

*Medical necessity determination:* Items are checked that are included in an algorithm for evaluating medical necessity of home health services developed under the DHHS/ASPE study.

**ELEMENT 5. Item Research, Development, Clinical, and Testing History:** All but a few of the data items in the current version of OASIS have undergone considerable conceptual development, testing, refinement, and use for multiple applications in home health settings over a number of years. This section briefly highlights the research and development history of each item, indicating when and how it was used, tested, and refined over time.

**ELEMENT 6. Validity:** The most important types of validity undertaken in the OASIS research and development process were six in number. Each type of validity has a corresponding check box; a check mark (✓) indicates that the item under consideration underwent the indicated type of validity analysis. The six categories are:

*Consensus validity by expert research/clinical panels for outcome measurement and risk factor measurement:* This indicates whether an item was reviewed by panels of researchers and clinicians and was recommended for measuring patient outcomes relevant to home health care provision and quality measurement, or for risk adjustment of outcome analyses.

*Consensus validity by expert clinical panels for patient assessment and care planning:* This indicates whether an item was reviewed by a panel of clinical experts and was recommended for inclusion in a core set of data items for patient assessment and care planning -- for example, in addition to research project clinical panels, the Health Standards and Quality Bureau (HSQB) convened a panel consisting of HCFA staff, researchers, clinicians in a variety of disciplines, and home health industry representatives to review and possibly expand the OASIS items needed for assessment.

*Criterion or convergent/predictive validity for outcome measurement/risk factor measurement:* This type of validity indicates that the item has been tested empirically for use in conjunction with outcome measures or risk factors predictive of patient outcomes and, by virtue of such testing, has been found to be related to other indicators of health status and patient outcomes in a statistically significant and clinically meaningful way.

*Convergent/predictive validity: Case mix adjustment for payment:* This type of validity indicates that the item has been tested and is now used in the grouping algorithm that, in part, determines the per-episode payment to home health agencies for care provided under the Medicare home health benefit.

*Validation by patient assessment and care planning:* This type of validity indicates that the item has been used by clinicians for patient assessment and care planning in several hundred home health agencies for several years, and has been reported by practicing clinicians to be effective and useful for these purposes.