
North Dakota Patient Driven Payment Model
Quick View – Resident/Family

Resident Care Resource

Starting January 1, 2026, the way classifications for North Dakota nursing facility residents are set will change. Classifications will be based on the North Dakota Patient Driven Payment Model (ND PDPM).

The ND PDPM looks at each resident's health and care needs. The nursing facility completes an assessment every 3 months that sets a three-letter classification for each resident. This three-letter classification is communicated in the classification notice and is used to set a daily rate.

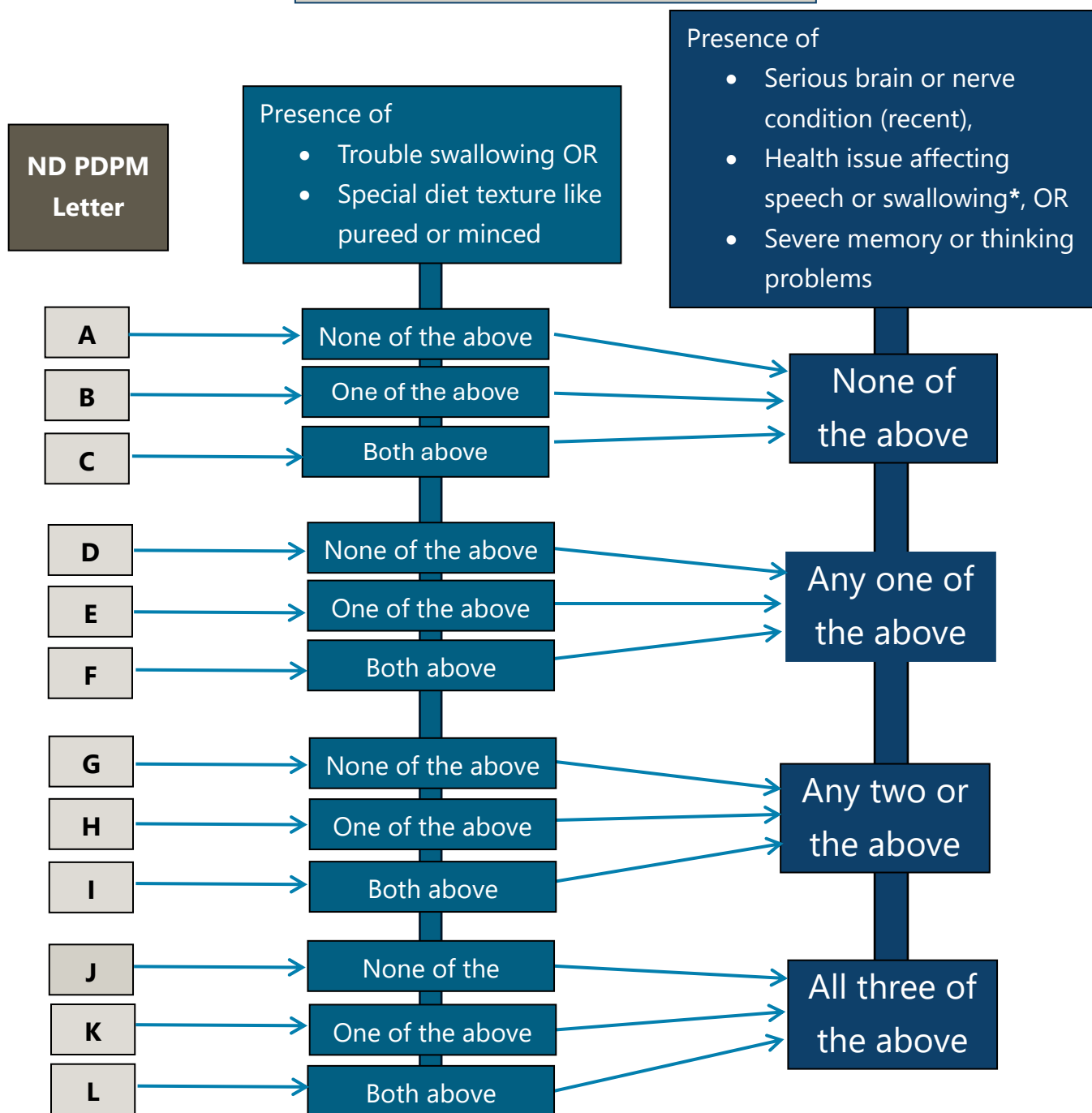
Each letter in the classification stands for a part of the ND PDPM:

- 1 – Speech Language Pathology (SLP)
- 2 – Nursing
- 3 – Non-Therapy Ancillaries (NTA)

This guide will show, step by step, how the classifications are developed. Charts and examples will help explain what health conditions and care needs affect the SLP, Nursing, and NTA letters. The goal is to help residents and families understand what health conditions and care needs influence the classification. Each ND PDPM classification will have its own daily rate.

