Present on admission

The present on admission (POA) indicator is required on all claims for inpatient admissions to general acute care hospitals for Medicare beneficiaries with discharge dates on or after October 1, 2007.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus require the POA indicator on Medicare claims, including the MedicareBlueSM PPO claims, VantageBlue, SecureBlue, CareBlue and Blue Advantage claims.

General reporting requirements

- The POA indicator is required for all claims involving Medicare inpatient admissions to general acute care hospitals
- The POA indicator is assigned to principal and secondary diagnoses
- Present on admission is defined as present at the time the order for inpatient admission occurs. Conditions that develop during an outpatient encounter while in the emergency room, under observation or during outpatient surgery are also considered as present on admission.
- If the condition would not be coded and reported based on Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set definitions and current coding guidelines, then the POA would not be reported
- The POA indicator is not required for the external cause of injury code unless it is being reported as an “other diagnosis”
- Critical Access Hospitals, Maryland waiver hospitals, long-term care hospitals (LTCH), cancer hospitals and children’s inpatient facilities are exempt from this requirement

Form completion instructions

On UB-04 (CMS-1450) paper claims, the POA indicator is the eighth digit of Form Locator (FL) 67, Principal Diagnosis and the eighth digit of each of the Other Diagnosis fields FL 67 A-Q. One POA indicator is submitted per diagnosis. POA indicators should only be submitted along with correlating DX codes.

For electronic claims using the 837I, submit the POA indicator in segment K3 in the 2300 loop, data element K301. For these claims, “POA” is always required first followed by a single indicator for every diagnosis reported on the claim. The letter Z is used to indicate the end of the data element. Valid codes include Y, N, U, W and 1. POA indicators should only be submitted along with correlating DX codes.

Please use the POA indicators as you would normally submit to Medicare. For more information, see http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HospitalAcqCond.
Questions?

If you have questions, please contact provider service at (651) 662-5200 or 1-800-262-0820.