



# interRAI Home Care (HC): Formal Care (N3)

## Intent of Section N3

The intent of Section N3 (Formal Care) in the interRAI Home Care (HC) assessment is to capture the days and total minutes of service delivered by formal caregiving staff in the last 7 days.

## What is Formal Care?

Services provided to a person are captured as Formal Care if the following criteria are met:

1. There must be evidence that the person has a therapeutic need for the service.
2. There must be a formal understanding between the care provider and the person regarding the nature and duration of the services that will be provided.
3. The person providing the service must meet the professional qualifications necessary for providing the activity or service, consistent with industry requirements in the residing jurisdiction.
4. The care provider must be paid at competitive rates.

## Completing Section N3

**Table 1** Guidelines for completing Section N3

Formal Care (N3)	Inclusions
Home health aide (N3a)	Activity of daily living (ADL) support and simple monitoring of ADLs.
Home nurse (N3b)	Assessment, nursing interventions, education and referral by licensed or registered nurses.
Homemaking services (N3c)	Instrumental activity of daily living (IADL) support such as housekeeping, meal preparation and shopping.
Meals (N3d)	Meals provided to the person via delivery, such as Meals on Wheels. Captures only the number of days meals are received, not the number of minutes (for this item only).
Therapy (N3e to N3h)	Therapy services provided by a qualified therapist, or by a therapy assistant if directly supervised by a qualified therapist.



## Frequently asked questions

### How is N3 (Formal Care) coded when a care provider is providing more than one type of formal care?

If a care provider is providing more than one type of formal care, code only the time provided for each type of formal care. For example, if a home support worker provides 1.5 hours of in-home respite twice a week that includes 60 minutes of ADL support and 30 minutes of IADL support each day, code as follows:

Formal Care (N3)	Number of days	Total minutes in last week
Home health aide (N3a)	2	120
Homemaking services (N3c)	2	60

### Is the assistance provided by retirement home staff captured in N3?

The assistance provided to the person by retirement home staff can be captured in N3a (Home health aide), N3b (Home nurse) and N3c (Homemaking services). Also, if there is clear evidence of a therapeutic need for delivery of a meal to the person's room (e.g., the person is ill and is unable to come to the dining room to eat their meal), the number of days the meals are delivered can be captured in N3d (Meals).

### Does N3b (Home nurse) include telemedicine or telehealth nursing?

Telemedicine or telehealth nursing can be captured in N3b (Home nurse) provided there is substantial clinical monitoring and care management. A call to telehealth for health advice or health-related information would not be captured. Check-in telephone calls are not included.



## How is therapy captured if delivered by more than one health professional?

If therapy is delivered in a session by more than one health professional (e.g., group therapy), divide the total number of minutes of therapy time between the number of disciplines providing the therapy. This is calculated regardless of the number of therapy participants. For example, if a person attends a therapy session with both a physiotherapist and an occupational therapist for 60 minutes once a week, code as follows:

Formal Care (N3)	Number of days	Total minutes in last week
Physical therapy (N3e)	1	30
Occupational therapy (N3f)	1	30

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