

Payment Reduction Warning

MDS 3.0 October 1, 2018

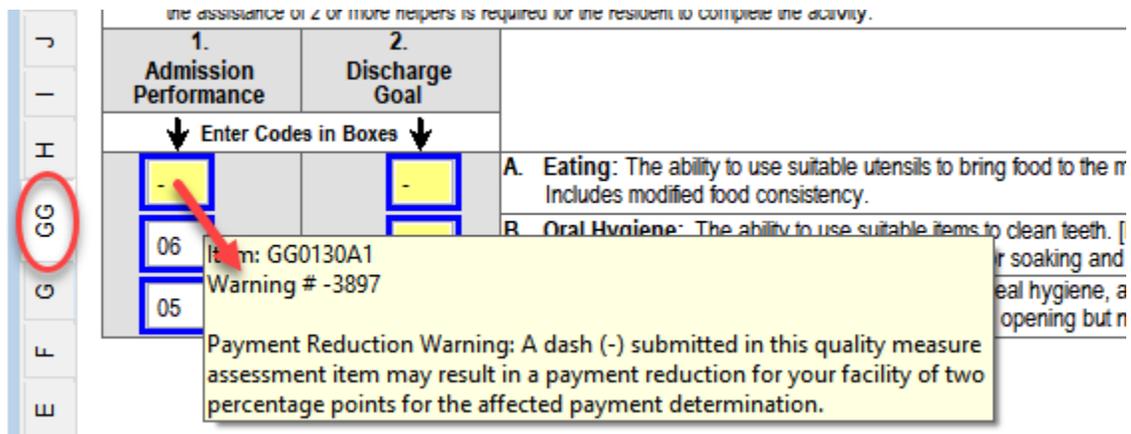
For *select* assessment questions, a dash, while permitted as an answer, will trigger a warning. These will be sections where CMS would expect a dash to be used *rarely*. You may still answer with a dash, but realize that doing so too often, can jeopardize your payment.

Although this is a CMS change effective for October 2018, CMS has made it a retroactive change back to 1/1/17. Therefore, you may see this change when working on any assessment with an ARD of 1/1/17 or later.

Example 1: Section GG

CMS expects you to place a value into all admission and discharge performance goals. A dash in any of these fields will turn that single field yellow. If you mouse hover over the field, you will see the warning message.

You are also expected to have at least one discharge goal. Failure to have a value in at least one of the goal fields, will turn them all yellow until one goal is answered.



If you did not evaluate all performance measures or you did not set a goal, placing dashes in those fields would be a truthful answer and you should answer the questions that way. Doing so too often, however, may lead to a decrease in your payment determination of two percentage points.

Example 2: Section J

As you complete the section regarding falls, when answering Question J1800 with a one to indicate a fall, CMS expects you to answer all of Question J1900. If you dash Question J1900C, it will trigger a yellow warning. This is illustrated below:

K	J1800. Any Falls Since Admission or Prior Assessment (OBRA, PPS, or Discharge) whiche	
J	Enter Code	Has the resident had any falls since admission or the prior assessment (OBRA, PPS, or Discharge), whichever is more recent?
I	1	0. No → Skip to K0100, Swallowing Disorder 1. Yes → Continue to J1900, Number of Falls Since Admission or Prior Assessment (OBRA, PS, or Discharge)
H	J1900. Number of Falls Since Admission or Prior Assessment (OBRA, PPS, or Discharge)	
GG	↓ Enter Codes in Boxes	
G	Coding:	A. No injury - no evidence of any injury is noted on physical assessment by the n
F	0. None	of pain or injury by the resident; no change in the resident's behavior is noted aft
E	1. One	B. Injury (except major) - skin tears, abrasions, lacerations, superficial bruises, t
D	2. Two or more	injury that causes the resident to complain of pain
C	-	C. Major injury - bone fractures, joint dislocations, closed head injuries with altere
B	Item: J1900C Warning # -3897 Payment Reduction Warning: A dash (-) submitted in this quality measure assessment item may result in a payment reduction for your facility of two percentage points for the affected payment determination.	
A		

What should we do when we see the warning?

When you see the yellow warning, you should check through your documentation to see if any information exists within your look-back period that would allow you to answer the question. Read through Progress Notes, interview staff, etc. If you do not, a dash is a valid answer and should be used.

Then, you will want to evaluate your policies to see if you can make a change in documentation procedures so that you minimize the need to use the dash going forward.