Discharge Data Elements of Possible Value to Cancer Registry Systems

National Association of Health Data Organizations

Barbara Rudolph

Bob Davis

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Patient Discharge Status

- Maintained by the National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC) as part of the UB-04

- Required as part of the HIPAA legislation

- Definition
  - A code indicating the disposition or discharge status of the patient at the end service for the period covered on this bill, as reported in Form Locator 6 (FL6), Statement Covers Period.

Patient Discharge Status – Code Categories

- **Discharged to Home or Self Care (Routine Discharge)**
- **Discharged/transferred to Short-Term General Hospital for Inpatient Care**
- **Discharged/transferred to Skilled Nursing (SNF) with Medicare Certification**
- **Discharged/transferred to a Facility that Provides Custodial or Supportive Care**
- **Discharged/transferred to a Designated Cancer Center** or Children's Hospital
- **Discharged/transferred to a Home Under Care of an Organized Home Health Service Organization in Anticipation of Covered Skilled care**
- **Left Against Medical Advice or Discontinued Care**
- **Admitted as an Inpatient to this Hospital**
- **Expired**
- **Discharged/transferred to Court/Law Enforcement**
- **Still Patient**
- **Expired at Home**
- **Expired in a Medical Facility (e.g. hospital, SNR, ICF, or free standing hospice**
- **Expired – Place Unknown**
- **Discharged/transferred to a Federal Health Care Facility**
- **Hospice – Home**
- **Hospice – Medical Facility (Certified) Providing Hospice Level of Care**

Patient Discharge Status – Code Categories (Cont)

- Discharged/transferred to Hospital-Based Medicare Approved Swing Bed

- Discharged/transferred to an Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility (IRF) including Rehabilitation Distinct Parts Units of a Hospital

- Discharged/transferred to a Medicare Certified Long Term Care Hospital (LTCH)

- Discharged/transferred to a Nursing Facility Certified under Medicaid but not Certified under Medicare

- Discharged/transferred to a Psychiatric Distinct Part Unit of a Hospital

- Discharged/transferred to a Critical Access Hospital (CAH)

- Discharged/transferred to another type of Health Care Institution not Defined Elsewhere in the Code List

Data Accuracy Concerns

- This is an important data element for billing and reporting purposes. Contained in the UB-04 Data Specification Manual are Usage Notes and a Frequently Asked Questions section designed to clarify the Data.

- Usage Notes Example
  - For the Category – Discharged to Home or Self Care the following usage note is written to clarify
    - Includes discharge to home; home on oxygen if DME only, any other DME only; group home, foster care, independent living and other residential care arrangements; outpatient programs, such as partial hospitalization or outpatient chemical dependency programs.
  - Usage Notes accompany the Patient Discharge State whenever more clarification is necessary.

Data Accuracy Concerns - Cont

- Frequently Asked Questions: Examples
  - Question: If a patient leaves before triage, or is triaged and leaves without being seen by the physician, what is the appropriate discharge status code?
  - Answer: The appropriate code is that the Category "left against medical advice or discontinued care."
  - Question: What code is used for patients discharged/transferred to residential care?
  - Answer: Use the category "discharged to home or self care"
- The purpose of the FAQs are to provide national guidance to reduce the impact of regional interpretations of the national codes.

How it might fit with registry?

Might provide some additional information for the following cancer registry data elements:

- Vital Status

- Date of last contact

- Date of death

- Follow-up source

- Follow-up source central

- Information on the above data elements can be found in the NAACCR Vol II manual

Contacts

Barbara Rudolph
brudolph@leapfroggroup.org

Bob Davis
rdavis@nahdo.org