

**OFFICE OF STATEWIDE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
CALIFORNIA INPATIENT DATA REPORTING MANUAL,  
MEDICAL INFORMATION REPORTING FOR CALIFORNIA, SIXTH EDITION**

**PRINCIPAL DIAGNOSIS AND PRESENT ON ADMISSION  
INDICATOR**

**Section 97225**

*(a) The patient's principal diagnosis, defined as the condition established, after study, to be the chief cause of the admission of the patient to the facility for care, shall be coded according to the ICD-9-CM.*

*(b) Effective with discharges on or after January 1, 1996, and until and including June 30 2008, whether the patient's principal diagnosis was present at admission shall be reported as one of the following:*

- (1) Yes.*
- (2) No.*
- (3) Uncertain.*

*(c) Effective with discharges on or after July 1, 2008, whether the patient's principal diagnosis was present on admission shall be reported as one of the following:*

- (1) Y. Yes. Condition was present at the time of inpatient admission.*
- (2) N. No. Condition was not present at the time of inpatient admission.*
- (3) U. Unknown. Documentation is insufficient to determine if the condition was present on admission.*
- (4) W. Clinically undetermined. Provider is unable to clinically determine whether the condition was present on admission or not.*
- (5)(blank). Exempt from present on admission reporting.*

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DISCUSSION

Specifications for reporting this data element with the Record Entry Form for online web entry of individual records or online data file transmission for discharges occurring **on or before June 30, 2008**:

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Principal Diagnosis:

Reporting Requirement: A principal diagnosis must be reported for every discharge data record.

Psychiatric Reporting: All psychiatric facilities are to report the principal diagnosis as the chief cause for admission for every discharge data record. The first listed diagnosis (in Axis I, II, or III) would be the principal diagnosis, if that is the reason for admission to the psychiatric facility. This includes medical conditions (in Axis III). In order to comply with the State's reporting requirements to OSHPD, these medical conditions should be reported. The medical conditions are listed as ICD-9-CM codes in Appendix G of DSM-IV codebook.

Other Coding Systems:

- Morphology Codes are not accepted by OSHPD.
- SNODO codes are not accepted by OSHPD.
- DSM-IV codes are not accepted by OSHPD.

ICD-9-CM Codes:

Refer to the official guidelines for coding and reporting the principal diagnosis in *Coding Clinic for ICD-9-CM*.

Codes from the Supplementary Classification of External Causes of Injury and Poisoning (E800-E999) will never be reported in the principal diagnosis code field. Such codes must only be reported in the External Causes of Injury code fields.

Italicized codes will never be the principal diagnosis.

**Parameters for Reporting on discharges on or before June 30, 2008:**

- Each principal diagnosis and all other diagnoses must have an indicator for reporting whether or not a condition is present at admission by choosing one of the following responses:

Yes

No

Uncertain

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- The ICD-9-CM E-codes, external causes of injury and poisoning, are excluded from this reporting requirement.

If the physician states that a condition is present (Y) or not present (N) at admission or is uncertain (U) whether or not the condition was present at admission, the physician's statement takes precedence over the following parameters.

A condition is considered present at admission if it is identified in the history and physical examination or documented in the current inpatient medical records (e.g., emergency room, initial progress, initial nursing assessment, clinic/office notes).

When a condition is present prior to or at the time of the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported Yes (Y).

When a condition develops during the current inpatient admission and it is not present prior to or at the time of the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported No (N).

When it is not clearly indicated that a condition is present at the time of the current inpatient admission or developing during the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported Uncertain (U).

Coding professionals will need to use their best judgment to determine whether or not a condition is present at the time of the current inpatient admission. If there is doubt as to whether or not the condition is present at admission, coding professionals are encouraged to ask the physician.

**Assignment of Indicator for Principal Diagnosis:**

- If the principal diagnosis indicator is blank, OSHPD will assign Yes (Y).
- If the error tolerance level for principal diagnosis indicators (invalids) is less than .1% after being corrected by the hospital, OSHPD will default the invalid indicators to Yes (Y).

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**Indicators for Acute and Chronic Conditions:**

Chronic conditions that may not have been identified prior to or at the time of the current inpatient admission would be considered to have been present at admission. The indicator for the chronic condition is reported Yes.