- More information is available at [Medicaid Long Term Care Services](https://www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare/medicaid/provider/long-term-care-services) (<https://www.hhs.nd.gov/healthcare/medicaid/provider/long-term-care-services>)
Nursing Facility Payment System FAQs booklet – Read more about frequently asked questions and what to do if you disagree with a classification. The nursing facility can give you a copy, or you can find it online.
- Daily Rate Lookup – An online tool to look up the daily rate. To use it, you enter the three-letter classification from the notice letter and the seven-digit nursing facility provider number. The tool will then show the daily rate for that classification.
- Nursing Facility Rates – See the base daily rate for each nursing facility. This lets you compare costs between different nursing facilities.

Speech Language Pathology (SLP)



*SLP related health issues:

Aphasia, stroke, hemiplegia or hemiparesis, traumatic brain injury (TBI), tracheostomy, invasive mechanical ventilator, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), laryngeal cancer, dysphagia, apraxia, trach care, vent use.

Nursing

ND PDPM Letter	Category	Health Issue	Support Needed for Daily *Self- Care Score	Restorative Nursing Services	Depres- sion
A	Extensive Services	• Tracheostomy AND Ventilator	0-14	-	-
B		• Tracheostomy OR Ventilator		-	-
		If none of the above continue below. If Self-care score 15 or 16 = Clinically Complex Category			
D	Special Care High	• In a coma & fully dependent on select Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) • Blood infection (Septicemia) • Diabetes requiring insulin shots every day, plus changes to the insulin dose on 2+ days • Quadriplegia with Self-care score <= 11 • Chronic lung disease (COPD) & shortness of breath while lying flat • Fever and one of the following: pneumonia, vomiting, weight loss, or specific amount of nutrition provided from a feeding tube • Nutrition given through an IV (parenteral feeding) • Daily respiratory (breathing) treatments	0-5	-	Yes
E				-	No
F			6-14	-	Yes
G				-	No
		If none of the above continue below. If Self-care score 15 or 16 = Clinically Complex Category			
H	Special Care Low	• Daily Self-care needs score <=11 and has Cerebral Palsy, multiple sclerosis or Parkinson's disease • Respiratory Failure AND requires oxygen while a resident of the facility • Feeding tube used to provide a significant portion of nutritional need • 2 or more moderate (stage 2) pressure sores with select treatment • Any severe pressure sore (stage 3 or 4) or cannot be measured because of dead tissue (unstageable) with select treatments • Two or more leg ulcers (vein or artery related) with select treatments • One moderate pressure sore (stage 2) plus one leg ulcer (vein or artery related) with select treatments • Foot infection, diabetic foot ulcer, or other open lesion of foot that needs dressings • Radiation treatment while a resident of the facility • Dialysis treatments while a resident of the facility	0-5	-	Yes
I				-	No
J			6-14	-	Yes
K				-	No
		If none of the above continue below. If Self-care score 15 or 16 = Clinically Complex Category			

Nursing Continued					
ND PDPM Letter	Category	Health Issue	Support Needed for Daily Self-Care Score	Restorative Nursing Services	Depression
L	Clinically Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pneumonia (lung infection)• Paralysis or weakness on one side of the body with Self-care score ≤ 11• Open wound (other than ulcers, rashes, cuts) or surgical wounds with select treatment• Serious burns (second or third degree)• Any of the following while a resident of the facility: chemotherapy, oxygen therapy, IV medications or transfusions	0-5	-	Yes
M				-	No
N			6-14	-	Yes
O			15-16	-	No
P			6-14	-	Yes
Q			15-16	-	No
		If none of the above continue below			
R	Behavior Symptoms and Cognitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Significant memory or thinking problem (BIMS summary score ≤ 9)• Severe problem with thinking skills needed for daily life• Communication problems being understood, short-term memory problems, and thinking skills needed for needed for daily life• Behavioral symptoms such as hallucinations, delusions, physical or verbal aggression, refusal of care, or wandering	11-16	2 or more	-
S				0-1	-
		If Self Care score < 11 , continue to Reduced Physical Function Category			
T	Reduced Physical Function	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has health issue that qualifies for the Behavior Symptoms and Cognitive Performance category with a Self-care score < 11• Does not fit into any of the other Nursing component categories	0-5	2 or more	-
U				0-1	-
V			6-14	2 or more	-
W			15-16	2 or more	-
X			6-14	0-1	-
Y			15-16	0-1	-

***Support needed for daily self-care score:**

- 0-5 = Dependent or mostly dependent
- 6-14 = Moderate support needed
- 15-16 = Minimal to no support needed

Non-Therapy Ancillary (NTA)

The Non-Therapy Ancillary (NTA) part of the ND PDPM payment model looks at certain health conditions that make a resident’s care more complex and costly. Each condition is given points, and those points are added up to create a score. The score helps decide the payment rate for care. More than 40 health conditions and services are included in this component, such as organ transplants, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, chronic lung disease, morbid obesity, malnutrition, cirrhosis, and certain infections, including wound infections.

ND PDPM NTA Letters and Points	
ND PDPM Letter	NTA Points Range
A	12+
B	9-11
C	6-8
D	3-5
E	1-2
F	0