



Procedure Day Longer than the Length of Stay

In the 2014 NRD, there are 354 records in which one of the procedure days (PRDAY1-PRDAY15) is more than 3 days after the end of the stay. HCUP typically allows the day of procedure to occur up to 4 days before the stay began (negative value -4) or up to 3 days after the stay ended (LOS + 3). Procedures performed prior to the admission may be bundled into the record because they are related to the inpatient stay. Allowing three days after the stay provides for observation time that would be allowable for Medicare payment. If the procedure day is greater than LOS+3, it should be considered invalid.