



“After consideration of the public comments we received, and for the reasons discussed below, we agree it would be premature to adopt broad changes to the severity designations at this time”

CIOX CODING TIP

2020 Final Rule: MCC/CC Severity List

When the proposed rule came out one of the most noticeable proposals were the changes to the MCC/CC list. Which quite frankly did not make much sense. For example, moderate malnutrition was proposed to be upgraded to an MCC but severe malnutrition was proposed to be downgraded! Don't despair the list was not finalized!

CMS is not finalizing the proposed changes to the severity level based on the comprehensive CC/MCC analysis. The only exception is ICD-10-CM codes in category Z16-Resistance to antimicrobial drugs category being upgraded to CC's.

Other finalized deletions and additions to the list were based on expansion of codes that were previous classified as CC's or MCC's. For example, pulmonary embolism was expanded to single and multiple subsegmental pulmonary embolism so those codes were added to the MCC list.

CMS will continue to elicit feedback. They are also considering a phased in approach for such a comprehensive change to the list.

It is a good moment to start identifying these drug resistance infections before October 1, 2019 discharges so coding professionals can get in the practice of capturing and/or querying for these new CC opportunities.

Happy Coding!



The only codes being reclassified:

Diagnosis Code	Description
Z16.10	Resistance to unspecified beta lactam antibiotics
Z16.11	Resistance to penicillins
Z16.12	Extended spectrum beta lactamase (ESBL) resistance
Z16.19	Resistance to other specified beta lactam antibiotics
Z16.20	Resistance to unspecified antibiotic
Z16.21	Resistance to vancomycin
Z16.22	Resistance to vancomycin related antibiotics
Z16.23	Resistance to quinolones and fluoroquinolones
Z16.24	Resistance to multiple antibiotics
Z16.29	Resistance to other single specified antibiotic
Z16.30	Resistance to unspecified antimicrobial drugs
Z16.31	Resistance to antiparasitic drug(s)
Z16.32	Resistance to antifungal drug(s)
Z16.33	Resistance to antiviral drug(s)
Z16.341	Resistance to single antimycobacterial drug
Z16.342	Resistance to multiple antimycobacterial drugs
Z16.35	Resistance to multiple antimicrobial drugs
Z16.39	Resistance to other specified antimicrobial drug