

CHAPTER 4: CODING THE CMS PATIENT DATA SYSTEM

4.1 Coding Forms

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides a user tool free of charge that uses the data submitted using the IRF-PAI instrument on a question-by-question basis. This user tool is accessed via the Internet Quality Improvement and Evaluation System (iQIES). Because these data are used for payment purposes, it is critical to complete the questions on the IRF-PAI carefully and accurately. As shown in the CMS patient data system flow diagram below, patient data are collected within the facility and entered into iQIES. These data are used for payment purposes and quality reporting. In addition, the data will be used to develop an analytical database for monitoring and assessing implementation of the IRF prospective payment system. Additional information about iQIES and how to create an account is available at <https://iqies.cms.gov/> and the qtso webpage at <https://qtso.cms.gov/news-and-updates/register-iqies-account-action-required-0>

4.2 CMS Patient Data System Flow

Figure 1 depicts the following steps:

1. Complete the assessment on paper or in an electronic health record (EHR) application.
2. Enter assessment information into the iQIES software. Once all sections are complete, save the assessment. Complete and save the discharge assessment information.
 - If using an EHR, save completed assessments to a zip file.
3. Submit the assessments in iQIES.
 - The assessments go to the National Database/CMS Repository.
 - A success or failure notification indicates if upload was successful.
4. The CMS Case Mix Group (CMG) is created after entering the (discharge) assessment information into iQIES (step 2).
5. The IRF submits a Medicare claim.
6. The Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) processes the claim through its software system, called the “Pricer” software. The Pricer software uses the CMG number, along with other specific claim data elements and provider-specific data to calculate the IRF’s prospective payment.

Figure 1: CMS Patient Data System

