

August 29, 2012

An issue has been found in the MS DRG v30.0 Diagnosis EBCDIC table that is supplied as adjunct information in the MS-DRG grouper distribution. There is no impact to the MS-DRG software. For clients using the adjunct EBCDIC table a fix has been provided in this letter.

Here is the issue:

One diagnosis code, 998.59, other postoperative infection, can be part of three Hospital Acquired Conditions (HACs):

11 (Infection after bariatric surgery)

12 (Infection after certain orthopedic procedures of spine, shoulder and elbow)

13 (Surgical Site Infection Following Cardiac Device Procedures)

Only HAC 13 is listed for this code in the Diagnosis EBCDIC table.

The file currently allocates one slot for the HACGRP. If 998.59 is on the record as a secondary diagnosis users will need to examine the procedures on the record to determine the actual HAC (if any). There is a hierarchy associated with this. In the instance where multiple HACs can be attained, (say, 99859, and procedures that would satisfy either any or all of HACs 11, 12, 13), the software flags 13 first, then 12, then 11.

Here is the technical solution (in pseudocode):

if secondary diagnosis equals 99859

 look at the procedures on the record to determine HAC

 if any procedure has hac13_proc = 1 then HAC=13

 else if any procedure has hac12_proc = 1 then HAC=12

 else if any procedure has hac11_proc = 1 then HAC=11