

PDPM: What is Special Care Low? (LBC1, LBC2, LDE1, LDE2)

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PDPM Case Mix Review Fact Sheet #8

What is Case Mix?

Minnesota Case Mix uses the Nursing Component of the Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM) to classify residents into distinct groups, based on the resident's condition and the care the resident received at the time of the assessment. A value is assigned to each group, which is then used to calculate the daily rate of payment.

The Special Care Low category includes residents who received assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs), such as bed mobility, eating, transferring from one surface to another, and toileting. In addition, residents classified in the Special Care Low group meet at least one of the following criteria at the time of the assessment:

- A Nursing Function Score of 11 or less and any of the following diagnoses:
 - Cerebral palsy
 - Multiple sclerosis
 - Parkinson's disease
- Respiratory failure and oxygen therapy while a resident
- Feeding tube or IV that provided needed nutrition and/or hydration
- Any one of the following skin conditions when accompanied by two or more skin treatments:
 - Two or more stage 2 pressure ulcers
 - Any stage 3, 4, or unstageable (due to slough and/or eschar) pressure ulcer
 - Two or more venous/arterial ulcers
 - One stage 2 pressure ulcer and one venous/arterial ulcer
- Foot infection, diabetic foot ulcer, or other open lesion of the foot with application of a dressing to the feet
- Radiation treatment while a resident
- Dialysis treatment while a resident

Note: If a resident qualified for Special Care Low but received little ADL assistance (A Nursing Function Score of 15-16 – see “What is a Nursing Function Score?” fact sheet), they are classified as clinically complex.

WHAT IS SPECIAL CARE LOW?

The four classifications in the Special Care Low group are further broken down based on the Nursing Function Score and presence of depression symptoms. The number two (2) at the end of the classification (LBC2 and LDE2) indicates signs of depression were present. See the “Signs of Depression” and “What is a Nursing Function Score?” fact sheets.

If you believe an assessment is inaccurate for the observation period covered by that assessment, you may submit a request for reconsideration. (See separate fact sheet for “Requesting a Reconsideration.”)

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