

DURABILITY OF RESPONSE FAQs

What is Durability of Response?

This is the ability for the patient to maintain gains made while participating in skilled intervention/rehabilitation when that skilled intervention is not being provided. In other words, this ascertains whether or not the patient can maintain the gains made while under the care of the home care team when the team is no longer in the home.

How is Durability of Response implemented?

The therapy team must begin to transition some of the care over to a care extender — whether that is a family member or other non-skilled provider. Also, slow titration of care – the methodical removal of therapy visits, with greater time between visits – helps the therapist examine the patient with durability of response in mind. This practice allows the therapist to gain a deeper understanding of how the patient is maintaining their skill level during periods of reduced therapy.

What does it mean to transition care to a non-skilled extender?

When care can be transferred to someone who is not “of a skilled background” that means the care is not so complex that it can only be provided by a skilled clinician. This is good news for the patient because it means they no longer need skilled clinicians to provide their care.

What are some best practices for Durability of Response?

First of all, therapists should begin to educate the patient on how their disease process can affect them and how it relates to mobility, endurance, cognitive functioning, and ADL performance. The therapist should also begin the treatment process as soon as possible to transition over routine tasks or exercises to the patient and family to complete on their own.

What makes transition of care valuable to treatment?

The transition of care from the skilled provider to the patient is crucial to bridging the gap from an acute episode to a stay of wellness. The sooner the patient and/or family begin to understand the process to manage the patient's condition, the sooner the therapist can determine the durability of that response.

How does a therapist assess what the patient's needs are in order to have a successful Durability of Response?

Therapists can now analyze patient needs through the lens of varying levels of monitoring such as routine exercises or repetitious tasks. These can be performed by a care extender such as a home health aide, family friend or family member. The therapist should determine if the care extender is capable of monitoring the activity and understands any condition management considerations. In addition, a therapist can phone the patient to remind him or her of the need to perform any exercises or reinforcing activities that do not need the monitoring of another person.

What are the changes under PDGM regarding skilled visits?

The definition of skilled service doesn't change under PDGM. Reimbursement is determined by patient characteristics and the value of the service over volume. Evidence supports various forms of follow up to empower the patient to manage their condition. What will the delivery of value-based care to support durability of response/extending the patient's stay of wellness look like for your agency?

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