

Medicare Will No Longer Pay for Certain Preventable Hospital Acquired Conditions

Beginning in October 2008, Medicare began a program where they would no longer pay for treatment of certain hospital acquired conditions (HACs). The changes surround the identification of certain conditions that can be “reasonably prevented” in the acute care setting. Therefore, if any of these conditions are acquired or in certain cases exacerbated during a hospital stay, the hospital will not receive payment for the care and treatment of that condition. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) selected 10 categories of conditions that fall under the HAC payment provision.

CMS specifically looked at conditions that are:

- 1) High cost, high volume, or both
- 2) Result in a higher payment when DX presents itself as a secondary DX
- 3) Could have been reasonably prevented through the application of evidence based guidelines.

The 10 categories of Hospital Acquired Conditions include:

- 1) Foreign Object Retained After Surgery
- 2) Air Embolism
- 3) Blood Incompatibility
- 4) Stage III and IV Pressure Ulcers
- 5) Falls and Trauma
 - Fractures
 - Dislocations
 - Intracranial Injuries
 - Crushing Injuries
 - Burns
 - Electric Shock
- 6) Manifestations of Poor Glycemic Control
 - Diabetic Ketoacidosis
 - Nonketotic Hyperosmolar Coma
 - Hypoglycemic Coma
 - Secondary Diabetes with Ketoacidosis
 - Secondary Diabetes with Hyperosmolarity
- 7) Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)
- 8) Vascular Catheter-Associated Infection
- 9) Surgical Site Infection Following:
 - Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) - Mediastinitis
 - Bariatric Surgery
 - Laparoscopic Gastric Bypass
 - Gastroenterostomy
 - Laparoscopic Gastric Restrictive Surgery
 - Orthopedic Procedures
 - Including Spine, Neck, Shoulder, Elbow

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- 10) Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)/Pulmonary Embolism (PE)
 - Total Knee Replacement
 - Hip Replacement

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HospitalAcqCond/06_Hospital-Acquired_Conditions.asp

The final rule can be found in the August 19, 2009 Federal Register (begins on page 48471) under *Preventable Hospital Acquired Conditions (HACs), Including Infections*.

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