

Present on admissions – claims submission reminder

In accordance with *Section 5001(c)* of the *Deficit Reduction Act of 2005* and state regulation *13 CSR 70-3.230*, MO HealthNet requires the present on admission (POA) indicator for all diagnosis codes submitted on inpatient hospital claims. Some diagnosis codes are exempt from the POA requirement and can be found in the ICD Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting.

Claims containing an invalid or missing POA indicator will be rejected unless the diagnosis is exempt from the POA requirement. When appropriate, the POA indicator must be present for all diagnosis codes reflected in the **Principal** and **Other** diagnosis code fields, including **External Causes** reported on claim forms *UB-04* and *837 Institutional*.

Present on admission is defined as a condition present at the time the order for inpatient admission occurs. Conditions that develop during an outpatient encounter prior to an admission to inpatient, including emergency department, observation, or outpatient surgery, are considered as present on admission. Use the *UB-04 Data Specifications Manual* and the ICD Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting for proper assignment of the POA indicator.

The POA guidelines are not intended to provide guidance on when a condition should be coded, but rather, how to apply the POA indicator to the final set of diagnosis codes that have been assigned.

Reporting options and definitions:

- Y — Yes, present at the time of inpatient admission.
- N — No, not present at the time of inpatient admission.
- U — Unknown, the documentation is insufficient to determine if the condition was present at the time of inpatient admission.
- W — Clinically undetermined = the provider is unable to clinically determine whether the condition was present at the time of inpatient admission or not.
- Blank — unreported/not used – exempt from POA reporting. (See the ICD Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting for list of exempt diagnosis codes)

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, contact your assigned Provider Experience associate or call Provider Services at **833-405-9086**.



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