

CMS IRF-PAI Software Developer/Vendor Call

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 24, 2015

Welcome ----- Lori Grocholski, Facilitator

DQSAS, Division of Quality Systems for Assessments and Surveys

- Welcome and thank you for joining our IRF-PAI software developer/vendor call related to the IRF-PAI Data submission of the IRF-PAI Item Set effective October 1, 2016.
- If you do not have the agenda for this call, it may be found at <https://www.qtso.com> under the Vendors link on the left navigation bar then the IRF-PAI link in the navigation bar at the top of the page.
- On this call we will discuss CMG Grouper updates, IRF-PAI Technical Data Submission Specification Updates, VUT information, ASAP system enhancements, and submitted questions and answers. All updates and enhancements presented today will be effective October 1, 2016.
- Please note that CMS policies related to the IRF Item Set are not the focus of the vendor calls.

CMG Grouper Updates – October 2016 ----- John Jackson, General Dynamics

- A coding issue has been identified in the CMG grouper (version 2.80) for handling comorbidities.
 - **How it works today:** Currently, the grouper examines a table containing the single ICD-10 codes in high-to-low (B to D) tier order. If a match is found, the associated tier is assigned. If no match is found, then a second table containing the clusters (which are always a pair of ICD-10s and all pairs are associated with tier D) are examined. If a match is found, tier D is assigned. If no match is found, then the default tier, A, is assigned.
 - **Note:** A comorbidity condition can be excluded from consideration for certain RICs (Rehabilitation Impairment Codes). If the comorbidity condition is excluded for the RIC associated with the assessment, then that comorbidity condition is skipped for tier determination.
 - **New Requirement Effective 10/01/2016 to Exclude Certain Codes:** If an ICD-10 code pair comorbidity condition in the Code Pair Table is present in the assessment, AND the assessment's RIC is excluded for the pair, AND a code in the pair is also included separately as a single code comorbidity condition in the Single Code Table, then that single code comorbidity condition must NOT be used for comorbidity assignment.
 - **Solution:** The grouper will now look at three tables instead of two. The first table will contain the single ICD-10s MINUS the ICD-10s that are part of a pair. The second table will be the clusters, as described earlier. The third table will be the single ICD-10s that were removed from the first table. While examining the second table, the grouper will flag any ICD in the third table that should be excluded because it is part of an excluded

code pair. Note that if a match is found in the third table, the associated tier is always D.

- An updated version (2.81) of the CMG is in development to implement the solution described above and will be posted as soon as possible.
- **Anticipated ICD Changes Effective 10/01/2016:** The new items in version 1.4 of the IRF-PAI item set are quality indicator items and are not part of the CMG calculations. However, we are anticipating a large ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS update for October 1, 2016. (The new codes are expected to be posted on the CMS website in June 2016.) As a result, we are likely to have changes to the tier comorbidity codes used in the current CMG grouper. Assuming this happens, a new version CMG grouper will be released for use on October 1, 2016.

Data Submission Specification Updates ----- John Jackson, General Dynamics

- Version 2.00.0 of the IRF-PAI data specifications is currently available on the CMS IRF-PAI Technical Information (a.k.a. Software) web page. This version is DRAFT. Please note that along with the data spec posting, there is an data spec errata document identifying three changes to the posted DRAFT data specifications. As you might expect, these specifications match up with version 1.4 of the IRF-PAI item set. There are many new quality indicator sections: Sections B, C, GG, H, J, and K. There are significant changes to the diagnoses, pressure ulcer, and therapy items.
- When reviewing the revised item set and the data specs, please pay special attention to Section GG. Note that for GG0130 and GG0170, the Admission Performance and Discharge Goal items are on separate pages from the Discharge Performance items. This is different from the way FIM items are presented. Also, there are some embedded skip patterns, depending on whether the patient walks, or uses a wheelchair or scooter.
- Please review the item change and edit change reports posted with the data specifications carefully. We increased the version number of the data specifications from v1.12.1 to v2.00.0 because there are quite a few changes.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** There are NO voluntary items in this version of the IRF-PAI. Please make sure that the equal sign is not a valid value for any item.

Validation Utility Tool ----- John Jackson, General Dynamics

- New data specifications mean a new Validation Utility Tool (VUT) is needed to enforce the new items and edits. Therefore, you can expect a new IRF-PAI VUT to be available in August 2016. As always, the VUT will continue to support earlier data specification versions. No further enhancements to the August 2016 version of the VUT are planned at this time.

ASAP System Enhancements ----- Jana Linthicum, Telligen

- Implement changes included in IRF data specs v2.00 into ASAP and the errata changes that complement the data specs.

- Update the CASPER reports submit page (except the IRF-PAI Facility FVR) to eliminate the blank value option in the Report Date Option field drop-down list.
- Update the IRF-PAI Error Detail view in the QW IRF-PAI data group to display the Software Vendor Name instead of Software Vendor ID.
- Update the 'IRF-PAI Assessments with Error Number XXXX' report to include the patient's last name and first name in the sort. The sort shall be enhanced to sort data in the following manner: state code, CCN, error number, submission date, last name, first name, assessment ID.
- Update IRF-PAI Facility Final Validation Report sort order to: State, Facility ID, Submission ID, Patient Last Name, Patient First Name, Submission Processing Order Number, Error Type Description, Item in Error Text, and Value in Error Text. Currently, the report is not sorting properly on Facility ID.
- An edit will be added to all IRF CASPER Reports Submit pages that contain 'from (mm/dd/yyyy)' and 'thru (mm/dd/yyyy)' fields in the event either field is left blank when clicking on 'Submit' or 'Save and Submit.' The From and/or Thru Date fields cannot be blank.
 - This includes the following seven IRF-PAI Provider reports: IRF-PAI Assessments with Error Number XXXX, IRF-PAI Discharges, IRF-PAI Error Detail by Facility, IRF-PAI Error Number Summary by Facility by Vendor, IRF-PAI Errors by Field by Facility, IRF-PAI Submission Activity, and IRF-PAI Submission Statistics by Facility/

Submitted Q and As -----Lori Grocholski, DQSAS
 No questions were submitted prior to this conference call.

Open Q and A Session -----Lori Grocholski, DQSAS

- Q. Can vendors submit assessments on behalf of several hospitals?
 A. Ellen Berry reported the option for third parties to submit on behalf of multiple hospitals has been available for some time. Visit the following webpage for details at <https://www.qtso.com/>.

Closing -----Lori Grocholski, DQSAS

Thank you for joining the call today to keep up-to-date on the future changes to the IRF program. Please note the important resources listed below. If you have technical questions in the future, please send them to the mailbox at IRFTechIssues@cms.hhs.gov.

Important Resources

QTSO.com

- <https://www.qtso.com>
- <https://www.qtso.com/vendor.html>
- <https://www.qtso.com/vendorirf.html>

CMS.gov - IRF Quality Reporting

- <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/IRF-Quality-Reporting/IRF-Quality-Reporting-Program-Details.html>

CMS.gov - IRF Technical Information

- <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/InpatientRehabFacPPS/Software.html>

Email – IRF-PAI Technical Issues

- IRFTechIssues@cms.hhs.gov

Listserv

- <http://www.cms.gov/OpenDoorForums>