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Date: April 10, 2020

To: Hospital Chief Financial Officers and Case Mix Liaisons

From: Claudine Williams, Associate Director, Clinical Data Administration

Subject: FY2020 Q3 Data Forum Follow-up

First, HSCRC staff would like to thank all the hospital staff who are working diligently to meet the healthcare needs of Marylanders during the COVID-19 pandemic. HSCRC staff are here to support you and have created a website for all HSCRC-specific COVID-19 related policies and updates: <https://hsrc.maryland.gov/Pages/COVID-19.aspx>. Secondly, HSCRC are still requiring monthly reporting of case mix and financial data. If you have any concerns or questions about the monthly data submissions, please contact Oscar Ibarra (oscar.ibarra@maryland.gov), Claudine Williams (claudine.williams@maryland.gov) or Amanda Vaughan (amanda.vaughan@maryland.gov).

Below is a summary of what was discussed during the FY 2020 Q3 Data Forum on March 15, 2020 and next steps.

Announcements

NEW – Some FY 2021 Data Submission Requirement Revisions Delayed until FY 2022. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, HSCRC will be delaying most of the revisions that were slated to go in effect for July 2020. The changes that will be implemented for FY 2021 and the changes that will be delayed until FY 2022 will be detailed in an upcoming memo.

COVID-19 Reporting: Staff reported on the latest guidance for COVID-19 reporting and testing (slides #4-#7). On March 18, the CDC announced the new ICD-10-CM code for COVID-19 (U07.1) will be implemented for use on April 1, instead of October 1 as originally planned. Additionally, the AMA introduced a new CPT code for COVID-19 testing (87635).

Grouper Transition. Staff reviewed the grouper versions that will be applied to the case mix data for RY 2021 for IP, OP and PPC data.

- **MHAC/RRIP/QBR:** APR DRG version 37. 2020.1.2 / PPC version 37. 2019.3.2

Acute Rehabilitation cases (identified by Type of Daily Service= 08) are excluded from the RRIP program.

- **Market Shift:** Jan-Dec (permanent) – APR DRG version 36. 2019.3.2/EAPG 3.14

HSCRC has available a de-identified Market Shift dataset for parties interested in reviewing the statewide results. To obtain access, submit the Public Use File Application and DUA available on the HSCRC website: (<https://hscrc.maryland.gov/Pages/hsp-data-request.aspx>). Please submit a request to hscrc.data-requests@maryland.gov.

HSCRC is planning to release updates to the Market Shift de-identified dataset at least semi-annually. More information to come on the timing and availability.

- **Weights:** Jan-Dec (permanent) – based on CY 2018 applied to CY 2019

Case Mix Weights (based on CY 2018 – July 2019 (18 mons), APR/EAPG v36/3.14) are posted on the HSCRC website (<https://hscrc.maryland.gov/Pages/gbr-adjustments.aspx>). Additionally, HSCRC created a de-identified dataset (with programs) for parties interested in recreating the weight calculations. To obtain access, submit the Public Use File Application and DUA available on the HSCRC website: (<https://hscrc.maryland.gov/Pages/hsp-data-request.aspx>). Please submit a request to hscrc.data-requests@maryland.gov.

Edits Workgroup Update. Staff convened two workgroups to review proposed data edits that will be applied to case mix data in FY 2021. **See Appendix A (IP Edits) and Appendix B (OP Edits) for more information about the edit logic that will be implemented.** These edits will be included in the FY 2021 Data Submission Requirements (DSR) to be released sometime in April 2020. Testing the new edits will begin on July 1, 2020. The edits will be moved to production in October 2020.

The workgroup reviewed analysis of hospital error percentages based on final FY 2019 – FY 2020 Q1 data. Most hospitals were below 6 percent for both inpatient and outpatient. This supports the notion that the current 10 percent threshold is too high. Hospitals were amenable to keeping the 10 percent threshold for the preliminary monthly submissions; and reducing the error threshold from 10 percent for final submissions to 5 percent after a grace period for 2 quarters.

- a. Allows time for hospitals to adapt to the new edit checks that are effective for FY 2021
- b. New threshold will be effective for submissions beginning January 2021 (FY 2021 Q3)**

More information on the error threshold change will be provided with the FY 2021 Data Submission Requirements.

Data Forum Survey: All meeting participants should have received a link to the survey (in Survey Monkey) last Friday (March 23, 2020). Please use this opportunity to provide the HSCRC staff feedback on the data forums. If you did not receive a link to the survey, please contact oscar.ibarra@maryland.gov.

