

USER GUIDE:

AHRQ HCUP CLINICAL CLASSIFICATIONS SOFTWARE REFINED (CCSR) FOR ICD-10-CM DIAGNOSES, v2027.1

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Oregon Health Authority
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Tennessee Hospital Association
Texas Department of State Health Services
Utah Department of Health and Human Services
Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems
Virginia Health Information
Washington State Department of Health
West Virginia Health Care Authority
Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Wyoming Hospital Association

WHAT'S NEW IN v2027.1 OF THE AHRQ HCUP CLINICAL CLASSIFICATIONS SOFTWARE REFINED (CCSR) FOR ICD-10-CM DIAGNOSES?

- Added ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes valid starting in fiscal year (FY) 2027 so the tool now includes all ICD-10-CM codes valid from October 2015 through September 2027.[1]
- Added a new CCSR category specific to cachexia and low BMI – FAC031 Cachexia and low BMI. This new CCSR category includes R64, Cachexia, which was deleted from CCSR SYM016 (Other general signs and symptoms). FAC031 is now the Inpatient and Outpatient Default CCSR category.
- Changed the description of CCSR category DIG016 from "Peritonitis and intra-abdominal abscess" to "Peritonitis and intra-abdominal or intra-pelvic abscess."
- Changed the description of CCSR category END009 from "Obesity" to "Obesity or elevated BMI."
- Added cross-classification of ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes K0402 Irreversible pulpitis, K041 Necrosis of pulp, K046 Periapical abscess with sinus, K047 Periapical abscess without sinus, K0490 Unspecified diseases of pulp and periapical tissues, K0499 Other diseases of pulp and periapical tissues, K063 Horizontal alveolar bone loss, K068 Other specified disorders of gingiva and edentulous alveolar ridge, and K069 Disorder of gingiva and edentulous alveolar ridge, unspecified, to CCSR category DEN003 (Caries, periodontitis, and other preventable dental conditions).
- Deleted K7010 Alcoholic hepatitis without ascites, and K7011 Alcoholic hepatitis with ascites, from CCSR INF007 (Hepatitis), added assignment to CCSR DIG023 (Noninfectious hepatitis), and made DIG023 the Inpatient and Outpatient Default CCSR category.
- Deleted R108A3 Suprapubic tenderness, from CCSR SYM019 (Flank pain and tenderness), added assignment to CCSR SYM006 (Abdominal pain and other digestive/abdomen signs and symptoms), and made SYM006 the Inpatient and Outpatient Default CCSR category.
- Deleted R196 Halitosis, from CCSR SYM006 (Abdominal pain and other digestive/abdomen signs and symptoms), added assignment to CCSR SYM016 (Other general signs and symptoms) and made SYM016 the Inpatient and Outpatient Default CCSR category.

[1] Please note that with the publication of the Final Rule for the inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) for fiscal year 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services releases ICD-10-CM/PCS code updates twice a year (every April 1 and October 1). ICD-10-CM codes that will become effective on April 1, 2027, are not included in v2027.1.

- Deleted Z6851 Body mass index [BMI] pediatric, less than 5th percentile for age from CCSR FAC025 (Other specified status), added assignment to CCSR FAC031 (Cachexia and low BMI).

Detailed changes for v2027.1 of the CCSR for ICD-10-CM are in the Change Log. A summary of key changes for all release versions of the CCSR for ICD-10-CM is available in Appendix A.

INTRODUCTION

This report provides technical documentation for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) Clinical Classifications Software Refined (CCSR) for International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM)-coded diagnoses. Starting on October 1, 2015, diagnoses for hospital inpatient stays and outpatient encounters in the United States are reported using the ICD-10-CM coding system. ICD-10-CM consists of more than 70,000 diagnosis codes. Although it is possible to present descriptive statistics for individual ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes, it is often more useful to aggregate codes into clinically meaningful categories. The CCSR for ICD-10-CM provides a method for aggregating the diagnosis codes into over 530 clinical categories across 22 body systems[2] that generally follow chapters within the ICD-10-CM Code Book[3]. When referenced in this report, chapters of the ICD-10-CM Code Book include the chapter number and formal title.

Similar to the original Clinical Classifications Software (CCS) for the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM)-coded diagnoses, the AHRQ HCUP CCSR for ICD-10-CM:

- Classifies diagnoses into clinically meaningful categories
- Provides a means by which to identify specific clinical conditions using diagnosis codes
- Can be used analytically to examine patterns in healthcare cost, utilization, and outcomes; perform rank utilization by diagnoses; and risk-adjust by clinical condition.

The CCS for ICD-9-CM diagnoses was translated to ICD-10-CM prior to the availability of ICD-10-CM-coded data and released as a beta version. Once ICD-10-CM-coded data became available, the beta versions of the CCS were evaluated using the HCUP databases and unexpected discontinuities between the ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM beta versions of the CCS were revealed. In addition, there was interest in taking advantage of the specificity built into ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes.

