

Assigning Client Group (Section X2)



Intent

To provide a standard, client-focused categorization to facilitate pan-Canadian comparative reporting on home care clients. Client Groups include *acute*, *end of life*, *rehabilitation*, *long-term supportive care* and *maintenance*.

Definition

A high-level description of home care clients based on their health status (health and living conditions, personal resources) and assessed needs.

Is the home care program submitting historical admission records to HCRS for the client? Note: Code 9 will be available on a temporary basis to facilitate submission of historical admission records from submitting jurisdictions.	Yes	Code 9 Client Group Not Provided
No		
Is the client being assessed by the home care program (for example, for residential care placement) but will not be receiving any other home care services ?	Yes	Code 8 Not Applicable
No		
Does the client have an end-stage disease and is expected to live less than six months ?	Yes	Code 2 End of Life
No		
Does the client have a need for immediate/urgent time-limited (three months or less) intervention to improve or stabilize a medical or post-surgical condition BUT no need for rehabilitation or ongoing support to remain in the community?	Yes	Code 1 Acute Care
No		
Does the client have a stable health condition that is expected to improve with a time-limited focus on goal-oriented, functional rehabilitation, as well as a rehab plan that specifies goals and expected duration of therapy?	Yes	Code 3 Rehabilitation
No		
Is the client at significant risk of institutionalization due to unstable chronic health conditions, living conditions or personal resources?	Yes	Code 4 Long-Term Supportive Care
No		
Does the client have stable chronic health conditions, stable living conditions and personal resources and need ongoing support in order to remain living at home ?	Yes	Code 5 Maintenance

CIHI Tips

- Assign clients to a Client Group based on their assessed needs rather than on services available or provided.
- Clients may belong to one group only. However, they can be reassigned to another group when required.
- Client Group *end of life* takes precedence.
- = Acute Services Flag (see process and example on reverse).



Acute Services Flag

Process: When a client in a *rehabilitation, long-term supportive care* or *maintenance* Client Group also requires short-term acute services, apply the Acute Services Flag to his or her service record.

Applying the Acute Services Flag allows for accurate recording of time-limited episodes of acute care delivered within a longer-term course of care.

Example

A 48-year-old female with multiple sclerosis (MS) lives with her husband, a long-haul truck driver. She has used a manual wheelchair for 15 years. Recently, she sustained a fractured femur during a fall while transferring independently from her bathtub. The assessment revealed that she requires care for her post-surgical wound, pain management, and physiotherapy and occupational therapy for approximately eight weeks to help her regain her functional status.

Client Group

Rehabilitation with Acute Services Flag

Rationale: Nursing services are required to manage her acute need for wound care and pain management, and will be of short duration. Rehabilitation for environmental adaptation and strengthening will require approximately eight weeks. Her chronic health condition (MS), living conditions and personal resources are stable.

Reassignment of Client Group

Process: To reassign a client to a different Client Group, a home care professional must

- Reassess the client's health status and goals of care;
- Use the decision tree to confirm the client's health status and determine whether primary care goals are reflected in the current Client Group;
- Reassign the client to a new Client Group **OR** apply the Acute Services Flag if the change in status is self-limited; and
- Update the Client Group on the client's documentation with the effective date of the change.

Example

A 78-year-old female lives independently with her husband and was discharged home from acute care following a cerebrovascular accident.

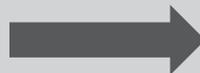
Initial Client Group

Rehabilitation, with an expected length of service of 12 weeks

Reassessment Findings

- Rehabilitation goals met and significant function regained
- Strong personal resources and stable living conditions
- Requires ongoing support with personal care

Initial Client Group
Rehabilitation



New Client Group
Maintenance

Rationale: The primary goal has changed from a focus on rehabilitation to an ongoing need for assistance with activities of daily living to maintain independence at home.