



# Federal Register

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**Part II**

## **Department of Health and Human Services**

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**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

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**42 CFR Parts 412, 413, et al.  
Medicare Program; Proposed Rule**

adjustments are made to reflect changes in treatment patterns, technology, and any other factors that may change the relative use of hospital resources.

*B. MS-DRG Reclassifications*

1. General

As discussed in the preamble to the FY 2008 IPPS final rule with comment period (72 FR 47138), we focused our efforts in FY 2008 on making significant reforms to the IPPS consistent with the recommendations made by MedPAC in its “Report to the Congress, Physician-Owned Specialty Hospitals” in March 2005. MedPAC recommended that the Secretary refine the entire DRG system by taking severity of illness into account and applying hospital-specific relative value (HSRV) weights to DRGs.<sup>1</sup> We began this reform process by adopting cost-based weights over a 3-year transition period beginning in FY 2007 and making interim changes to the DRG system for FY 2007 by creating 20 new CMS DRGs and modifying 32 other DRGs across 13 different clinical areas involving nearly 1.7 million cases. As described in more detail below, these refinements were intermediate steps towards comprehensive reform of both the relative weights and the DRG system as we undertook further study. For FY 2008, we adopted 745 new Medicare Severity DRGs (MS-DRGs) to replace the CMS DRGs. We refer readers to

section II.D. of the FY 2008 IPPS final rule with comment period for a full detailed discussion of how the MS-DRG system, based on severity levels of illness, was established (72 FR 47141).

Currently, cases are classified into MS-DRGs for payment under the IPPS based on the following information reported by the hospital: The principal diagnosis, up to eight additional diagnoses, and up to six procedures performed during the stay. (We refer readers to section II.G.11.c. of this proposed rule for a discussion of our efforts to increase our internal systems capacity to process diagnosis and procedures on hospital claims to 25 diagnosis codes and 25 procedure codes prior to the use of the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) for diagnosis coding and the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Procedure Coding System (ICD-10 PCS) for inpatient hospital procedure coding, effective October 1, 2013.) In a small number of MS-DRGs, classification is also based on the age, sex, and discharge status of the patient. The diagnosis and procedure information is reported by the hospital using codes from the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) prior to October 1, 2013. We refer readers to section II.G.11.b. of

this proposed rule for a reference to the replacement of ICD-9-CM, Volumes 1 and 2, including the Official ICD-9-CM Guidelines for Coding and Reporting, Volume 3, with the ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS, including the Official ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS Guidelines for Coding and Reporting, effective October 1, 2013 (FY 2014).

The process of developing the MS-DRGs was begun by dividing all possible principal diagnoses into mutually exclusive principal diagnosis areas, referred to as Major Diagnostic Categories (MDCs). The MDCs were formulated by physician panels to ensure that the DRGs would be clinically coherent. The diagnoses in each MDC correspond to a single organ system or etiology and, in general, are associated with a particular medical specialty. Thus, in order to maintain the requirement of clinical coherence, no final MS-DRG could contain patients in different MDCs. For example, MDC 6 is Diseases and Disorders of the Digestive System. This approach is used because clinical care is generally organized in accordance with the organ system affected. However, some MDCs are not constructed on this basis because they involve multiple organ systems (for example, MDC 22 (Burns)). For FY 2010, cases are assigned to one of 746 MS-DRGs in 25 MDCs. The table below lists the 25 MDCs.

MAJOR DIAGNOSTIC CATEGORIES (MDCs)

1	Diseases and Disorders of the Nervous System.
2	Diseases and Disorders of the Eye.
3	Diseases and Disorders of the Ear, Nose, Mouth, and Throat.
4	Diseases and Disorders of the Respiratory System.
5	Diseases and Disorders of the Circulatory System.
6	Diseases and Disorders of the Digestive System.
7	Diseases and Disorders of the Hepatobiliary System and Pancreas.
8	Diseases and Disorders of the Musculoskeletal System and Connective Tissue.
9	Diseases and Disorders of the Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue and Breast.
10	Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases and Disorders.
11	Diseases and Disorders of the Kidney and Urinary Tract.
12	Diseases and Disorders of the Male Reproductive System.
13	Diseases and Disorders of the Female Reproductive System.
14	Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Puerperium.
15	Newborns and Other Neonates with Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period.
16	Diseases and Disorders of the Blood and Blood Forming Organs and Immunological Disorders.
17	Myeloproliferative Diseases and Disorders and Poorly Differentiated Neoplasms.
18	Infectious and Parasitic Diseases (Systemic or Unspecified Sites).
19	Mental Diseases and Disorders.
20	Alcohol/Drug Use and Alcohol/Drug Induced Organic Mental Disorders.
21	Injuries, Poisonings, and Toxic Effects of Drugs.
22	Burns.
23	Factors Influencing Health Status and Other Contacts with Health Services.
24	Multiple Significant Trauma.
25	Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infections.

<sup>1</sup> Medicare Payment Advisory Commission: Report to the Congress, Physician-Owned Specialty Hospitals, March 2005, page viii.