



SNF Virtual Training Program – Part 2

Section K: Nutritional Approaches Workshop

Brenda Karkos, MSN, MBA, RN
June 21, 2023



Overview

- Summarize the changes in the revised assessment data element, **K0520. Nutritional Approaches**.
- Apply coding instructions and principles to accurately code practice scenarios.





K0520

Nutritional Approaches

K0520. Nutritional Approaches – Assessment Periods

K0520. Nutritional Approaches

Check all of the following nutritional approaches that apply

1. On Admission

Assessment period is days 1 through 3 of the SNF PPS Stay starting with A2400B

2. While Not a Resident

Performed **while NOT a resident** of this facility and within the **last 7 days**

Only check column 2 if resident entered (admission or reentry) IN THE LAST 7 DAYS. If resident last entered 7 or more days ago, leave column 2 blank.

3. While a Resident

Performed **while a resident** of this facility and within the **last 7 days**

4. At Discharge

Assessment period is the last 3 days of the SNF PPS Stay ending on A2400C

	1. On Admission	2. While Not a Resident	3. While a Resident	4. At Discharge
	↓ Check all that apply ↓			
A. Parenteral/IV feeding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Feeding tube (e.g., nasogastric or abdominal (PEG))	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Mechanically altered diet - require change in texture of food or liquids (e.g., pureed food, thickened liquids)	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Therapeutic diet (e.g., low salt, diabetic, low cholesterol)	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Z. None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



K0520: Coding Instructions – Column 1

Column 1, On Admission.

- Check all nutritional approaches performed during the first 3 days of the SNF PPS Stay.



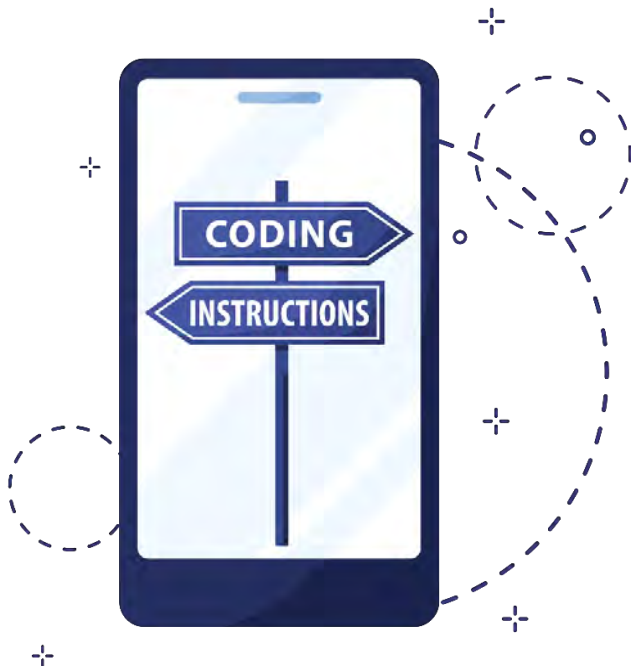
K0520: Coding Instructions – Columns 2 and 3

Column 2, While Not a Resident.

- Check all nutritional approaches performed **prior** to admission/entry or reentry to the facility and within the 7-day look-back period.
- Leave Column 2 blank if the resident was admitted/entered or reentered the facility more than 7 days ago.

Column 3, While a Resident.

- Check all nutritional approaches performed **after** admission/entry or reentry to the facility and within the 7-day look-back period.



K0520: Coding Instructions – Column 4

Column 4, At Discharge.

- Check all nutritional approaches performed within the last 3 days of the SNF PPS Stay.



K0520: Practice Scenario 1

A resident was admitted to the SNF for rehabilitation following a recent stroke.

On Day 5 they were placed on a low sodium diet (therapeutic diet) due to high blood pressure, which was exacerbated following news of a family tragedy.

Upon discharge to home on Day 13, the dietitian recommended continuing the low sodium diet.



K0520: Practice Scenario 1 (cont.)

