



FAQ About ForwardHealth's Implementation of the All Patients Refined Diagnosis Related Group Classification System

Created: March 24, 2017

On January 1, 2017, ForwardHealth implemented the All Patients Refined Diagnosis Related Group (APR DRG) classification system for classifying and calculating pricing for inpatient hospital claims, Medicare crossover claims, and HMO encounters. The APR DRG classification system replaced the Medicare Specific Diagnosis Related Groups (MS-DRG) classification system. The following FAQ has been compiled from questions submitted to ForwardHealth about the APR DRG classification system and its implementation.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Question: How do I get in touch with 3M for customer service and product support?

Answer: For questions and support regarding 3M products and services, providers should go to www.3mhis.com/ and then select the Support option.

For additional information on contacting 3M, refer to the [Getting technical help during business hours page](#) on the 3M website.

Question: Where can I obtain a username and password to access the 3M APR DRG Assignment Program?

Answer: Hospital providers should use the user name and password provided to them via their ForwardHealth Portal account on June 30, 2016, to access the secure, proprietary 3M APR DRG Assignment program.

If further assistance is needed, please send an email to VEDSAPRDRGSupport@wisconsin.gov or contact [your provider relations representative](#).

Question: Who do I contact for general inquiries such as APR DRG rate schedules or APR DRG configuration set-up?

Answer: ForwardHealth has established the VEDSAPRDRGSupport@wisconsin.gov email for questions regarding fee-for-service APR DRG claim preparation and submission.

3M APR DRG SET-UP AND CONFIGURATION

Question: Are providers required to purchase the 3M APR DRG software in order to be paid correctly under APR DRG reimbursement?

Answer: No. The 3M APR DRG grouping software is useful for reimbursement planning and claim verification; however, the software is not required for ForwardHealth claims submission or reimbursement.

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Question: Which 3M product version of the Grouper Plus Software (GPS) is being used for APR DRG?

Answer: ForwardHealth uses the 3M GPS version 2016.3.2.

The current version of the 3M GPS product and its effective date is listed under Current System Information on the [Rates and Weights](#) page of the ForwardHealth Portal.

Question: Which version of APR DRG is being used?

Answer: ForwardHealth uses APR DRG version 33.

The current version of the 3M APR DRG Grouper and its effective date is listed under Current System Information on the [Rates and Weights](#) page of the Portal.

PRICING AND REIMBURSEMENT

Question: Where can I find the APR DRG rates and weights files?

Answer: Current and historic inpatient hospital DRG rates and weights files can be found on the [Hospital Rates and Weights](#) page of the Portal.

Question: Where can I find the APR DRG Inpatient DRG Pricing Calculator?

Answer: The Wisconsin Medicaid DRG Pricing Calculator can be found under Additional Resources on the [All Patient Refined Diagnosis Related Group](#) page of the Portal.

Question: Where can I find more information regarding the charge cap and transfer payment policies?

Answer: Pricing policy changes and updates are outlined in the [Maximum Reimbursement](#) topic (topic #19978) and the [Transfer Payments](#) topic (topic #19937) in the Amounts chapter of the Reimbursement section of the Hospital, Inpatient and Hospital, Outpatient service areas of the ForwardHealth Online Handbook.

Question: What is the impact of transitional corridor on claims submitted calendar year 2017? Will there be a corridor the following year?

Answer: The transitional corridor of -4 percent to +5 percent will apply to cap rates for claims with dates of service within calendar year 2017. After calendar year 2017, the corridor will no longer apply.

Question: Where can I find the new claim adjustment factors?

Answer: The provider, service line, and pediatric adjustment factors are included in the APR DRG Provider Inpatient Hospital DRG Rates and Weights for 2017 on the [Hospital Rates and Weights page of the Portal](#). These values are subject to change annually. More information regarding the adjustment factors may be found in the [Policy Adjusters](#) topic (topic #19957) of the Amounts chapter of the Reimbursement section of the Hospital, Inpatient and Hospital, Outpatient service areas of the Online Handbook.

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CLAIM SUBMISSION

Question: How does the APR DRG classification system affect claims submitted by psychiatric and rehabilitation hospitals?

Answer: Services provided by psychiatric and rehabilitation hospitals are excluded from the APR DRG classification system and continue to be priced as they were before the implementation of the APR DRG classification system.

Question: How does the implementation of the APR DRG classification system affect services that were excluded from the MS-DRG classification?

Answer: The following are excluded from the APR DRG classification system and continue to be priced as they were under the MS-DRG system:

- Acute care services provided to Department of Correction's inmates who are Medicaid members.
- Ventilator, coma, and neurological services.

Question: Is interim billing continuing to follow the same guidelines as under the MS-DRG classification system?

Answer: Yes. Interim billing guidelines are the same under the APR DRG system as they were under the MS-DRG system.

Question: Where can I find more information regarding neonate claim submission requirements?

Answer: ForwardHealth requires two separate claims for each Medicaid member; mother and child. In addition, providers are required to record patient weight on neonate claims for patients whose age is less than or equal to 28 days.

More information on this policy change is outlined in the [Submitting Newborn Claims](#) topic (topic #1352) of the Submission chapter of the Claims section of the Hospital, Inpatient and Hospital, Outpatient service areas of the Online Handbook.

Question: Does ForwardHealth validate DRG codes on claims submitted by providers?

Answer: No. ForwardHealth does not validate nor utilize DRG codes on claims submitted by providers.

Question: Will the APR DRG code and the Severity of Illness (SOI) value be reported on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)-compliant Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA) (i.e., the 835 Health Care Claim Payment/Advice)?

Answer: The APR DRG code will be reported for applicable claims in the same location and manner as MS-DRG codes were reported. The SOI value will not be included on the ERA; however, it can be found in the Wisconsin Remittance Advice.