



Executive Summary:

30 Day Functional Reassessment

In PDGM, with the role of therapy transitioning from volume to value, the 30-Day functional reassessment will prove to be more valuable than ever. Currently, as well as under the PDGM model, a Functional Reassessment is required to be performed at least every 30 calendar days by a qualified therapist. The therapist must document the objective results of functional testing in the clinical record along with the therapist's determination of the effectiveness of therapy.

The appropriate use of objective measurements of function to determine the effectiveness of the therapy plan of care and the need to continue therapy will significantly assist the agency in each 30-day unit of payment

The 30-day Functional Reassessment is a CMS requirement, but it should be considered the therapist's primary tool to objectively assess the beneficial components of the therapeutic intervention — what's working and what's not. What part of the patient's clinical plan and interventions need to be modified? Are the patient's goals still reasonable and attainable? Does the therapist need to continue therapy or is the patient nearing discharge? These questions, as they are now, will be critical to address in the new payment model.

The Functional Reassessment must include an "objective measurement of function in accordance with accepted professional standards of clinical practice enabling comparison of successive measurements to determine the effectiveness of therapy goals" per 42 CFR 409.44. These assessments "may include but are not limited to eating, swallowing, bathing, dressing, toileting, walking, climbing stairs, or using assistive devices, and mental and cognitive factors." Some examples of objective tests that therapists commonly utilize are the Tinetti Assessment Tool, Functional Reach, Allen Cognitive Testing, Dynamic Gait Index, and the Timed Up and Go test. The testing provided should be specific and sensitive to the primary diagnosis of the patient

It will be essential for the therapist to document the interpretation of the test results and how it relates to the functional change in the patient, the effectiveness of the therapy treatment plan and how it supports the decision to modify the current treatment plan to meet the needs of the patient and his or her goals.

The 30-day Functional Reassessment will be a useful tool to utilize during the care team conference to coordinate and collaborate effective care. This document should support the question, "Why is therapy necessary for this patient now?" or "What would happen if this patient did not receive therapy?"

Now that PDGM separates the 60-day certification period into two 30-day payment periods, the 30-day Functional Reassessment takes on new meaning to help justify and support therapy involvement in each 30-day period. The Functional Reassessment ensures that effective, reasonable, and necessary therapy services are being provided to the patient.

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).