

IPA FAQs

What is an IPA?

Under PDPM, if a resident's condition or function changes in such a way that the clinical staff feels that a new assessment would place the resident at a different PDPM classification, they will have the option to do a new assessment. This new assessment is called an Interim Payment Assessment or "IPA."

Is an IPA always needed?

According to the Fiscal Year 2020 Final Rule, the IPA will be considered optional and the provider may decide whether and when an IPA assessment is appropriate.

How is an ARD affected when it comes to an IPA?

The ARD would include a 3-day look back period and the reference date is designated as the date the provider completes the assessment.

When do new payment rates apply?

New payment rates will apply as of the date the provider completes the assessment.

How does an IPA affect a resident's variable rate adjustment schedule?

Completion of an IPA assessment to reclassify a resident for payment purposes would not impact or reset the resident's variable rate adjustment schedule for PT, OT or the NTA components. This means that if the IPA was completed on "Day 23" of the Medicare stay, the next day would still be considered "Day 24" for the purposes of determining PT and OT rate adjustments.

What are some examples of what might be considered a change in condition or function which could lead to an IPA Assessment?

One example is that if therapists or nursing note a significant change in a resident's Self-Care or Mobility function, that may result in different ratings in Section GG of the MDS and lead to a different case-mix category for the PT, OT and/or Nursing components. In addition, if the staff identifies additional conditions that are present or emerging or they realize that certain services are now necessary, that may impact the NTA case-mix component.

What is best practice for preparing for doing an IPA Assessment?

Consider streamlining the communication process amongst Nursing, Therapy, Social Services, Activities and any other staff that may notice changes in your residents so that the communication occurs effectively.

Questions about this information? Contact PDPM@AegisTherapies.com or visit our Resource Center for more information at [AegisTherapies.com/Resources](https://www.aegistherapies.com/Resources).