

## QUICK GUIDE: BASELINE TEMPERATURE (BLT)

**BY DETERMINING A BASELINE TEMPERATURE AT ADMISSION YOU MAY BE ABLE TO CAPTURE A FEVER WHICH MAY PLACE THE RESIDENT IN A SPECIAL CARE HIGH NURSING CATEGORY WHEN ACCOMPANIED WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: PNEUMONIA, VOMITING, WEIGHT LOSS, FEEDING TUBE AND OR IV THAT PROVIDED NUTRITION OR HYDRATION.**

### PROCESS

1. In admission order set capture the first 9 shift temperatures
2. In order to have the NOC nurse determine the baseline temperature by adding the 9 temps and dividing by 9 to determine baseline temperature.
3. Enter baseline temperature on the face sheet, order, or care plan where it will be maintained for reference
4. Ensure there is an order to repeat in 1 year
5. If the resident enters ill you may want to redetermine the BLT after the illness resolves for future determination

### RAI GUIDANCE

Fever is defined as a temperature 2.4 degrees F higher than baseline. The resident's baseline temperature should be established prior to the Assessment Reference Date. A temperature of 100.4 degrees F (38 degrees C) on admission (i.e., prior to the establishment of the baseline temperature) would be considered a fever. You should follow your facility policy when determining the baseline temperature. A general guideline for new residents is measuring the resident's temperature the first 3 days after admission, up to 21 shifts. Add together and divide by the total number of shifts to establish the baseline.

### STRATEGY

1. Monitor residents who have a dx of any of the above and a fever, move the ARD to capture during the lookback period and increase reimbursement.
2. Many residents may have a lower baseline body temperature and may trigger 2.4 degrees above their normal vs 100.4 making it easier to capture a fever and increase reimbursement

### EXAMPLE ORDER SET

1. Obtain temperature x 3 days for data gathering for baseline temperature Q shift.
2. Complete baseline temperature (add together 9 temps and divide by 9 to obtain baseline temp) and add to facesheet. (day after temperatures are completed, one time order)

### POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Review your policy and procedure for determining baseline temperature upon admission and annually ongoing.

### MYERS AND STAUFFER DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Requires consistent documented route (oral, axillary, ect) of temperature between the baseline and the elevated temperature.

Fever of 2.4 degrees above baseline

A baseline temperature must be established prior to the

Baseline must be updated annually

A temperature of 100.4 F at admission prior to the establishment of the baseline temperature

### EHR CUSTOMIZATION

Create order set with all required documentation