

Insights to Coding and Data Quality

Planned readmission discharge status codes

by Nancy J. Cervi, RHIT

On August 19, 2013, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Final Rule to include changes in the Uniform Billing (UB)–04 code set maintained by the National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC). This rule adds the following new discharge status codes to the CMS GROUPER for certain DRGs as well as the Medicare Code Editor (MCE) logic effective **October 1, 2013**.

Shown below are the existing “base” discharge status codes and the new codes that will better identify patients who are discharged with a planned readmission.

For FY2014, 15 new discharge status codes are added to the MS DRG Grouper logic for MS DRGs:

- 280 (Acute Myocardial Infarction Discharged Alive with MCC)
- 281 (Acute Myocardial Infarction Discharged Alive with CC)
- 282 (Acute Myocardial Infarction Discharged Alive without CC/MCC)

In addition, discharge status codes 82, 85, and 94 are added to the MS DRG Grouper logic for DRG 789 (Neonates, Died or Transferred to Another Acute Care Facility).

Also in the final rule is clarification regarding the Hospital Readmission Reduction program. It explains that the HRRP uses an algorithm and claims data analysis and is for readmissions within 30 days. Acute Myocardial Infarction, Heart Failure, and Pneumonia are the three measures with planned readmissions within 30 days. Data is captured from claims data from one year prior to the index admission and secondary diagnoses during the index admission analysis.

When asked how the new discharge status codes above relate to the HRRP, Final Rule Comment was “prior to considering use of the new Discharge Status codes in our quality measures, we will need to establish that hospitals are using these codes in a valid and reliable manner relative to our planned readmission algorithm. Accordingly, these discharge status codes are not currently taken into account in the Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program.”

The planned readmission discharge status codes (81-95) have no 30-day time-limit and apply only to DRG 280, 281, 282 along with discharge status codes 82, 85, 94 that apply to DRG 789.

For more information about these changes as well as other updates to the FY 2014 IPPS, go to <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/AcuteInpatientPPS/FY-2014-IPPS-Final-Rule-Home-Page-Items/FY-2014-IPPS-Final-Rule-CMS-1599-F-Regulations.html?DLPage=1&DLSort=0&DLSortDir=ascending>

Current	New	Title
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Status Code	Status Code	
01	81	Discharged to home or self-care with a planned acute care hospital inpatient readmission
02	82	Discharged/transferred to a short term general hospital for inpatient care with a planned acute care hospital inpatient readmission
03	83	Discharged/transferred to a skilled nursing facility (SNF) with Medicare certification with a planned acute care hospital inpatient readmission
04	84	Discharged/transferred to a facility that provides custodial or supportive care with a planned acute care hospital inpatient readmission
05	85	Discharged/transferred to a designated cancer center or children's hospital with a planned acute care hospital inpatient readmission
06	86	Discharged/transferred to home under care of organized home health service organization with a planned acute care hospital inpatient readmission
21	87	Discharged/transferred to court/law enforcement with a planned acute care hospital inpatient readmission
43	88	Discharged/transferred to a federal health care facility with a planned acute care hospital inpatient readmission
61	89	Discharged/transferred to a hospital-based Medicare approved swing bed with a planned acute care hospital inpatient readmission
62	90	Discharged/transferred to an inpatient rehabilitation facility (IRF) including rehabilitation distinct part units of a hospital with a planned acute care hospital inpatient readmission
63	91	Discharged/transferred to a Medicare certified long term care hospital (LTCH) with a planned acute care hospital inpatient readmission
64	92	Discharged/transferred to a nursing facility certified under Medicaid but not certified under Medicare with a planned acute care hospital inpatient readmission
65	93	Discharged/transferred to a psychiatric distinct part unit of a hospital with a planned acute care hospital inpatient readmission
66	94	Discharged/transferred to a critical access hospital (CAH) with a planned acute care hospital inpatient readmission
70	95	Discharged/transferred to another type of health care institution not defined elsewhere in this code list with a planned acute care hospital inpatient readmission

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