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Inpatient Rehabilitation: Functional Independence Measures (FIMS)

I. SCOPE:

This policy applies to Tenet, its consolidated subsidiaries, and all hospitals and other healthcare operations owned or operated by Tenet’s consolidated subsidiaries (Tenet) that provide Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Services.

II. PURPOSE:


To utilize a measure for collecting standardized Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Patient Assessment Instrument (IRF-PAI) data to conform with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations. The Functional Independence Measure (FIM) Instrument will be used to assist in classifying a patient into a case mix group (CMG).

III. POLICY:

- A. All clinical disciplines are required to document in FIM language.
- B. All clinical disciplines will be instructed in the FIM Instrument through a Train-the-Trainer session and must demonstrate competency in the FIM Instrument at time of orientation and at least annually.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. All patients admitted to a Tenet Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility will be scored using the FIM Instrument:
 - 1. The FIM Instrument is a basic indicator of severity of disability that can be administered comparatively quickly and can be used to generate data on large groups of people. As the severity of disability changes during rehabilitation, the data generated by the FIM Instrument can be used to track such changes and analyze the outcomes of rehabilitation.
 - 2. The FIM Instrument is comprised of 18 items, each of which is scored on a scale of 0-7:
 - a) Eating
 - b) Grooming
 - c) Bathing
 - d) Dressing upper body

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- e) Dressing lower body
- f) Toileting
- g) Bladder Management
- h) Bowel Movement
- i) Shower Management
- j) Transfer Bed/Chair
- k) Transfers Toilet
- l) Transfers Tub/Shower
- m) Walker/Wheelchair
- n) Stairs
- o) Comprehensive Expression / Comprehension
- p) Expression
- q) Social Interaction
- r) Problem Solving
- s) Memory

B. Description of the Levels of Function and Scores (0-7)

INDEPENDENT – Another person is not required for the activity (no helper).

SCORE

- 7 Complete Independence** - The patient safely performs all the tasks described as making up the activity within a reasonable amount of time, and does so without modification, assistive devices, or aids.
- 6 Modified Independence** - One or more of the following may be true: the activity requires an assistive device, the activity takes more than reasonable time, or the activity involves safety (risk) considerations.

DEPENDENT – Patient requires another person for either supervision or physical assistance in order to perform the activity, or it is not performed (required helper).

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Modified Dependence: The patient expends half (50%) or more of the effort. The levels of assistance required are defined below.

- 5 Supervision or Setup** - The patient requires no more help than standby, cueing, or coaxing, without physical contact. Alternately, the helper sets up needed items or applies orthoses or assistive/adaptive devices.
- 4 Minimal Contact Assistance** - The patient requires no more help than touching, and expends 75% or more of the effort.
- 3 Moderate Assistance** - The patient requires more help than touching, or expends between 50 and 74% of the effort.

Complete Dependence: The patient expends less than half (less than 50%) of the effort. Maximal or total assistance is required. The levels of assistance required are defined below.

- 2 Maximal Assistance** - The patient expends between 25 and 49% of the effort.
- 1 Total Assistance** – The patient expends less than 25% of the effort.
- 0 Activity Does Not Occur** – The patient does not perform the activity, and a helper does not perform the activity for the patient during the entire assessment time frame.

NOTE: Do not use this code only because you did not observe the patient perform the activity. In such cases, consult other clinicians, the patient’s medical record, the patient and the patient’s family members to discover whether others observed the patient perform the activity.

V. REFERENCE:

- 1. CMS website for Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Patient Assessment Instrument (IRF-PAI) (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/providers/irfpps/irfpai.asp>)