Financial Data Update: Please send only the Uncompensated Care (UCC) Reports to the hscrc.ucc@maryland.gov mailbox in Repliweb. All other financial reports, such as the Annual Cost Reports, Denials Reports, and Reconciliation Reports, should be sent via regular email and unencrypted to the corresponding mailbox:

- Annual Cost Reports: hscrc.annual@maryland.gov

- Reconciliation Reports: hsrc.reconciliation@maryland.gov
- Denials Reports: hsrc.denial-reports@maryland.gov

Quality Update: Staff briefly summarized the findings from the SOGI Survey. The next steps are to convene a workgroup, initiate statewide training of SOGI data and implement a standard data collection process. If you are interested in participating in the SOGI workgroup please contact Quanshay Henderson (quanshay.henderson@maryland.gov). Additionally, HSCRC is working with MD Vital Statistics to add the Date of Death to the case mix data. Date a death will be added to discharges and visits after October 1, 2019. The confidential variable will be used internally to develop 30-day mortality measures and childbirth mortality rates.

Data Processing Vendor Update

Mary Pohl, representing hMetrix and Burton Policy, reported on data processing updates. Hospitals are no longer required to include the submittal forms with the monthly data submissions. Mary discussed some changes to DAVE, in particular the requirement to include a “Request Reason” when requesting resubmissions, extensions or skips. This update is scheduled for March 20, 2020.

Mary talked about additional changes on the horizon in terms of the processing pipeline (more stable and executing the grouper earlier in the process), and what changes hospitals can expect to see in FY 2021:

- File naming convention for “tape” file submissions
- Minor modifications in the error report format
- No more limitation on number of lines of error detail
- Longer and more informative description of errors

Mary also reviewed the CY 2020 Roadmap that provided hospitals with a high-level view on the major activities that hMetrix will be engaging in for the next 3 quarters.

1. Q1 (Jan – Mar):
 - Streamlining data requests;
 - Review and selection of FY 2021 error checks
 - Modernization of data processing code begins;
2. Q2 (Apr – June):
 - Design data request module
 - Test use of FY 2021 error checks
 - Modernization development and testing
3. Q3 (Jul – Sep):
 - Develop and test data request module
 - Production use of FY 2021 error checks
 - Modern code to replace legacy code

Data Issues Discussion

Identifying Recurring visits. HSCRC staff discussed the initial purpose of the recurring visit discharge disposition. However, the current ECMAD methodologies does not require the need to identify recurring

visits. Staff presented 3 options for dealing with the variable:

- Option 1: Keep as discharge disposition “00”
- Option 2: Add an Encounter Type Flag for recurring visits
- Option 3: Remove altogether and stop flagging recurring visits

ACTION ITEM: Upon querying participants, representatives from Johns Hopkins and University Medical System agreed to Option 3. Staff added a question to the survey to get more input from hospitals. Based on the responses received, the consensus is to remove the code. Please contact HSCRC staff if have questions or concerns about this change. The change will be applied to the FY 2021 DSR.

Coding Homeless in Case Mix Data. Staff mentioned a pending bill that would require “the Health Services Cost Review Commission, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Maryland Department of Labor, and the Department of Human Services to make certain reports to the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness on or before November 15, 2020, and November 15, 2021.” The bill did not pass the house and the HSCRC are not required to report this information at this time. However, this bill shed light on how inconsistent hospitals are reporting homelessness. HSCRC will add a definition of homeless to the FY 2021 DSR and will reach out to hospitals with unusual reporting patterns.

Validating Medicaid Payers in the Case Mix Data: Grace Kaeding, from CRISP, reviewed an analysis that compared Medicaid Eligibility data with the Medicaid payer reported by the hospital in the inpatient and outpatient case mix data for FY 2019. Overall, the case mix payer agreed with the Medicaid Eligibility File for 92.4 percent of IP visits and 93.3 percent of OP visits. However, the agreement varied widely by hospital. CRISP will work with HSCRC staff to further analyze the hospital-specific case mix disagreements with Medicaid data and reach out to hospitals. Currently, the Medicaid eligibility data is updated in case mix monthly for HSCRC & Medicaid internally use. Going forward, CRISP plan to include the Medicaid Flag in CRS reports to identify duals and stratify reports based on MCO. More to come on when that information will be available.

Upcoming Workgroup Meetings – Cancelled Until Further Notice

HSCRC staff would like to thank all those who reached out to Oscar to sign up for the DSR Review Workgroup. In light of activity surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, we are cancelling this workgroup and will meet internally to review the DSR. We will send out the final FY 2021 DSR in April.

Although staff wanted to begin the discussion on SOGI data collection, due to the COVID-19 emergency, the workgroup will be on hold until the emergency is over.

Effective Dates - Recap:

- 1. Effective date of FY 2021 DSR**
 - a. FY 2021 Q1 September Prelim data, due in October 2020
- 2. Effective date of new edits:**
 - a. FY 2021 Q1 July (testing site)
 - b. FY 2021 Q3 January Prelim data, due in February 2021 (production site)
- 3. Effective date of new error threshold on final data (5 percent):**

- a. FY 2021 Q3 January Prelim data, due in February 2021

Next Data Forum Meeting

The next Quarterly Data Forum Meeting is scheduled for **June 12, 2020** at the HSCRC. If you have any agenda items, please send them to Oscar or me by June 2, 2020.

If you have any questions or concerns about the topics discussed above, please contact me (Claudine.Williams@maryland.gov) or Oscar Ibarra (Oscar.Ibarra@maryland.gov).