On Day 7 of this PPS stay, the resident was temporarily placed on a mechanical soft diet due to a singular choking episode. Because the resident had no further choking episodes and requested a regular diet, the mechanical soft diet was discontinued two days prior to discharge.

The high blood pressure improved with the low sodium diet and was continued throughout the stay. The low sodium diet was also ordered upon discharge to home.



Q₁

How would you code K0520 for this resident On Admission and While Not a Resident?

K0520. Nutritional Approaches

Check all of the following nutritional approaches that apply

- 1. **On Admission**
Assessment period is days 1 through 3 of the SNF PPS Stay starting with A2400B
- 2. **While Not a Resident**
Performed *while NOT a resident* of this facility and within the *last 7 days*
Only check column 2 if resident entered (admission or reentry) IN THE LAST 7 DAYS.
If resident last entered 7 or more days ago, leave column 2 blank.
- 3. **While a Resident**
Performed *while a resident* of this facility and within the *last 7 days*
- 4. **At Discharge**
Assessment period is the last 3 days of the SNF PPS Stay ending on A2400C

	1. On Admission	2. While Not a Resident
	↓ Check all that apply ↓	
A. Parenteral/IV feeding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Feeding tube (e.g., nasogastric or abdominal (PEG))	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Mechanically altered diet - require change in texture of food or liquids (e.g., pureed food, thickened liquids)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
D. Therapeutic diet (e.g., low salt, diabetic, low cholesterol)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Z. None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q1

How would you code K0520 for this resident On Admission and While Not a Resident?

K0520. Nutritional Approaches

Check all of the following nutritional approaches that apply

1. On Admission

Assessment period is days 1 through 3 of the SNF PPS Stay starting with A2400B

2. While Not a Resident

Performed **while NOT a resident** of this facility and within the **last 7 days**
Only check column 2 if resident entered (admission or reentry) IN THE LAST 7 DAYS.
If resident last entered 7 or more days ago, leave column 2 blank.

3. While a Resident

Performed **while a resident** of this facility and within the **last 7 days**

4. At Discharge

Assessment period is the last 3 days of the SNF PPS Stay ending on A2400C

	1. On Admission	2. While Not a Resident
	↓ Check all that apply ↓	
A. Parenteral/IV feeding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Feeding tube (e.g., nasogastric or abdominal (PEG))	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Mechanically altered diet - require change in texture of food or liquids (e.g., pureed food, thickened liquids)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
D. Therapeutic diet (e.g., low salt, diabetic, low cholesterol)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Z. None of the above	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

K0520: Practice Scenario 1 – Admission Rationale

The resident was placed on a low sodium diet on Day 5 after the admission to help manage high blood pressure. The mechanically altered diet began on Day 7.

- **Column 1. On Admission:** No new nutritional approaches were performed during the first 3 days of the SNF PPS Stay. Therefore, check **K0520Z. None of the above.**
- **Column 2. While Not a Resident:** The resident was on a regular diet when admitted to the facility, therefore While Not a Resident is **K0520Z. None of the above.**

Q₂

How would you code K0520 While a Resident and At Discharge?

K0520. Nutritional Approaches

Check all of the following nutritional approaches that apply

1. On Admission

Assessment period is days 1 through 3 of the SNF PPS Stay starting with A2400B

2. While Not a Resident

Performed **while NOT a resident** of this facility and within the **last 7 days**

Only check column 2 if resident entered (admission or reentry) IN THE LAST 7 DAYS.

If resident last entered 7 or more days ago, leave column 2 blank.

3. While a Resident

Performed **while a resident** of this facility and within the **last 7 days**

4. At Discharge

Assessment period is the last 3 days of the SNF PPS Stay ending on A2400C

	3. While a Resident	4. At Discharge
	↓ Check all that apply ↓	
A. Parenteral/IV feeding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Feeding tube (e.g., nasogastric or abdominal (PEG))	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Mechanically altered diet - require change in texture of food or liquids (e.g., pureed food, thickened liquids)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Therapeutic diet (e.g., low salt, diabetic, low cholesterol)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Z. None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q₂

How would you code K0520 While a Resident and At Discharge?

