

Classification Criteria for the 53-RUG-III System

A 53-RUG-III (Resource Utilization Group) system went into effect January 1, 2006 for SNF Medicare PPS payment. It adds nine new Rehabilitation Plus Extensive Services RUGs to the former 44-RUG-III system.

To classify into one of the new categories, a resident must meet these criteria:

- ADL score of 7 or higher
- Meet criteria for Rehabilitation RUG-III groups
- Meet criteria for Extensive Services RUG-III groups (IV feeding in last 7 days OR IV medications, suctioning, tracheostomy care, or ventilator/respirator in last 14 days)

See the table below for more specific criteria. The RAI Manual revisions of November and December 2005 contain complete information on the classification criteria.

Download the manual updates at

www.cms.hhs.gov/nursinghomequalityinits/20_nhqimds20.asp

This new system does not change how the MDS 2.0 is completed. The “Administrative Presumption” that a resident qualifies for Medicare Part A coverage applies when a resident classifies into the top 35 groups.

CMS Website

For the crosswalk of MDS 2.0 items and RUG-III groups and more, see the RUG-53 Educational Materials section at this Website:

www.cms.hhs.gov/center/snf.asp

Classification Criteria for Rehabilitation Plus Extensive Services

RUG-III Category	RUG-III Code	ADL Index	Classification Criteria
Ultra High Rehabilitation Plus Extensive Services	RUX	16-18	Rehab Therapy for minimum of 720 minutes/week AND
	RUL	7-15	At least 1 rehab discipline 5 days/week AND A second rehab discipline 3 days/week AND IV feeding in last 7 days OR IV medications, suctioning, tracheostomy care, or ventilator/respirator in last 14 days AND ADL score of 7 or more

<p>Very High Rehabilitation Plus Extensive Services</p>	<p>RVX RVL</p>	<p>16-18 7-15</p>	<p>Rehab Therapy for minimum of 500 minutes/week AND At least 1 rehab discipline 5 days/week AND IV feeding in last 7 days OR IV medications, suctioning, tracheostomy care, or ventilator/respirator in last 14 days AND ADL score of 7 or more</p>
<p>High Rehabilitation Plus Extensive Services</p>	<p>RHX RHL</p>	<p>13-18 7-12</p>	<p>Rehab Therapy for a minimum of 325 minutes/week AND At least 1 rehab discipline 5 days/week AND IV feeding in last 7 days OR IV medications, suctioning, tracheostomy care, or ventilator/respirator in last 14 days AND ADL score of 7 or more</p>
<p>Medium Rehabilitation Plus Extensive Services</p>	<p>RMX RML</p>	<p>15-18 7-14</p>	<p>Rehab Therapy for a minimum of 150 minutes/week AND 5 days any combination of 3 rehab disciplines AND IV feeding in last 7 days OR IV medications, suctioning, tracheostomy care, or ventilator/respirator in last 14 days AND ADL score of 7 or more</p>
<p>Low Rehabilitation Plus Extensive Services</p>	<p>RLX</p>	<p>7-18</p>	<p>Rehabilitation Therapy for a minimum of 45 minutes/week AND 3 days any combination of 3 rehab disciplines AND Nursing Rehab* 6 days/week, 2 services AND IV feeding in last 7 days OR IV medications, suctioning, tracheotomy care, or ventilator/respirator in last 14 days AND ADL score of 7 or more</p> <hr/> <p>*Nursing Rehab Service count:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • passive and/or active ROM • amputation/prosthesis care training • splint or brace assistance • dressing or grooming training • eating or swallowing training • transfer training • bed mobility and/or walking training • communication training • scheduled toileting plan and/or bladder retraining program

Index Maximizing

Index maximizing is another factor involved when classifying a resident to a RUG-III. The 53-RUG system, like the 44-RUG-II system, uses Index Maximizing versus the Hierarchical method. With the Hierarchical method the resident is assigned to the first group for which they qualify according to the Group Number (shown in the table below).

In the Index Maximizing method the grouper software looks at all groups for which the resident classifies and selects the one with the highest Case Mix Index (CMI). A higher CMI generally relates to a higher payment amount.

Case Mix Index (CMI)

RUG Group Code	RUG Group Number	CMI for 53-Group Rural	CMI for 53-Group Urban
RUX	1	53	53
RUL	2	52	52
RVX	3	48	49
RVL	4	46	46
RHX	5	42	42
RHL	6	41	41
RMX	7	47	47
RML	8	44	44
RLX	9	32	33
RUC	10	51	51
RUB	11	50	50
RUA	12	49	48
RVC	13	45	45
RVB	14	43	43
RVA	15	40	38
RHC	16	39	39
RHB	17	37	37
RHA	18	35	34
RMC	19	36	36
RMB	20	34	35
RMA	21	33	32
RLB	22	30	30
RLA	23	26	24
SE3	24	38	40
SE2	25	31	31
SE1	26	29	29
SSC	31*	28	28
SSB	32	25	26
SSA	33	24	25
CC2	34	27	27
CC1	35	23	23
CB2	36	22	22
CB1	37	21	21
CA2	38	20	20
CA1	39	17	17

* Group numbers 27-30 are used only by the system with 34 RUGs used in some states, not by the 53-RUG-III system.

* Group numbers 27-40 are used only by the 34-RUG-III system used in some states, not by the 53-RUG-III system