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3M™ Enhanced APG Software

EAPG v3.15 Summary of Changes

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3M™ Enhanced APG v3.15 changes

This document describes the changes between Enhanced Ambulatory Patient Groups (EAPG) version 3.14 and version 3.15. We received many external comments and suggestions for EAPG v3.15 and gave very careful consideration to each. During this process, we held many discussions with requesters to further understand their requests and to gather additional information about their applications and their needs. Where necessary in support of the coding changes, clinical consultants in different clinical, surgical, and significant procedure specialties were consulted. A tabular summary of all the coding changes is provided in a separate spreadsheet.

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Structural changes/new features

This section contains EAPG structural changes and new features in version v3.15.

Grouper version retention

The EAPG grouper v3.15 contains versions 3.9 through v3.15; seven years' worth of grouper versions are retained (2014 through 2020). Additionally:

- Grouper Version 3.7 is removed from the grouper component.
- Grouper Version 3.8 remains in the grouper component through 2020 for historical claims processing, however, code set updates are not included. Effective January 1, 2021, version 3.8 will be removed from the component.

Program features and logic changes

The following items are program logic changes made with grouper v3.15.

Per Diem EAPG for Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse

The per diem options for v3.15 have undergone the following changes:

- New individual turn on/off options for Direct and Indirect Per Diem assignment
- Only one per diem EAPG remains with version 3.15; EAPG 312: Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Partial Hospitalization Program, for direct and indirect per diem assignment

- The list requirement for Indirect Per Diem assignment is no longer modifiable by the end-user; the criteria is changed at a default setting to permit the reporting of any 3 or more Behavioral Health or Substance Abuse services from EAPGs 309-323, category 16 (Behavioral Health & Counseling) in order to assign the per diem EAPG 312; note that EAPGs from 309-323 are now referred to as “List A” in the Definitions Manual; there is no longer a List B
- The qualifying diagnosis criteria has been combined into a single diagnosis list rather than maintaining separate lists for Behavioral Health vs. Substance Abuse
- When multiple occurrences of EAPG 312 are present for the same visit, a consolidation flag is set on the second and any subsequent occurrences; only one per diem EAPG line should be assigned for payment

New medical visit indicator EAPG introduced: EAPG 102

Consultative Telehealth Assessments Medical Visit Indicator. The final EAPG assigned for procedure codes included with EAPG 102 is based on the principal diagnosis, as is with current EAPG 491.

EAPG Type 25 (Diagnostic or Therapeutic Procedure) description updated

EAPG Type 25's description now reflects the inclusion of many significant therapeutic procedure EAPGs formerly classified to Type 2.

Application interface changes

Please note these are changes made to the EAPG grouper component. For product-specific details regarding any interface changes, consult the product-specific documentation.

Input changes

The following are added input fields for v3.15:

- **Distinct Medical Visit Modifier option.** New option that allows a separately payable medical visit when the visit line is reported with a distinct modifier XE, XP, XS or XU. The default setting is turned OFF, end-users would need to set the flag if the option presents the desired outcome.
- **Per Diem option flags.** Individual option flags for turning on and off Direct and Indirect Per Diem criteria. This significantly changes how Per Diem EAPGs are calculated from previous versions. For additional detail, consult the EAPG Definitions Manual for version 3.15.

Output changes

The following are added output fields for v3.15:

- **Telehealth Service.** New line item output flag for identifying Telehealth Services when a service is either inherently telehealth or a service reported with a telehealth modifier (95, GQ, GT, G0), or the service is reported on a professional claim with Place of Service 2 (Telehealth). For the list of telehealth services, consult the EAPG Definitions Manual for version 3.15.
- **Unclassified Drug.** New line item output flag for identifying Unclassified Drug HCPCS. For a list of unclassified drug HCPCS codes, consult the EAPG Definitions Manual for version 3.15.

The following are revised output fields or values for v3.15:

- **Preventive medicine.** The Preventive Medicine diagnosis flag is moved in the output from the visit level to the claim level; only a single occurrence of a preventive medicine diagnosis is returned at the claim level. For a list of preventive medicine diagnoses, consult the EAPG Definitions Manual for version 3.15.

Clinical content grouping changes

All clinical content change details are listed in the attached change table spreadsheets for EAPGs, HCPCS and Diagnosis codes, including any attributable lists or flags that are changed. For a list of the table names, see Change table directory on page [9](#).

General notes for clinical content changes

As coding systems are revised, and new technology and advances in medicine occur, the need for new EAPG groups, as well as code assignment changes to EAPG groups, are reviewed and evaluated each year. New EAPG groups may be added, and obsolete groups may be deleted. Modifications occur due to code assignment changes, and groups are reviewed for clinical homogeneity across current industry trends, claim reporting frequency and reimbursement. A comparison of the number of EAPG changes between 3.14 and 3.15 is provided below. Additional details for specific EAPG, DIAGNOSIS and/or HCPCS code assignment changes are included in the specific change tables included with this document.