K0520. Nutritional Approaches

Check all of the following nutritional approaches that apply

1. On Admission

Assessment period is days 1 through 3 of the SNF PPS Stay starting with A2400B

2. While Not a Resident

Performed **while NOT a resident** of this facility and within the **last 7 days**

Only check column 2 if resident entered (admission or reentry) IN THE LAST 7 DAYS.

If resident last entered 7 or more days ago, leave column 2 blank.

3. While a Resident

Performed **while a resident** of this facility and within the **last 7 days**

4. At Discharge

Assessment period is the last 3 days of the SNF PPS Stay ending on A2400C

	3. While a Resident	4. At Discharge
	↓ Check all that apply ↓	
A. Parenteral/IV feeding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Feeding tube (e.g., nasogastric or abdominal (PEG))	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Mechanically altered diet - require change in texture of food or liquids (e.g., pureed food, thickened liquids)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
D. Therapeutic diet (e.g., low salt, diabetic, low cholesterol)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Z. None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

K0520: Practice Scenario 1 – Discharge Rationale

They were placed on the low sodium diet and then the mechanically altered diet while a resident.

- **Column 3. While a Resident:** Both **K0520C. Mechanically altered diet** and **K0520D. Therapeutic diet** would be checked for Column 3, since for this assessment period, you would check all nutritional approaches performed after admission/entry or reentry to the facility and within the 7-day look-back period. The mechanically altered diet was discontinued 2 days prior to discharge.
- **Column 4. At Discharge:** The resident was still on a mechanically altered diet during the last 3 days of the SNF PPS Stay.

K0520: Practice Scenario 2 – Admission

A resident was admitted for a SNF PPS stay with a feeding tube after a long hospitalization.

They had been receiving tube feedings daily while receiving therapy to improve swallowing and progress to intake by mouth. The tube feedings were ordered to continue on admission.

The resident received 2 days of intravenous (IV) medication and fluids in the hospital and arrived with a peripheral line and orders to continue both for 5 more days. Upon reviewing the resident's transfer documentation, there is no supporting documentation indicating a need for additional fluid intake to support a need for hydration.



Q₃

How would you code K0520 for this resident On Admission and While Not a Resident?

K0520. Nutritional Approaches

Check all of the following nutritional approaches that apply

1. On Admission

Assessment period is days 1 through 3 of the SNF PPS Stay starting with A2400B

2. While Not a Resident

Performed **while NOT a resident** of this facility and within the **last 7 days**
Only check column 2 if resident entered (admission or reentry) IN THE LAST 7 DAYS.
If resident last entered 7 or more days ago, leave column 2 blank.

3. While a Resident

Performed **while a resident** of this facility and within the **last 7 days**

4. At Discharge

Assessment period is the last 3 days of the SNF PPS Stay ending on A2400C

	1. On Admission	2. While Not a Resident
	↓ Check all that apply ↓	
A. Parenteral/IV feeding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Feeding tube (e.g., nasogastric or abdominal (PEG))	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Mechanically altered diet - require change in texture of food or liquids (e.g., pureed food, thickened liquids)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
D. Therapeutic diet (e.g., low salt, diabetic, low cholesterol)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Z. None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q₃

How would you code K0520 for this resident On Admission and While Not a Resident?

K0520. Nutritional Approaches

Check all of the following nutritional approaches that apply

- 1. **On Admission**
Assessment period is days 1 through 3 of the SNF PPS Stay starting with A2400B
- 2. **While Not a Resident**
Performed *while NOT a resident* of this facility and within the *last 7 days*
Only check column 2 if resident entered (admission or reentry) IN THE LAST 7 DAYS.
If resident last entered 7 or more days ago, leave column 2 blank.
- 3. **While a Resident**
Performed *while a resident* of this facility and within the *last 7 days*
- 4. **At Discharge**
Assessment period is the last 3 days of the SNF PPS Stay ending on A2400C

	1. On Admission	2. While Not a Resident
	↓ Check all that apply ↓	
A. Parenteral/IV feeding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Feeding tube (e.g., nasogastric or abdominal (PEG))	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
C. Mechanically altered diet - require change in texture of food or liquids (e.g., pureed food, thickened liquids)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
D. Therapeutic diet (e.g., low salt, diabetic, low cholesterol)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Z. None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

K0520: Practice Scenario 2 – Admission Rationale

- **Column 1. On Admission:** The resident was ordered to continue tube feedings when they were admitted to the facility.
- **Column 2. While Not a Resident:** During their hospitalization, the resident had been receiving tube feedings daily.

