

General Circular pursuant to the Health Insurance Law (No 11 of 2013) of the Emirate of Dubai
General Circular Number 04 of 2020 (GC 04/2020)

Subject of this General Circular	Full DRG Implementation
Applicability of this General Circular	This Circular applies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHA or DHCC Licensed Hospitals registered on eClaimLink submitting inpatient claims All HIPs (Insurers and TPAs) processing inpatient claims
Purpose of this General Circular	Full DRG Implementation
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Publication date	13/2/2020
This document replaces	Not applicable
This document has been replaced by	Not applicable
Effective date of this General Circular	Immediately upon publication
Grace period for compliance	None

Objectives of this General Circular

Please be informed that Full DRG Implementation will be effective as of **00:00, 1 April 2020** for all DHA and DHCC licensed hospitals. As part of our DRG implementation communication initiatives, a series of individual one-on-one meetings and group workshops had been conducted for providers and payers since September 2017. During these consultation sessions, we have received valuable feedback and recommendations from the market which have been taken into consideration. Meanwhile, a communication package has been prepared for your reference by clicking the following links:

- [DRG Guidelines Full Implementation Presentation](#)
- [Payment Parameter Workbook \(Version 2.1\)](#)
Note: the "cost per activity code" for the outlier calculator worksheet has been updated to incorporate the 2018 versions of CPT and HCPCS code sets.
- [Dubai DRG Payment Parameters - Methodology Guidelines \(Version 2.0\)](#)

eClaimLink Portal – DRG Claim Submission and Adjudication

Please click on the link below for:

- [Reporting Guidelines for Inpatient Transactions During the Go-Live Implementation Phase of DRGs.](#)
- XML file for Claim Submission with DRG sample.
https://www.eclaimlink.ae/docs/Claim_Submission_with_DRG_Sample_20200211.xml
https://www.eclaimlink.ae/docs/Claim_Submission_with_DRG_Transfer_Sample_20200211.xml

Other Mandatory Fields

With effect from 00:00, 1 April 2020, the following fields will be mandatory:

Emirates ID

Hospitals will be requested to submit the verified Emirates ID number in accordance to the original Emirates ID card.

Date of Birth and Gender

Hospitals will be requested to submit all date of birth and gender information accurately in claim submissions.

Admission and Discharge Date/Time

Hospitals will be requested to submit all admission and discharge dates/times accurately in claim submissions.

Patient Share

Hospitals and Insurers will be requested to submit and validate respectively for patient share information (copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles) for all inpatient claims. When the patient share amount is zero (0), it is mandatory to submit and validate a zero (0).

Patient Weight for Neonates

A patient is considered a neonate when the patient's admission age is equal to 7 days or less, it is mandatory to submit the birth weight for the birth episode and the weight of the neonate for any other subsequent episodes during this period. Example: A baby born on 1 October, 01:00am (day 0) remains a neonate until completion of 7 days on 8 October, 12:59am, and is no longer a neonate on 9 October, 01:00am. Patient weight for neonates is to be reported in kilograms (kg), that is, 500 grams = 0.5kg and 1000 grams = 1kg.

Present on Admission (POA)

Present on admission is defined as present at the time the order for inpatient admission occurs -- conditions that develop during an outpatient encounter, including emergency department, observation, or outpatient surgery, are considered as present on admission. Hospitals and Insurers will be requested to submit and validate the completeness and accuracy of POA. For reporting POAs correctly, please refer to the Dubai Medical Coding Manual (Version 1.1). The list of codes exempted for POA reporting can be found by clicking the following link:

[POA Exempt Codes](#)

Medical Coding and Code Sets

The Dubai Medical Coding Manual will be introduced with effect from 00:00, 1 April 2020. The objective of the manual is to provide guidance to medical coders and clinical staff to accurately record the delivery of inpatient care and to correctly assign ICD-10-CM and CPT codes according to standardized coding conventions. Hospital and Insurers will be requested to code and adjudicate all inpatient claims in accordance to the coding standards in the Dubai Medical Coding Manual respectively. The manual is accessible by clicking the following link:

[Dubai Medical Coding Manual \(Version 1.1\)](#)

With effect from 00:00, 1 April 2020, ICD-10-CM, CPT, and HCPCS Level II, code sets will be upgraded to version 2018. Please note that the existing 3M CodeFinder / Grouper (version 3.01) currently operating in the Dubai market will be modified to accommodate 2018 versions of ICD-10-CM and CPT code sets. You are requested to contact 3M for installation of an update patch.

As the upgrade of CPT and HCPCS Level II will also impact the price lists of the new code sets for outpatient services, Hospitals and Insurers are requested to review and revise the prices on the new code sets accordingly. Please be reminded that the revision of prices should remain similar to existing levels.

The new code sets are accessible by clicking the following links:

- [ICD-10-CM](#)
- [CPT](#)
- [HCPCS Level II](#)
- [CPT code set change files from 2012 to 2018](#)

3M CodeFinder and Grouper Software

With effect from 00:00, 1 April 2020, it is mandatory for:

- Hospitals submitting inpatient claims to obtain a 3M CodeFinder and Interactive Grouper software;
- Insurers and TPAs processing inpatient claims to obtain a 3M Batch Grouper software.

Manual estimation of DRG code will not be allowed.

For any further enquiries, please direct your emails to DHIC-DRGProject@dha.gov.ae