

**CMS IRF Software Developer/Vendor Call
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 3:00p.m. (ET)

Conference Call Number: 1-877-267-1577

Conference code: 992 462 102

Welcome Brandy Barnette

- 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, 2018.
- If you do not have the agenda for this call, it may be found at www.qtso.com under the Vendors link on the left navigation bar then the IRF link in the navigation bar at the top of the page.
- On this call we will cover the IRF-PAI Technical Data Submission Specification Updates, VUT information, ASAP system enhancements, and submitted Q and As. All of these updates and enhancements will be effective October 1, 2018.
- Please note that CMS policies related to the IRF-PAI Item Set are not the focus of the vendor calls.
- I will now turn it over to John Jackson. John will provide some important information about the IRF Data Submission Specification Updates.

Data Submission Specification Updates John Jackson

- A new, DRAFT version of the IRF-PAI Data Specifications was posted on the CMS Web Site. The version number is 3.00.0, and it reflects Version 2.0 of the IRF-PAI item set. These data specifications go into effect on October 1, 2018.
- As usual, there are new item values for ITM_SET_VRSN_CD (2.0) and SPEC_VRSN_CD (3.00).
- There are quite a few item label changes in Sections C, GG and M. These revisions were done to maintain consistency with their definitions in other settings (e.g., MDS and LTCH), and they are noted in the Item Change Report.
- Several important revisions were made to Section GG. A new item value was introduced in the GG0130 and GG0170 item collections: 10 (Not attempted due to environmental limitations). Note that this value, along with 07 (Patient refused), 09 (Not applicable) and 88 (Not attempted due to medical condition or safety concerns) are now allowed responses for the Goal items. Also, please note the removal of items GG0170H1 and GG0170H3. Their removal resulted in the deletion of skip pattern edits that were associated with them, and the subsequent addition of skip pattern edits for other items (GG0170I1, GG0170I3, GG0170M1, GG0170M3).
- A new section was added, Section N, which adds three items to the IRF-PAI: N2001 (Drug Regimen Review), N2003 (Medication Follow-up), and N2005 (Medication Intervention).
- On the other hand, the M0800 and M0900 items were removed, so ten items were subtracted!
- As you know, edit -1130 replaces edit -1033 for validating item 2 on **April 1, 2018**. This is the edit that allows for either the current Medicare Number to be entered for item 2,

OR to enter the new MBI value. Since we will be in the transition period when these new specs go into effect, edit -1033 is no longer in the specs. Reminder: the transition period is currently scheduled to conclude at the end of 2019, after which time only the MBI will be accepted.

- There was additional review performed to determine the items for which the APU edit - 5004 should be applied– please check the Edit Change Report to see the item list. Note that these changes are retroactive to January 1, 2017.
- Please take note of the new Incomplete Stay Skip Pattern: IF (44D=[02, 62, 63, 65, 66]) OR (41=[1]) OR (44C=[0]) OR (Discharge Date (40) minus Admission Date (12) < 3 days), then the following items must equal [^]: GG0130A3, GG0130B3, GG0130C3, GG0130E3, GG0130F3, GG0130G3, GG0130H3, GG0170A3, GG0170B3, GG0170C3, GG0170D3, GG0170E3, GG0170F3, GG0170G3, GG0170I3, GG0170M3, GG0170P3, GG0170Q3.
- Please continue to check the IRF-PAI Software Information web page for any future updates...and to see when the DRAFT specs go to FINAL.

Validation Utility Tool John Jackson

- New data specifications mean a new version of the 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 2018. As always, the IRF VUT will continue to support earlier data specification versions.
- No additional enhancements are planned for the VUT. It will continue to operate as it currently does.

ASAP System Enhancements Kellen Sherburne

- I also will be covering the ASAP System and Reporting updates related to the Data Specification version 3.00.0:
- We will implement the changes included in the IRF data specs v3.0 into the ASAP System
- The Assessment Print report will be updated to add the new IRF-PAI items.