NOTE: Although the IV medications and fluids were continued on admission, there was no supporting documentation that the IV fluids were to support nutrition/hydration. This would not be coded in K0520.

K0520: Practice Scenario 2 – Discharge

Over the 3-week stay (21 days), the resident slowly progressed on a mechanically altered diet and was placed on a regular diet on Day 10. Their oral intake was nutritionally sufficient by the last week of the stay, so a decision was made to stop the tube feedings and remove the tube on Day 17, 4 days before discharge.



Q4

How would you code K0520 While a Resident and At Discharge?

K0520. Nutritional Approaches

Check all of the following nutritional approaches that apply

1. On Admission

Assessment period is days 1 through 3 of the SNF PPS Stay starting with A2400B

2. While Not a Resident

Performed **while NOT a resident** of this facility and within the **last 7 days**

Only check column 2 if resident entered (admission or reentry) IN THE LAST 7 DAYS.

If resident last entered 7 or more days ago, leave column 2 blank.

3. While a Resident

Performed **while a resident** of this facility and within the **last 7 days**

4. At Discharge

Assessment period is the last 3 days of the SNF PPS Stay ending on A2400C

	3. While a Resident	4. At Discharge
	↓ Check all that apply ↓	
A. Parenteral/IV feeding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Feeding tube (e.g., nasogastric or abdominal (PEG))	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Mechanically altered diet - require change in texture of food or liquids (e.g., pureed food, thickened liquids)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Therapeutic diet (e.g., low salt, diabetic, low cholesterol)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Z. None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q4

How would you code K0520 While a Resident and At Discharge?

K0520. Nutritional Approaches

Check all of the following nutritional approaches that apply

1. On Admission

Assessment period is days 1 through 3 of the SNF PPS Stay starting with A2400B

2. While Not a Resident

Performed **while NOT a resident** of this facility and within the **last 7 days**

Only check column 2 if resident entered (admission or reentry) IN THE LAST 7 DAYS.

If resident last entered 7 or more days ago, leave column 2 blank.

3. While a Resident

Performed **while a resident** of this facility and within the **last 7 days**

4. At Discharge

Assessment period is the last 3 days of the SNF PPS Stay ending on A2400C

	3. While a Resident	4. At Discharge
	↓ Check all that apply ↓	
A. Parenteral/IV feeding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Feeding tube (e.g., nasogastric or abdominal (PEG))	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Mechanically altered diet - require change in texture of food or liquids (e.g., pureed food, thickened liquids)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Therapeutic diet (e.g., low salt, diabetic, low cholesterol)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Z. None of the above	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

K0520: Practice Scenario 2 – Discharge Rationale

- **Column 3. While a Resident: K0520B. Feeding tube** would be checked because this was not removed until 4 days prior to discharge.
- **Column 4. At Discharge:** The resident had been on a regular diet since Day 10. The feeding tube was removed 4 days prior to discharge, so this does not count toward the nutritional approaches performed within the last 3 days of the SNF PPS Stay.

Key Insights to Coding Section K

For **K0520. Nutritional Approaches**, two new assessment periods have been added to the data element which replaced the original K0510.

- On Admission is now in Column 1 to record all nutritional approaches performed *during the first 3 days of the SNF PPS Stay*.
- At Discharge is now in Column 4 to record all nutritional approaches performed *within the last 3 days of the SNF PPS Stay*.
- While a Resident and While Not a Resident have been shifted to Columns 2 and 3, but the instructions are unchanged.

