Home Health Temporary (Toy) Grouper

The purpose of the home health temporary (toy) grouper is to approximate the function of the CMS official grouper logic, based on the refinement proposals in the NPRM (CMS-1541-P). The temporary (toy) grouper will be useful for trying out some "what if" scenarios and could be utilized for planning purposes, however it is not designed to provide the official HHRG and is NOT a substitute for the all-inclusive official grouper. For an all inclusive description of grouper logic, please see the pseudocode used by the official grouper, which is posted on CMS' Home Health webpage: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/center/hha.asp.

ICD-9-CM Coding Guidance: Diagnosis coding guidance can be found at http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/datawh/ftpserv/ftpicd9/icdguide06.pdf. The official version of the ICD-9-CM contains the list of valid diagnosis and procedure codes. The Official Version of the ICD-9-CM is available from the Government Printing Office on CD-ROM for $25 by calling (202) 512-1800. Users who need a paper version are referred to one of the many products available from commercial publishing houses.

Temporary (Toy) Grouper Logic Guidelines

1) A primary diagnosis is:
   a. the diagnosis in M0230a unless it's a v-code; OR
   b. the diagnosis in M0246a, column 3, if M0230a is a v-code; OR
   c. the diagnosis in M0240b if M0230a/M0240b are an etiology/manifestation code pair and the underlying etiology in M0230a is not a point-bearing diagnosis group; OR
   d. the diagnosis in M0246a4 if M0230a is a V-code and M0246a3 is an etiology that is not in a point-bearing case-mix group and M0236a4 is a manifestation code that is in a point-bearing diagnosis group

   All other diagnoses are "other" (i.e., secondary) diagnoses.

2) If a manifestation code is used, it must be immediately preceded by the underlying etiology. If there is no underlying etiology immediately preceding it, the manifestation code will be ignored by the grouper. V-codes, e-codes, or incomplete ICD-9-CM codes cannot be considered etiologies.

3) Points are allowed for both a manifestation code and its underlying etiology as long as they are in different diagnosis groups (but see exception in 5) below).

4) The 4 diabetes manifestations in the diabetes diagnosis group will not be recognized by the grouper unless they are preceded by a diabetes etiology (250.xx)

5) When a manifestation code is considered the primary diagnosis as described in 1c and d above, the manifestation code will not also be considered an "other" diagnosis.

6) A diagnosis group or OASIS M0xxx code may receive points based on more than one line item in Table 2a if it meets the conditions for more than one.

7) However, when calculating an episodes's total points, the grouper will only give points for a particular line item from Table 2a ONE time.

8) If a diagnosis group appears as primary for an episode, it cannot also receive points for being secondary.