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To whom it may concern:

I am writing to comment on the new CARE data collection instrument. It is a highly valuable tool with comprehensive set of items and domains. I have a few minor suggestions:

On page 6, I would add CPAP devices, PEG tubes and purpose (nutrition, medication administration, suction), and IV fluid and medications. These have major implications for care setting safety, caregiver burden, and risk to the patient.

On page 10, I would add measures of vitamin D and parathyroid hormone as well as thyroid stimulating hormone (25-hydroxy vitamin D, PTH, TSH) given the prevalence of abnormality in the Medicare population, the association of abnormality with morbidity and mortality, and the ease of treatment for abnormals.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important innovation. I look forward to seeing what the data shows!

Sincerely,

Diane E. Meier, MD