I'll now turn it back over to Brandy.

Submitted Q and As Brandy Barnette

- **Q1.** M0210_1 and M0210_2 have had the mapping to edit -5004 removed. However, dependent M items are still mapped to edit -5004, and new M items have been added to that edit. The specifications state that if M0210 is -, then all of its dependent items must also be -, which will trigger the -5004 message. A similar dynamic is true of J1800 (falls since admission, removed from mapping to edit -5004) and J1900 C (falls with major injury, still mapped to edit -5004).

My question is: was the removal of the mapping to edit -5004 for M0210_1, M0210_2,

and J1800 intentional and, if so, why, since a dash sent for those items will automatically trigger edit -5004 for dashes in the dependent items?

(Dependent "M" items include M0300B1_1, M0300B1_2, M0300B2_2, M0300C1_1, M0300C1_2, M0300C2_2, M0300D1_1, M0300D1_2, M0300D2_2, M0300E1_1, M0300E1_2, M0300E2_2, M0300F1_1, M0300F1_2, M0300F2_2, M0300G1_1, M0300G1_2, M0300G2_2)

- **A1.** Yes, the removals of the edits are correct.
- For assessments after October 1, 2018, the gateway item, M0210, will not be held accountable for APU (5004 error) since the item is not required for calculating assessment-based measures. According to the specifications, if the gateway item is not dashed, the dependent items (e.g., M0300A1_2) either have to have a numerical value or a "-". The dependent items are required for quality measure calculation so they will trigger the APU warning edit if a "-" is entered. If you attempt to ^ (skip), the assessment will be rejected. If the gateway is "-", but numbers are entered for the dependents, the assessment will be rejected. This makes sense logically – if data is available, then "-" should NOT be entered in the gateway item. The dash indicates 'not assessed'. If the gateway is coded "-", it will not show an APU error, but ALL of the dependents (e.g., M0300A1_2) with a "-" will fire the error.
- For additional information, we refer you to the "Technical Specifications for Reporting Assessment-Based Measures for IRF-PAI 1.4 and 1.5" located in the Downloads section of the IRF QRP Measures Information webpage at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/IRF-Quality-Reporting/Downloads/IRF-QRP-Technical-Specifications-for-Reporting-Assessment-Based-Measures.pdf> for details regarding items necessary for calculating the assessment-based measures, which will be used for compliance determination, and items used only for risk adjustment.
- If they have any additional questions regarding the specifications in the QM Users Manual, they can contact the IRF QRP helpdesk at IRF.questions@cms.hhs.gov
- **Q2.** The skip pattern character ^ is allowed for goal items GG0170 I2, J2, K2, L2, M2, N2, and O2, but there do not seem to be any guidelines as to when this character is allowed or required for those items. In the current specifications (version 2.01.1), the ^ character is required when GG0170H1 = 0, but item GG0170H1 has been removed from the IRF-PAI. Under what circumstances is the ^ required now for those discharge goal items?
- **A2.** As for the ^ being on the goal items, I believe that there will be two errata issues for skip pattern edits -5084 and -5086. Those edits don't currently include the goal items, and I believe they should. Therefore, the ^ will need to remain being an allowed value.

Open Q and A Session Brandy Barnette

- We will now open the call for any additional Questions & Answers. Anyone with questions please unmute your phone by entering *6. After you have completed your question please re-mute your line by entering *6.
- **Q1.** Melissa Berkoff, from Fleming-AOD, in the current specifications, the skip pattern character of the carat is allowed for goal item GG0170P2 when GG0170H1 is "0" and I know H1 has been removed and the new specifications have removed that skip character from GG0170P2, wanted to be sure this wasn't an omission and was intentionally removed?
- **A1.** John replied the skips don't apply to GG0170P2 in the other settings, so he suspects that will be the same here. This will be covered in his errata he will do for the other 2 edits and he will approach the resolution.

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>