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Present on Admission (POA) Indicators

Present on Admission (POA) indicator is a new reporting data element **required** by CMS and WHA Information Center for patient diagnoses on inpatient visits to reflect whether each diagnosis was present on admission or not.

POA is defined as present at the time the order for inpatient admission occurs. Conditions that develop during an outpatient encounter, including emergency department, observation or outpatient surgery, are considered present on admission.

POA indicators are appended to each ICD-9-CM code reported for patients conditions and diagnoses documented in the medical record by physicians/providers.

POA data will be used for measuring hospital performance, public reporting, and payment.

Potential impact on reimbursement for 6 specific conditions/events:

- * Catheter associated UTIs
- * Staph aureus septicemia
- * Air embolisms
- * Pressures ulcers
- * Objects left after surgery
- * Blood incompatibility

(CMS's goal is to disallow higher reimbursement for reasonably preventable conditions/events while in the hospital care in their commitment to health care quality and affordability.)

PHYSICIAN/PROVIDER ROLE – To clearly document whether or not a diagnosis or condition was present at the time of admission, especially when diagnoses are established at a point of time subsequent to admission but clinical evidence may or may not support the condition was indeed present on admission.

CONSISTENT, COMPLETE DOCUMENTATION IN THE MEDICAL RECORD IS IMPERATIVE.

QUESTIONS?

<INSERT CONTACT>