

## How the Revised IRVEN Software Changes How The IRF-PAI Data Is Recorded

In the IRF PPS frequently asked questions and answers CMS stated that the IRVEN software contained some edits which were incorrect. These incorrect software edits sometimes affected how data could be recorded when an IRF was using either the IRVEN software or software an IRF had obtained from a vendor. The CMS advised IRFs that if because of these incorrect software edits they were unable to transmit an IRF-PAI data record they could delay transmission until CMS issued the revised IRVEN software, and the associated data specifications which are used by vendors. In addition, CMS stated that it would waive the late IRF-PAI transmission penalty if an IRVEN software edit problem was the reason for the late transmission. The late transmission penalty would also be waived if the IRF was using software obtained from a vendor, and that vendor software contained the same IRVEN type of incorrect edits which also did not permit the IRF to transmit an IRF-PAI data record. Below is how the revised IRVEN software, and the data specifications made available to the vendors, affects how the data can be recorded in specific IRF-PAI items.

IRF-PAI item number 6 "Birth Date"-When it is appropriate the patient's Birth Date and the Date of Onset of Impairment (item number 23) can be recorded as the same date.

IRF-PAI item number 7 "Social Security Number"-This item may be left blank if the patient does not have a social security number. Although the CMS database will no longer reject a record if it does not contain a social security number all elements of the IRF-PAI, including the social security number, but excluding the voluntary sections on quality indicators, must be submitted to CMS. The IRVEN software edit for the social security number item was relaxed to allow for flexibility in the recording of the social security number when there are special circumstances. For example, a small number of people have never obtained a social security number (e.g., women who never worked) but are still eligible for Medicare benefits. The IRVEN edit change made to the social security number data item will allow such types of cases to be submitted. However, if a patient has a social security number, it must be recorded on the IRF-PAI and submitted to CMS.

IRF-PAI item number 12 "Admission Date"-When it is appropriate the patient's Admission Date and the Date of Onset of Impairment (item number 23) can be recorded as the same date.

IRF-PAI item number 13 "Assessment Reference Date"--When it is appropriate this date does not have to be earlier than a Program Interruption Date (item number 43). This date can be the same as the Discharge Date (item number 40).

IRF-PAI item number 20 "Payment Source"-The data record will no longer be rejected if code 02 (Medicare non-MCO) or 51 (Medicare MCO) is recorded in item 20B (secondary source) and item 20A (primary source) contains another payment source code. However, for each individual data record if code 02 or 51 is recorded in item 20A then code 02 or 51 can't at the same time be recorded in item 20B and vice versa. Previously the IRF-PAI data record would be accepted by the National Assessment Collection Database ONLY if item 20A was coded either 02 or 51. Yet when the IRF had to submit an IRF-PAI data record when Medicare was the

secondary payer item 20B would have to be coded as 02. However, when item 20B instead of item 20A was coded 02 the data record was rejected by the National Assessment Collection Database. As a temporary solution for this type of edit problem situation, as stated in a question and answer CMS posted on February 28, 2002, CMS authorized an IRF to record code 02 in item 20A until CMS issued the revised IRVEN software. The revised IRVEN software allows an IRF, when appropriate, to code item 20B as 02, or even 51 if appropriate, and to submit the IRF-PAI data record although item 20A contains another code number. Therefore, an IRF must now code items 20A and 20B so that the correct payer source(s) is indicated, and must abandon using the temporary edit problem solution that CMS specified in the February 28, 2002, question and answer.

IRF-PAI item number 22 "Etiologic Diagnosis"--When appropriate according to the IRF-PAI manual a "V" code can be recorded.

IRF-PAI item number 23 "Date of Onset of Impairment"--When it is appropriate this date may now be the same as the patient's Birth Date (item number 6), or the patient's Admission Date (item number 12).

IRF-PAI item number 39N "Comprehension"--In accordance with the IRF-PAI manual the coding of this item must be a number equal to or between 1 and 7. (In accordance with the IRF-PAI manual the more usual mode of comprehension will continue to be coded as auditory, visual, or both.)

IRF-PAI item number 39O "Expression"--In accordance with the IRF-PAI manual the coding of this item must be a number equal to or between 1 and 7. (In accordance with the IRF-PAI manual the more usual mode of expression will continue to be coded as vocal, nonvocal, or both.)

IRF-PAI item number 40 "Discharge Date"--When it is appropriate the date may now be the same as a date in item number 43 "Program Interruption Date."

Appendix C of the final rule specified the comorbidity codes the grouper software would use to modify the basic CMG code. In order to conform the ICD-9-CM codes in the Grouper software to the current ICD-9-CM codes for some comorbidities Version 1.10 of the Grouper software updates some of these codes. Below are the additional codes that the Grouper software will now recognize: (Please refer to an ICD-9-CM coding book for a description of the medical condition associated with each of these codes.)

Codes used in the ICD-9-CM coding system prior to October 1, 2002:

Code 569.62 and Code 996.68 Codes which will be used in the ICD-9-CM coding system after October 1, 2002

Codes				
Code 277.02	Code 277.03	Code 277.09	Code 537.84	Code 995.90
Code 995.91	Code 995.92	Code 995.93	Code 995.94	Code 998.31
Code 998.32				