

Adding Medications into interRAI Assessments



You no longer need to add medications individually into the Medication section. Only enter the total number of different types of medications a person has taken in the last 7 days.

Enter 15 if the person has taken 15 or more medications.

Exclude herbal/nutritional supplements from the total count.

Assessment Type	Medication item location
Long Term Care Facilities Assessment	N1
Home Care Assessment	M1
Palliative Care Assessment	L2

Total Number of Medications

Intent

To facilitate medication management, by having a total count of the number of different medications (prescribed and over-the-counter medications) that the person has taken in the last seven days, excluding herbal/nutritional supplements.

Definitions

Medications - Include all medications (prescription and over-the-counter medications) taken in the last 7 days, for example: pills, creams, ointments, eye drops, artificial tears. This includes all the following:

- **Prescription medications** – includes medications that are now discontinued but were taken in the last 7 days as well as drugs prescribed PRN (as needed) that were taken during this period. Be sure to include maintenance medications that are prescribed on a regular schedule, such as vitamin injections given once a month, even if they were not administered in the last 7 days.

Over the counter medications - includes all drugs obtained without a prescription.

Compounded medications - includes medications composed of two or more compounds (for example, co-amoxiclav), in which clavulanic acid is combined with amoxicillin). Any multi-compounded or compounded drug is counted as one medication.

Process

Ask the person, family or staff to identify all prescribed and over the counter medications taken in the last seven days. If a current updated printout of medications is available, review this. If a new medication was prescribed but not taken in the last seven days do not include in the count. Once the list is available you will need to count the total.

Count the total number of different medications the person took during the assessment period.

Coding

Enter the exact number of different medications taken in the last 7 days. Enter 15 if the person has taken 15 or more than 15 medications.

Example

L2. Total Number of Medications

Record the number of different medications (prescription and over-the-counter), including eyedrops, taken regularly or on an occasional basis in the last 7 days. (Note: Also include medications taken on a maintenance basis.)

Code number (enter 15 if 15 or higher)

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For help with completing assessments, click the 'i' icon in the interRAI assessment software to access 'Section Help' information.

