

# FUNCTIONAL REASSESSMENT AND 30-DAY PAYMENT PERIODS FAQs

## **What is the purpose of a 30-Day Functional Reassessment?**

A Functional Reassessment (FR) is required to be performed at least every 30 calendar days by a qualified therapist with each discipline having their own 30-day timing. A qualified therapist is a physical therapist, occupational therapist and a speech-language pathologist. Assistants are not permitted to perform a Functional Reassessment. The purpose of the 30-day FR is to obtain "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." CMS states 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."

## **Does the performance of a Functional Reassessment change under PDGM?**

No, there is no change to the timing, requirement or performance of the FR under PDGM.

## **How does the 30-day FR relate to PDGM?**

Since PDGM is separating the 60-day certification period into two 30-day payment periods, the 30-day FR demonstrates a new opportunity for an agency to examine their patient's functional changes as the patient moves through each 30-day payment period.

## **What are some things a therapist needs to look for during the assessment?**

The therapist considers the parts of the patient's clinical plan and interventions that need to be modified. By reassessing the patient using the same assessment tools employed during the evaluation or last functional reassessment, the therapist can determine if the interventions provided have manifested in a change in functional performance and objective positive change. The therapist then reexamines the patient's goals to determine if they are reasonable and attainable.

## **What are some crucial items the assessment needs to include?**

As mentioned above, the therapist must have objective measurements to compare for functional improvement. There are many assessments a therapist can implement to evaluate performance and measure underlying impairments. 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 that requires the home care episode.

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