Example: Lung cancer discovered during admission 162.9 Y

When there are separate ICD-9-CM codes for some conditions that are described as both acute and chronic, the indicators are reported separately as follows:

If acute and chronic conditions are both present prior to or at the time of admission, these indicators are reported Yes.

Example: Acute and chronic bronchitis 466.0 Y and 491.9 Y, respectively

If an acute exacerbation of a chronic condition develops during the current inpatient admission, the acute condition indicator is reported No and the chronic condition indicator is reported Yes.

Example: Acute and chronic bronchitis 466.0 N and 491.9 Y, respectively

When there are no separate ICD-9-CM codes for conditions that are described as both acute and chronic, the indicator is reported as follows:

If acute and chronic conditions are both present prior to or at the time of the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported Yes.

Example: COPD with acute exacerbation 491.21 Y

If an acute exacerbation of a chronic condition developed during the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported No.

Example: Diabetes mellitus with ketoacidosis 250.10 N

Indicators for signs and symptoms, rule out or suspected conditions, comparative/contrasting conditions, symptoms followed by comparative/contrasting conditions, and abnormal findings:

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If a sign or symptom is present prior to or at the time of the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported Yes.

Example: Nausea with vomiting 787.01 Y

If a suspected condition is present prior to or at the time of the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported Yes.

Example: Rule out sepsis 038.9 Y

If two or more comparative or contrasting conditions are present prior to or at the time of the current inpatient admission, the indicators are reported Yes.

Example: Diverticulitis versus appendicitis 562.11 Y and 541 Y, respectively.

If a symptom followed by comparative or contrasting conditions is present prior to or at the time of the current inpatient admission, all indicators are reported Yes.

Example: Chills, pneumonia vs. bladder infection 780.99 Y, 486 Y, and 595.9 Y, respectively.

If a threatened or impending condition is present prior to or at the time of the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported Yes.

Example: Threatened abortion 640.03 Y  
Impending myocardial infarction 411.1 Y

If an abnormal finding is present prior to or at the time of the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported Yes.

Example: Hyponatremia 276.1 Y

If the above conditions are not present at the time of the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported No.

Example: Suspected postoperative infection 998.59 N

If the above conditions are not clearly indicated as being present either at the time of the current inpatient admission or developing during the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported Uncertain.

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Example: Possible urinary tract infection was diagnosed during the stay. Patient receiving antibiotics for cholecystitis prior to admission 599.0 U

**Indicators for Obstetrical Conditions:**

If an antepartum condition is present prior to or at the time of the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported Yes.

Example: Pregnancy with fetal distress 656.33 Y

If a chronic condition during delivery is present prior to or at the time of the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported Yes.

Example: Pregnancy with diabetes, delivered 648.01 Y

If a postpartum condition is present prior to or at the time of the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported Yes.

Example: Third degree perineal laceration following delivery at home 664.24 Y

If the above conditions are not present at the time of the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported No.

Example: Postpartum fever, delivered 670.02 N

If an acute condition develops during delivery and it is not present prior to or at the time of the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported No.

Example: Third degree perineal laceration during delivery 664.21 N

If the above conditions are not clearly indicated as being present either at the time of the current inpatient admission or developing during the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported uncertain.

Example: Delivery and breast abscess diagnosed during stay 675.11 U

**Indicators for V Codes:**

If a V code identifies a birth or an outcome of delivery at the time of the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported Yes.

Example: Newborn V30.00 Y  
Single liveborn infant V27.0 Y

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If a V code identifies the reason for admission at the time of the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported Yes.

Example: Admission for chemotherapy V58.1 Y

If a V code identifies a history or status at the time of the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported Yes.

Example: Status colostomy V44.3 Y

If a V code identifies a problem that develops during the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported No.

Example: Canceled surgery V64.1 N

If a V code identifies exposure to a communicable disease during the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported No.

Example: Exposure to strep throat during current admission V01.89 N

If a V code identifies a situation and it is not clearly indicated as being present either at the time of the current inpatient admission or developing during the current inpatient admission, the indicator is reported Uncertain.

Example: Family disruption V61.0 U

**Parameters for Reporting Present on Admission on or after July 1, 2008:**

Follow the reporting requirements in the Appendix "Present on Admission Reporting Guidelines" in the ICD-9-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/dataawh/ftpserv/ftpicd9/icdguide07.pdf>