	V3.14 effective 1/1/2019	V3.15 effective 1/1/2020
Number of EAPGs	574	606
Number of new EAPGs	44	88
Number of deleted EAPGs	40	57
Number of revised EAPG titles	122	140
Number of EAPG types	13	13
Number of EAPG categories	55	56
Number of hospital service lines	49	49

Annual reviews continue to be performed for the following items:

- Add-on procedure codes for consistency of standard grouping assignment associated with the primary procedure code(s)' placement
- Inpatient-only procedures for presence in claims data and review of industry trends and end-user feedback of inpatient only procedures migrating to outpatient/ambulatory surgery
- Review of the Medicare OPPS/APC annual rulemaking for the calendar year for any impact in code revisions or policy that may impact EAPG code assignments

- Ancillary packaging for review of current industry trends and coding revisions as evidenced in claims data for changes to the standard default packaging list. Users are reminded that EAPGs may be removed or added to their user-defined packaging list, per individual payer policy.
- Clinical consolidation for review of current industry trends and coding revisions impacting the current consolidation algorithm, and to assess the need for consolidation across new EAPG groups as observed in outpatient claims data
- Preventive services for review of any coding revisions or industry articles that may consider the service as preventive; also, for any new coding revisions impacting preventive procedures or diagnoses for diabetic patients
- Telehealth services, a new list of services for version 3.15, to be reviewed each year for any coding revisions from public and industry sources
- Feedback from the payer community for specific requests or items requiring changes in code assignment

Change table directory

The spreadsheet attached to this document contains the detailed clinical content changes.

Note: If you do not see the attachments tab, your browser likely doesn't render PDF tabs. To see the attachments tab, download this file to your computer. Then, double-click the downloaded file to open it in your PDF reader and return to this page.

The individual table names and definitions are listed below.

EAPG Content	Report Description
V3.15 EAPG LISTING	Includes the complete list of EAPGs effective for the new grouper version implementation.
ADDED DELETED EAPGS	Includes the list of EAPGs that are newly added for the new version and the EAPGs deleted for the new version. Also noted is the clinical rationale for why an EAPG was added or deleted.
MODIFIED EAPGS	Includes the list of EAPGs that are modified for the new version. This includes not only description changes, but the clinical rationale for why the EAPG was modified.
EAPG STANDARD PKG LIST CHANGES	Includes the list of EAPGs that are added or deleted from the standard packaging list. This also includes the clinical rationale for why the changes were made.
EAPG CONSOLIDATION PAIR CHANGES	Includes the list of EAPG consolidation pairs that are added or deleted for the new version. This impacts the clinical consolidation outcome when multiple significant procedures that are clinically similar are reported for the same day/visit.
EAPG CHANGES TO TYPE	Includes the list of EAPGs that had a change in EAPG type.

EAPG CATEGORY CHANGES	Includes the list of EAPGs that had a change in EAPG category.
EAPG CATEGORY DESC CHANGES	Includes the list of EAPG categories that had a description change.
EAPG WITH SERVICE LINE CHANGES	Includes the list of EAPGs that had a change in Service Line assignment.
EAPG SERVICE LINE ADD_DEL	Includes the list of new EAPGs with Service Line assignment and deleted EAPGs.

Diagnosis Content	Report Description
DIAGNOSIS CHANGES CODE ORDER	Includes the list of diagnosis codes that had a change in EAPG assignment for the new grouper version. This is associated with medical visit EAPG assignment.

HCPCS Content	Report Description
ADDED HCPCS ALL VERSIONS	Includes the list of newly added HCPCS effective for January 1 with EAPG assignments. This includes details related to rationale for assignment with predecessor or similar codes, impact to EAPG processing and supporting CMS APC information. It also includes the listing of EAPG assignment across all existing EAPG grouper versions.
HCPCS CHANGES CODE ORDER	Includes the list of existing HCPCS codes that had a change in EAPG assignment for the new grouper version.
DELETED HCPCS	Includes the list of HCPCS deleted for the new grouper version.
INPATIENT ADD-ON PAIRS ADD_DEL	Includes the list of HCPCS pairs that are added or deleted for the new grouper version. These pairings are associated with add-on procedure codes that are assigned to a standard EAPG, however if reported with a primary procedure code that is inpatient only (EAPG 993), the add-on procedure code is also assigned inpatient only.
HCPCS UNASSIGNED LIST ADD_DEL	Includes the list of HCPCS that are added or deleted to an unassigned (error) list. This also includes the reasons why the HCPCS is unassigned.
HCPCS BILATERAL ADD_DEL	Includes the list of HCPCS that are added or deleted from the bilateral list, effective for January 1.
HCPCS PREVENTIVE ADD_DEL	Includes the list of HCPCS that are added or deleted from the Preventive list, effective for January 1.