



User Tips and Hints

ICD9 Processing - Grouper 2.02:

Along with some requirements from the previous Grouper Version 1.06, there are several changes in the new version 2.01 and 2.02. This document pulls together some points from the Grouper logic in order to inform you how it is processing the codes. Some of the text here and the tables attached in the spreadsheet comes directly from CMS in the published pseudo code for the Grouper.

General Rules (carried over from 1.06):

- Primary diagnosis code is required
 - Primary diagnosis must not be an E-code
- M0240 must not be an E-code
- All necessary digits must be entered for all diagnosis codes (4th and 5th digit required where applicable)
- All codes must be valid for the time period based on M0090

Sequencing Rules introduced with version 2.01:

Column 1	Column 2 (Case Mix)	Column 3 (Manifestation)
M0230a (Primary)	M0246a3	M0246a4
M0240b	M0246b3	M0246b4
M0240c	M0246c3	M0246c4
M0240d	M0246d3	M0246d4
M0240e	M0246e3	M0246e4
M0240f	M0246f3	M0246f4

There is processing for Clinical Domain and there is processing for Non Routine Supplies (NRS) scoring. The processing looks at codes for sequencing by row. For example, M0240b, M0246b3, and M0246b4 belong to the same row.

Clinical Domain Processing:

- The primary diagnosis **cannot** be a Manifestation code (see “Manifestation Codes” sheet in the attached Spreadsheet)
- A manifestation code casemix diagnosis (see “Manifestation Codes” sheet in the attached Spreadsheet) **must follow** an appropriate etiology or underlying condition code, NOT another secondary-only casemix code or a V- or E-code.
 - This means that in M0246x3 (column 2) must not be a Manifestation Code, but it must be an allowed Etiology code that is the reason for the Manifestation Code in M0246x4 (column 3)
 - If the Column 2 value is a valid Case Mix, it will earn you points (see “CaseMix Codes” sheet in the attached Spreadsheet). But it does not have to be a Case Mix, **however**, either way it must be an allowed Etiology pair with your Manifestation code in Column 3 (See “Allowed Etiology Pairs” in attached Spreadsheet).
 - An exception to this is for Gangrene (785.4) which is a Manifestation code. There is a different table to consult (see “Excluded Etiology pairs” in attached spreadsheet) which lists **invalid** etiology pairs for 785.4 as the Manifestation Code.
- The Grouper will acknowledge a diagnosis in column 2 in a given row **ONLY** if there is a V-code which potentially replaces a casemix diagnosis in column 1 of that same row. (See sheet “CaseMix V-codes” in attached spreadsheet)

- V55.5, V55.6, and V55.0 are valid Case Mix codes now and if in column 1, column 2 and column 3 will be ignored
- Special Diabetes situations:
 - If 362.01, 362.02, or 366.41 follows 250.5, this causes a Manifestation Warning
 - If 357.2 follows 250.6, this causes a Manifestation Warning

Non Routine Supply (NRS) Processing:

Note the processing is the same, but the tables of codes are different. So, the processing steps are repeated with the references that point to the NRS tables.

- The primary diagnosis **cannot** be a Manifestation code. The only Manifestation Code for NRS is Gangrene (785.4)
- A manifestation code casemix diagnosis (785.4) **must follow** an appropriate etiology or underlying condition code, NOT another secondary-only casemix code or a V- or E-code.
 - This means that in M0246x3 (column 2) must not be a Manifestation Code, but it must be an allowed Etiology code that is the reason for the Manifestation Code in M0246x4 (column 3)
 - If the Column 2 value is a valid Case Mix, it will earn you money (see “NRS CaseMix sheet in the attached Spreadsheet). But it does not have to be a Case Mix, **however**, either way it must be an allowed Etiology pair with your Manifestation code in Column 3 (See “Allowed Etiology Pairs” in attached Spreadsheet).
 - An exception to this is for Gangrene (785.4) there is a different table to consult (see “Excluded Etiology pairs” in attached spreadsheet) which lists invalid etiology pairs for 785.4 as the Manifestation Code.
 - In General, Column 2 cannot be a Manifestation code
- The Grouper will acknowledge a diagnosis in column 2 in a given row ONLY if there is a V-code which potentially replaces a casemix diagnosis in column 1 of that same row. (See sheet “CaseMix V-codes” in attached spreadsheet)
 - V55.5, V55.6, and V55.0 are valid Case Mix codes now and if in column 1, column 2 and column 3 will be ignored
- Special Diabetes situations:
 - If 362.01, 362.02, or 366.41 follows 250.5, this causes a Manifestation Warning
 - If 357.2 follows 250.6, this causes a Manifestation Warning

Note that columns 3 and 4 (M0246x3 and M0246x4) in item M0246 are optional; entering of a V-code in M0230/M0240 does *not* require that columns 3 and 4 be completed on that row.

Diagnoses are treated differently for scoring purposes in Grouper 02.01 and 02.02 than in earlier versions. Every valid casemix diagnosis code that is reported has the opportunity to earn points for classification purposes. (In previous grouper versions, an episode could earn points for the primary diagnosis only.) However, the episode can earn the points for a diagnostic group only once (even if several of its diagnoses fall in the same group). If the primary diagnosis and one of the “other” diagnoses fall into a diagnostic group where there are separate numbers of points to be earned for primary and other diagnosis (e.g., diabetes), the episode will receive only the points due for a primary diagnosis.

Scoring when a manifestation code and its etiology each potentially earn points in different diagnosis groups: Finally, if a manifestation and its appropriate etiology both potentially earn points (in different diagnostic categories), only the code earning the higher number of points for the episode is recognized and scored. This “contention” will be decided based on the total number of points earned by each diagnosis, including points earned based on the presence of coexisting conditions within the episode. (In cases of a tie, the etiology will be recognized and scored.) As noted above, if an episode has earned points in a diagnosis group once, it cannot earn them again via another lower-listed diagnosis. However, if the first occurrence of the diagnosis did not earn the points in its diagnosis group because it was the “losing” contender in etiology/manifestation contention, any lower occurrence of another diagnosis code in the same (losing) diagnosis group COULD potentially earn those points for the episode.