REFERENCE MANUAL: CARE-DAYS AND CARE-VISITS

Objective: This document provides a standard definition of both "care-days" and "care-visits" which can be applied across all NQuIRE data dictionaries.

Definition and Calculation for Care-Days and Care-Visits		
Definition	**Care-Days**	**Care-Visits**
	"Care-days" is defined as the number of occupied bed days in an inpatient care setting over a specified time period.	"Care-visits" is defined as the number of patient encounters in a home, community, primary care, or outpatient care setting within a specified time period.
Explanation	Figure out, for each day of the month how many beds were occupied at the implementation site.	Figure out, for each day of the month how many patients received care at the implementation site.
Data Collection Method	• Organizations using an admission, discharge and transfer (ADT) system can retrieve the number of occupied beds by using a daily patient census • Without an ADT system, the care-days can be calculated by adding the number of occupied beds for each day of the month	Organizations can retrieve the number of patients who received care on a particular day from the daily reports such as: • administrative reports • chart/audits • electronic health records
Implementation Site	Inpatient care settings such as hospital, long-term care (LTC) homes and other inpatient units.	Outpatient care settings such as home care, community care, primary care and other outpatient units.
Example Calculation for Care-Days and Care-Visits		
Indicator: Falls Rate	Rate of falls per 1000 adult care-days/care-visits $= \dfrac{\text{Number of falls}}{\text{Total number of adult care-days/care-visits}} \times 1000$	
Month of calculation	June (a month of 30 days)	
Numerator	Number of falls	
Denominator	**Care-Days**	**Care-Visits**
	The total number of care-days for the unit/home (implementation site) over a given period of one month.	The total number of care-visits for the home, community, primary care or outpatient care setting (implementation site) over a given period of one month.

| Numerator Calculation | Count the number of falls that occurred during the month of June from the reporting system.

For example, during the month of June there were three falls at an implementation site. | Count the number of falls that occurred during the month of June from the reporting system or manually.

For example, during the month of June there were 40 patients who visited and had a fall. |
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| Denominator Calculation | For each day of June, at the same point in time, calculate how many beds were occupied.

For example, on June 1st there were 26 beds occupied; on June 2nd, there were 28 beds occupied…..June 30th there were 25 beds occupied. The unit (or home) may have a way of reporting this information. | For each day of June, count the number of care-visits.

For example, on June 1st there were 120 care-visits; June 2nd there were 80 care-visits… June 30th there were 150 care-visits. |
| | Add the total number occupied beds for each day, from June 1st through June 30th. Let us say the total adds to 879 (out of a maximum of 1200, because if all 40 beds were occupied on all 30 days, this would be equal to 1200 [i.e. 40 x 30]).

For health-service organizations where the number of occupied beds is the same for all days in a month, multiply the number of occupied beds for one day by the number of days in the month. For example, if all 40 beds are occupied on all 30 days this would be equal to 1200 (i.e. 40 x 30).

Here is another way to calculate the total number of occupied bed days:

Total Number of Occupied Bed Days for the month = Full Bed Days for the Month – Non-Occupied Bed Days for the Month

Where the non-occupied bed days for the month can be calculated by adding the number of non-occupied bed days for each day of the month. The daily non-occupied bed days will depend on discharges, transfers and deaths. | Add the total care-visits for each day from June 1st through June 30th.

Total patient visits in the month of June = 2400 (this is the sum of all care-visits in a month). |

	From the above example: 1200 - 321 = 879.	
Indicator Calculation	Divide the number of falls by the number of occupied bed days for the month of June, which is 3/879= 0.0034.	Divide the number of falls by the number of care-visits for the month of June, which is 40/2400 = 0.0167.
Falls Rate	Multiply the result by 1,000. So, 0.0034 x 1,000 = 3.4. Thus, the falls rate was 3.4 falls per 1,000 care-days.	Multiply the result by 1,000. So, 0.0167 x 1,000 = 16.7. Thus, the falls rate was 16.7 falls per 1,000 care-visits.
Basic Rules	Ensure an accurate count by consistently tracking the census at the same time for each implementation site (e.g. 2359 hours every day). This will help prevent double counting and accurately reflect any patient transfers. The day the patient is admitted is an occupied bed day. If the patient remains in the care setting from midnight to 2359 hours, it is counted as a patient-occupied bed day. • If the patient goes on leave/day pass and does not exit the system or the bed is still reserved for the patient, this is counted as an occupied bed. If the patient goes on leave/day pass and leaves the system or the bed is not reserved for the patient, this is not counted as an occupied bed day. • Transfer to a different unit: Patients admitted to a unit and transferred to a different unit on the same day (same-day patients) are to be given a count of one patient day (avoid multiple counts and duplicating the count with another unit).	If a patient visits the care setting multiple times (or has multiple home visits) within the same day, each encounter is counted as a separate care-visit.
Note	A care-day is measured from midnight to 2359 hours. **Days of discharge and death are not included.**	A care-visit day is measured by considering the operating hours of the organization providing the home, community, primary care and/or outpatient services.