220.4 – Functional Reporting

(Rev. 165, Issued: 12-21-12, Effective: 01-01-13, Implementation: 01-07-13)

A. Selecting the G-codes to Use in Functional Reporting.

There are 42 functional G-codes, 14 sets of three codes each, for that can be used in identifying the functional limitation being reported. Six of the G-code sets are generally for PT and OT functional limitations and eight sets of G-codes are for SLP functional limitations. (For a list of these codes and descriptors, see Pub. 100-04, Medicare Claims Processing Manual, chapter 5, section 10.6 F.)

Only one functional limitation shall be reported at a time. Consequently, the clinician must select the G-code set for the functional limitation that most closely relates to the primary functional limitation being treated or the one that is the primary reason for treatment. When the beneficiary has more than one functional limitation, the clinician may need to make a determination as to which functional limitation is primary. In these cases, the clinician may choose the functional limitation that is:

- Most clinically relevant to a successful outcome for the beneficiary;
- The one that would yield the quickest and/or greatest functional progress; or
- The one that is the greatest priority for the beneficiary.

In all cases, this primary functional limitation should reflect the predominant limitation that the furnished therapy services are intended to address.

For services typically reported as PT or OT, the clinician reports one of the "Other PT/OT" functional G-codes sets to report when one of the four PT/OT categorical code sets does not describe the beneficiary's functional limitation, as follows:

- a beneficiary's functional limitation that is not defined by one of the four categories;

- a beneficiary whose therapy services are not intended to treat a functional limitation; or

- a beneficiary's functional limitation where an overall, composite, or other score from a functional assessment tool is used and does not clearly represent a functional limitation defined by one of the above four categorical PT/OT code sets.

In addition, the subsequent "Other PT/OT" G-code set is only reported after the primary "Other PT/OT" G-code set has been reported for the beneficiary during the same episode of care.

For services typically reported as SLP services, the clinician uses the "Other SLP" functional G-code to report when the functional limitation being treated is not represented by one of the seven categorical SLP functional measures. In addition, the "Other SLP" G-code set is used to report where an overall, composite, or other score from an assessment tool that does not clearly represent a functional limitation defined by one of the seven categorical SLP measures.

B. Selecting the severity modifiers to use in functional reporting/documenting.

Each G-code requires one of the following severity modifiers. When the clinician reports any of the following a modifier is used to convey the severity of the functional limitation: current status, the goal status and the discharge status.

Modifier	Impairment Limitation Restriction
CH	0 percent impaired, limited or restricted
CI	At least 1 percent but less than 20 percent impaired, limited or restricted
CJ	At least 20 percent but less than 40 percent impaired, limited or restricted
CK	At least 40 percent but less than 60 percent impaired, limited or restricted
CL	At least 60 percent but less than 80 percent impaired, limited or restricted
CM	At least 80 percent but less than 100 percent impaired, limited or restricted
CN	100 percent impaired, limited or restricted

The severity modifier reflects the beneficiary's percentage of functional impairment as determined by the clinician furnishing the therapy services for each functional status: current, goal, or discharge. In selecting the severity modifier, the clinician:

- Uses the severity modifier that reflects the score from a functional assessment tool or other performance measurement instrument, as appropriate.

- Uses his/her clinical judgment to combine the results of multiple measurement tools used during the evaluative process to inform clinical decision making to determine a functional limitation percentage.

- Uses his/her clinical judgment in the assignment of the appropriate modifier.

- Uses the CH modifier to reflect a zero percent impairment when the therapy services being furnished are not intended to treat (or address) a functional limitation.

In some cases the modifier will be the same for current status and goal status. For example: where improvement is expected but it is not expected to be enough to move to another modifier, such as from 10 percent to 15 percent, the same severity modifier would be used in reporting the current and goal status. Also, when the clinician does not expect improvement, such as for individuals receiving maintenance therapy, the modifier used for projected goal status will be the same as the one for current status. In these cases, the discharge status may also include the same modifier.

Therapists must document in the medical record how they made the modifier selection so that the same process can be followed at succeeding assessment intervals.