



Tool

WHO CAN ANSWER THIS QUESTION?

A guide to how to gather the OASIS information accurately, per CMS

Most questions in the OASIS are expected to be answered by:

- the assimilation of the assessing *clinician's observations*
- **interview** with the patient and caregiver
- **collaboration** with the home health team
- along with additional information gathered by reviewing the *patient's medical record*

It is a complex task to take all of this information and merge it together with the OASIS conventions, such as "usual status", or "day of assessment", and "majority of tasks" (*for the items that use these conventions*) and end up with the most accurate, holistic response.

OASIS E brought about one more level of complexity — the addition of Social Determinants of Health.

This brought new instructions with specifics on **when to ask the patient first** (*patient has first dibs on answer, even if the clinician feels it is incorrect*) or even more restrictive, when **ONLY a patient** can provide the answer.

This tool will provide guidance on which items the clinician must first ask the patient and which items should ONLY consider the patient response. All other items not mentioned in this tool allow the full holistic assessment as described above.

The following items allow ONLY a patient response:

B1300 — Health Literacy

C200-400 — BIMS

D0150 — Patient Mood Interview

D0700 — Social Isolation

J0510/520/530 — Pain interference questions

The following items are to be asked of the patient FIRST:

If the patient is **able to answer:**

→ The **response must be coded**, even if the clinician questions the accuracy. The clinician should document the circumstance in the medical record.

If patient is **unable to respond:**

→ A PROXY (caregiver, family, or patient medical record) **may provide the answer to** the question. In this case, the assessing clinician should **code both "Patient unable to respond"** and then **also choose the response(s) gleaned from the proxy.**

If the patient **refuses to answer:**

→ CMS states the assessing clinician may NOT use a proxy, but instead **must select "Patient declines to respond"**- and no further information will be reported in the OASIS item. The information learned via the proxy may be documented in a narrative elsewhere.

A1005 — Ethnicity

A1110 — Language

A1010 — Race

A1250 — Transportation