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Grid: How Variance in the Use of Grouper Software Affects 20% Add-On Payment

By Nina Youngstrom

To see how various grouper software vendors applied the 20% add-on to inpatients with COVID-19 infections, Deborah Gardner-Brown, founder of Sepsis Integrity Review Services in New Jersey, modeled several “COVID-serious admissions” with different versions. She found the groupers weren’t applied consistently, which affects payment (see story, p. 1).^[1] The codes at the bottom of the chart propagate these DRGs, she said. Contact Gardner-Brown at deborah@rra-inc.com.

DRG Description	Relative intensity weight (RIW) Version 37.0 October 1, 2019 thru September 30, 2020 with/without add-on	RIW Version 38.0 October 1, 2020 thru September, 2021 with fed add-on	RIW Version 38.1(p) January 1, 2021 thru September 30, 2021 w/o fed add-on	AMLOS
003 ECMO OR TRACHEOSTOMY WITH MV >96 HOURS OR PRINCIPAL DIAGNOSIS EXCEPT FACE, MOUTH AND NECK WITH MAJOR O.R. PROCEDURE	22.7447/18.9539 \$282,509.00/\$263,059.00	22.7893 \$287,250.00	18.9911/ \$239,374.00/	30.2
004 ECMO OR TRACHEOSTOMY WITH MV >96 HOURS OR PRINCIPAL DIAGNOSIS EXCEPT FACE, MOUTH AND NECK WITHOUT MAJOR O.R. PROCEDURES	13.8526/11.5438 \$173,551.00/\$145,261.00	14.2344 \$179,418.00	11.8620/ \$149,515.00/	24.5
177 Respiratory infections and inflammation with MCC (U07.1)	2.2694/1.8912 \$31,619.00/\$26,984.00	2.2144 \$27,911.00	1.8453/ \$23,259.00/	6.8

189	1.4588/1.2157	1.4698	1.2248/	4.6
Pulmonary edema and respiratory failure	\$21,686.00/\$18,701.00	\$18,525.00	\$15,438.00/	
193	1.6002/1.3335	1.5728	1.3107/	5.1
Simple pneumonia and pleurisy with MCC (J12.82)	\$23,481.00/\$20,150.00	\$19,825.00	\$16,520.00/	
871	2.2396/1.8663	2.2418	1.8682/	6.2
SEPTICEMIA OR SEVERE SEPSIS WITHOUT MV >96 HOURS WITH MCC	\$31,252.00/\$26,679.00	\$28,257.00	\$23,547.00/	
870	7.5892/6.3243	7.7098	6.4248/	14.5
SEPTICEMIA OR SEVERE SEPSIS WITH MV >96 HOURS	\$96,803.00/\$116,163.00	\$97,178.00	\$80,981.00/	
280	1.9571/1.6309	1.9514	1.6262/	5.4
ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION, DISCHARGED ALIVE WITH MCC	\$27,791.00/\$23,794.00	\$24,597.00	\$20,497.00/	

DRG Analysis By Grouper Version

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