

MEDICARE DOCUMENTATION GUIDELINES

PAIN

- Vital signs
- Location
- Duration
- Description/quality
- Intensity (0-10 scale, 0 = no pain)
- Precipitating factors
- Effects of pain
- Pain med given & results
- Other modalities used to relieve pain
- Pain assessments

WOUNDS

- Vital signs
- Location, type, size, wound bed description
- Drainage type, color, odor
- Wound care given incl. Supplies used
- Nutritional status / interventions
- Contracture(s)
- Special equipment

NEUROLOGIC

- Vital signs
- LOC, dizziness, pain
- Seizures, memory
- Movement, strength of extremity
- Orientation, person, place, time
- Paresthesia, reflexes
- Sleep pattern
- Pupii responses
- Speech patterns
- Associated diseases
- Equipment necessary
- Therapeutic/diagnostic procedure

TRACHEOSTOMY

- Vital signs
- Suctioning, secretions, description
- Treatment(s)
- Trach site, redness
- Oxygen, amount, mode
- Speech, communication
- Weaning, response

CANCER

- Vital signs
- Nutritional intake, hydration, anorexia
- Nausea, vomiting
- Ascites, edema, jaundice
- Weight
- I&O
- Pain, meds, response
- Skin, radiation site, infusion site
- Oral supplement, type, amount taken
- Meal percentages
- Activity level
- Color, cyanosis, ashen
- Anxiety, hospice
- Therapeutic/diagnostic procedures

MOBILITY

- Assistance required for bed mobility, transfer & ambulation
- Increased mobility as a result of therapy
- Weight bearing status and tolerance

URINARY

- Intake and Output
- Time / amount of urination
- Frequency / color of urine
- Incontinence
- Abnormalities / condition of genitals, edema, discharge, enlarged prostate
- Indwelling catheter, reason for use
- Catheter size, changed
- Lower back / bladder pain, spasms
- Antibiotic

SEIZURE DISORDER

- Vital signs
- Time seizure began & duration
- Initial symptoms, aura
- Type, grand mal or petit mal
- Type movements
- Unconscious, check airway
- Incontinence
- Size of pupils
- Injuries sustained
- Exhaustion
- Meds, response
- Therapeutic / diagnostic procedures
- Equipment, padded rails

IV THERAPY

- Vital signs
- Reason for therapy
- I&O, nutritional intake
- V site, redness, swollen, tender, drainage
- Cannula size
- Solution, meds, rate, amount
- Maintained, changes
- Hydration status, skin turgor

UTI

- Vital signs
- I&O
- Voids, frequency, amount, color, odor
- Nausea, vomiting
- Blood in urine
- Headaches, malaise
- Back pain, bladder pain
- Antibiotic
- Foley catheter
- Catheter care
- Bladder irrigations

CIRCULATORY

- Peripheral pulse(s)
- Color/temp of extremity
- Skin integrity
- Edema location, pitting, non-pitting amount (+1 - +4)
- Pain location, precipitating factors, meds
- Homans sign

RESPIRATORY

- Respiratory rate
- Vital signs
- Breath sounds
- SOB/dyspnea, precipitating factors
- Presence of cough
- Productive/non-productive
- Suctioning
- Color, amount, consistency of sputum
- Lab results
- Antibiotic therapy
- Pulse ox
- Confusion, restlessness, headache
- Skin warm, dry, moist

PSYCHOLOGICAL

- Vital signs
- Affect, mental status

- Orientation, person, place & time
- Meds, psychotropic response
- Behavior, how manifested
- How behavior affects function and quality of life
- Non drug interventions
- Personality disorders
- Consults

NEW OSTOMY

- Vital signs
- Observation of site, redness, drainage, color, size of stoma
- Stool, color, amount, consistency, frequency
- Abdominal distention, bowel sounds
- Irrigation, solution, frequency, results
- Teaching progress, learning ability, return demo
- Appliance used
- Additional skin care

MYOCARDIAL INFARCT

- Vital signs
- Pulse irregularity
- Changes in BP
- Color of skin, nails, lips
- Pain, response
- Tolerance of activity, onset of pain, SOB, endurance, distance
- Nutritional status, NA restriction
- Response to meds
- Anxiety

CARDIOVASCULAR

- Vital signs
- Rates, apical, radial, peripheral pulses
- Skin warm & dry
- Edema
- BP, any changes
- Palpitations
- Neck vein distention
- Color of nails, lips, skin
- Pacemaker, other equipment

HYPERTENSION

- Vital signs
- BP with hypertensive meds, lying and standing if severe hypertension
- Confusion
- Blurred vision, vertigo
- Headache

- Sleepiness, irritability
- CHF
- Vital signs
 - Lung sounds, rates, wheezing
 - Dyspnea, SOB
 - Oxygen
 - Edema, pitting (+1 - +4)
 - Diuretic therapy, I&O
 - Neck vein distention
 - Chest pain, action, response
 - Mobility status, weakness
 - HOB elevated

RENAL FAILURE

- Vital signs
- Weight loss or gain
- Headache, fatigue, disorientation, irritable, anxious
- Delusions, drowsiness, coma
- Muscle twitching, skin discolored
- Nausea, vomiting, pallor, pruritus, anorexia
- Mouth ulcers, ammonia odor
- Shunt site, bruit, trill, dressing
- Hemodialysis, location, frequency

NUTRITION

- Vital signs
- Meal intake
- I&O
- Calorie count
- Weight
- RD, and/or SLP consult
- Restorative nursing
- TF type, size, rate, amount
- Placement
- Site assessment
- Weaning
- HOB elevated

DIABETES

- Vital signs
- Diet, intake, appetite
- Signs & symptoms of hypo or hyperglycemia, action and response
- Blood glucose check, frequency, result, action
- Signs of infection
- Skin care
- Lab work

FRACTURED HIP

- Vital signs
- Pain scale, pain meds, response
- Incision, sutures, intact, drainage, edema, appearance
- Assist required for mobility, transfer, positioning, ADLs
- Circulation
- Meal intake, appetite
- Equipment

ANEMIA

1. Vital signs
2. Meal intake, vitamin therapy
3. I&O
4. Edema, sore mouth, fatigue
5. Pallor, dizziness, faintness
6. Tinnitus, headache
7. Dyspnea, SOB
8. Palpitations
9. Pale mucosa, nail beds, conjunctiva
10. Lab work

GI/DIGESTIVE TRACT

- Vital signs
- Nausea, vomiting, flatulence
- Abnormal stool
- Ascites
- Liver enlargement
- Bowel sounds
- Fistulas, bleeding, hemorrhoids
- Appetite
- Abdominal pain, heartburn, hiccups
- Equipment, diagnostic procedure

CVA

- Vital signs
- Safety measures
- Assist needed for ADLs, bed mobility, positioning and transfers
- Balance problems
- Edema
- Restorative interventions
- Speech and/or swallowing problem
- Contracture(s), prevention
- Equipment, slings, splints
- PT/OT/SLP involvement

PNEUMONIA

- Vital signs
- Lung sounds, dyspnea, SOB
- Oxygen
- Skin color, cyanosis, pallor, warm, dry
- Weakness, disorientation
- Cough, productive, sputum color
- Suctioning
- Restlessness, headache
- Antibiotic, breathing treatment
- Appetite, weight

ANTICOAGULANT THERAPY

- Vital signs
- Joint and/or abdominal bleeding
- Active bleeding, hematuria, petechiae, bruising, nosebleed, bloody stool
- PT/PTT
- Color, cyanosis, pallor
- Teaching of anticoagulant therapy complications