



PDPM Part 3: Function Scores Here, Function Scores There, PT, OT and Nursing Scores Everywhere!

Unless you've slept through the second half of 2018, you're familiar with this year's updates to Section GG (Functional Abilities and Goals) and at least familiar with the concept that Section GG plays a role in the Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM). Today we'll break down exactly how important of a role it plays in PDPM and the importance of accurate data collection.

Let's review a few key points regarding Section GG and the PDPM Function Score.

- First, PDPM does not utilize Section G for any case mix component. Section GG will be utilized as part of the case mix classification for Physical Therapy (PT), Occupational Therapy (OT), and Nursing components.
- Second, Section GG has a reverse scoring methodology from Section G meaning a higher GG score indicates higher independence.
- Finally, CMS states under PDPM there is not a direct relationship between increasing functional dependence and increasing payment where as under RUG-IV, higher payment was allocated for greater dependence in functional ability.

The Section GG items used to calculate the function score for PT and OT components is different from those used to calculate Nursing's function score. Acumen found reliable predictors of resource use for nursing could be determined through the assessment of the four late loss ADLs: Bed mobility, transfers, eating, and toileting (chart 1). To compute the Nursing function score, each item is translated to a function score (chart 2). PDPM sums the average of two bed mobility items, the average of three transfer items, one eating item and one toileting item. The score is then factored into other meaningful clinical characteristics for nursing to determine the nursing case mix.

The PT and OT function score is computed using the same formula for the late loss ADLs plus two early loss ADLs found to be high predictors of cost: oral hygiene and the average of two walking items. Once again, prior to calculation, the Section GG score of 1-6 is converted to a function score of 0-4. The Function score is then factored into other meaningful clinical characteristics of the resident to classify into a PT case mix and OT case mix category.

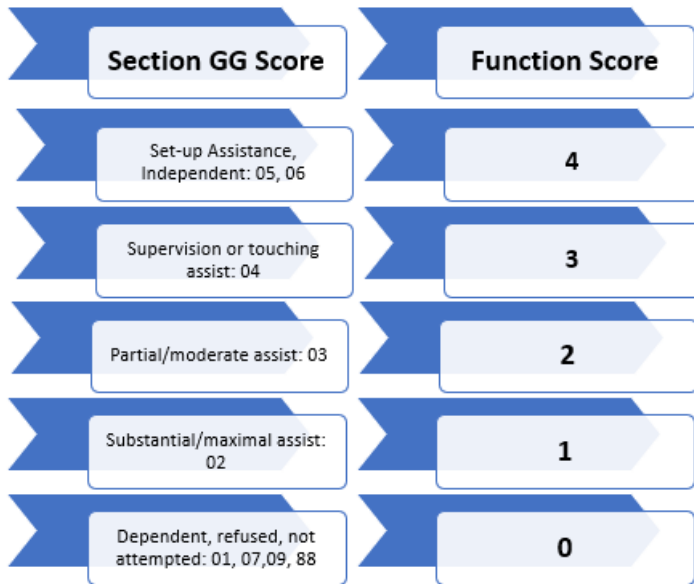
If this feels like too much math, focus back to the basics: the functional ability of the patient. As stated earlier, the information driving classification for PT, OT, and Nursing largely comes from Section GG. As we prepare for October 1, 2019 consider who contributes to section GG data collection? Is it completed timely? Is it an accurate reflection of the patient's "usual" ability? As you work through these questions also consider when and where the data is collected. The answers should be during the first three days of the resident's stay and *everywhere* the functional tasks occur. They may be performed in the resident's room, therapy gym, dining area, activities room, or back patio. Don't limit data collection to one area, one moment, or assign sole responsibility to one department.

Use the time leading up to October 2019 to conduct a Section GG quality improvement plan. Assess roles and accuracy. Engage therapy, adjust technique if necessary, and reassess so when PDPM officially launches, communication is streamlined and your assessment team is confident in their data.

Chart 1: Section GG Items for Function Score:

Section GG	Function Score Calculation	Applies to:
GG0130A1: Self-care- Eating	0-4	PT, OT, and Nursing
GG0130B1: Self-care- Oral Hygiene	0-4	PT and OT only
GG0130C1: Self-care- Toileting Hygiene	0-4	PT, OT, and Nursing
GG0170B1: Mobility- Lying to sitting	0-4 (Average of 2)	PT, OT, and Nursing
GG0170C1: Mobility- Lying to sitting on side of bed		
GG0170D1: Mobility- Sit to stand	0-4 (Average of 3)	PT, OT, and Nursing
GG0170E1: Mobility- Chair/bed to chair transfer		
GG0170F1: Mobility- Toilet transfer		
GG0170J1: Mobility- Walk 50 feet with 2 turns	0-4 (Average of 2)	PT and OT Only
GG0170K1: Mobility- Walk 150 feet		
		PT and OT: Sum total of categories/averages for range of 0-24 Nursing: Sum total of categories/averages for range of 0-16

Chart 2: Function Score Conversion:



- The section GG score of 1-6 is mapped to a correlating PDPM Function score of 0-4.
- Note:
 - The lower the score, the higher the need of care.
 - Inverse from current RUGs IV where the higher the ADL score, the higher need for care.
 - Missing values for GG will result in zero points for function score.