

February 28, 2008

MEDICAID BULLETIN

HOS-IP-GEN 08-05
HOS-IP-IMD 08-05
HOS-IP-RTF 08-05
HOS-OP 08-05

TO: Hospitals

SUBJECT: Present On Admission (POA) Indicator

Effective April 1, 2008, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services will begin editing inpatient claims for a Present On Admission (POA) indicator. This action is being taken due to a directive from the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The indicator will distinguish conditions and diagnoses that are present at the time of the admission from those that are acquired during the hospital stay.

For hard copy claims, the POA indicator will be placed at the eighth position of the Principal diagnosis field, Form Locator 67, and for each of the Secondary diagnosis fields, Form Locators 67-A through Q. For electronic claims submissions 837I, providers should follow the guidelines published in conjunction with the UB-04 Data Specifications Manual and the ICD-9-CM official guidelines for coding and reporting. The POA indicator should also be reported for External Cause (E-Codes). Categories of E-Codes for which the POA Indicator are not applicable will be exempt from editing.

Two new edits will be assigned for the POA requirements:

- Edit 219** - Present On Admission (POA) indicator is missing; diagnosis is not an exempt code.
- Edit 339** - Present On Admission (POA) Indicator is invalid; must be one of the five valid indicators listed below.

Valid Indicators	Indicator Definitions
Y	Yes - Present at the time of inpatient admission.
N	No- Not present at the time of inpatient admission.
U	Unknown - Documentation is insufficient to determine if condition is present at time of inpatient admission.
W	Clinically undetermined - Provider is unable to clinically determine whether condition was present at time of inpatient admission or not.
1	Unreported/Not used - Exempt from POA reporting. This code is the equivalent of a blank on the UP-04, but blanks are not desirable when submitting data.

If you have any questions, please contact your Program Manager in the Division of Hospital Services at (803) 898-2665. Thank you for your continued support of the South Carolina Medicaid Program.

/s/

Emma Forkner
Director

EF/gv

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