for frequency.*

Interview allows the resident's voice to be reflected in the care plan. Information about pain that comes directly from the resident provides symptom-specific information for individualized care planning.



J0510 – J0530: Pain Assessment Interview Key Insights

The Section J Pain Assessment Interview data elements J0510–J0530 are **new** to the SNF setting.

- These data elements assess the effect of pain on sleep, pain interference with therapy activities, and pain interference with day-to-day activities.

Code the Pain Assessment Interview based on the resident's interpretation of the provided response options for frequency.

- If the resident is unable to decide between two response options, then the assessor should code for the option with the *higher* frequency.