These findings led to the development of the AHRQ HCUP CCSR for ICD-10-CM diagnoses, which replaces the beta versions of the CCS for ICD-10-CM. As a result, it is recommended that the beta versions of the CCS for ICD-10-CM not be used. The CCSR balances the retention of the clinical concepts included in the CCS categories under ICD-9-CM and capitalizes on the specificity of ICD-10-CM diagnoses by creating new clinical categories. In addition, the CCSR allows ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes to be cross classified into more than one category because

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[2] A new body system, *Dental diseases*, was added in v2023.1 of the CCSR for ICD-10-CM.

[3] AHIMA Press/Decision Health, ed. ICD-10-CM Code Book, 2027. Chicago, IL: American Health Information Management Association; 2026.

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individual codes can be used to document multiple conditions or a condition and a common symptom/manifestation. The cross-classification of a diagnosis to more than one CCSR category is beneficial for risk adjustment and the identification of any diagnosis on a billing or claims record regardless of whether it is the reason for the hospitalization. However, for some applications, such as ranking hospitalizations by the principal diagnosis, a mutually exclusive categorization scheme is needed. To facilitate this type of analysis, the CCSR tool includes the assignment of a default CCSR for the principal diagnosis for inpatient data starting with v2020.2 and a default CCSR for the first-listed diagnosis for outpatient data starting with v2021.1.

The refinement process was informed by American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)-certified ICD-10-CM trainers and reviewed by a team of clinical experts. The team extensively reviewed the CCSR at each stage of its development using the HCUP State databases for quality control testing. This User Guide describes the CCSR and the downloadable software and documentation. Additional information on the refinement process is available in Appendix A: Background on the Development of the CCSR. A comparison of the CCSR for ICD-10-CM diagnoses, the beta versions of the CCS for ICD-10-CM, and the CCS for ICD-9-CM is available in Appendix B. The rationale used for selecting default CCSR categories for principal diagnoses in inpatient data are detailed in Appendix C: Default CCSR for Principal Diagnosis in Inpatient Data. Information about the default CCSR for the first-listed diagnosis in outpatient data is detailed in Appendix D: Default for CCSR for First-List Diagnosis in Outpatient Data. For recommendations on reporting on diagnoses using the CCSR for ICD-10-CM, refer to Appendix E.

The AHRQ HCUP CCSR for ICD-10-CM is updated annually to coincide with fiscal year (FY) updates to the ICD-10-CM diagnosis coding system and retains diagnosis codes valid from the start of ICD-10-CM in October 2015. For this reason, it is advisable to always use the most recent version of the tool. Downloadable files for the CCSR for ICD-10-CM categories are available on HCUP User Support (HCUP-US) website.[4]

[4] The HCUP User Support website can be found at https://hcup-us.ahrq.gov/.

DESCRIPTION OF THE AHRQ HCUP CCSR FOR ICD-10-CM DIAGNOSES

The Structure of the CCSR

The AHRQ HCUP CCSR for ICD-10-CM diagnoses aggregates more than 70,000 ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes into clinically meaningful categories across 22 body systems, which generally follow the structure of the ICD-10-CM diagnosis chapters. Additional information on specific differences between the CCSR body systems and the ICD-10-CM diagnosis chapters is detailed in the next section (CCSR Guidelines). CCSR categories are organized by body system.[5] Each body system is abbreviated using a three-character scheme as shown in Table 1. Individual CCSR categories are numbered sequentially with the numbering scheme starting at "001" within each body system (i.e., there is a CCSR 001 for each body system). A complete listing of all CCSR categories and their associated descriptions can be found in the CCSR Reference File, available on the CCSR page of the HCUP-US website.

Table 1. Three-Character Abbreviation for ICD-10-CM Body Systems

ICD-10-CM Body System (largely aligned with chapters in the ICD-10-CM Code Book)	**Three Character Abbreviation**	**Brief Description**
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism	BLD	BLD contains 10 categories that include diseases related to the blood, diseases of blood-forming organs, and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism such as nutritional anemia, sickle cell/trait anemia, and immunity disorders.
Diseases of the circulatory system	CIR	CIR contains 39 categories that include diseases of the circulatory system such as essential hypertension, acute myocardial infarction, heart failure, and cerebral infarction.
Dental diseases (added in v2023.1)	DEN	DEN contains 3 categories that distinguish any dental condition (including traumatic injury), nontraumatic dental conditions (a subset of any dental condition), and caries, periodontitis, and other preventable dental conditions (a subset of nontraumatic dental conditions that are often treated in a dentist's office).

[5] The term "body system" is used to describe the organization of conditions within the CCSR tool. When referring specifically to the organization of codes within the ICD-10-CM codebook, we use the term "chapter."

ICD-10-CM Body System (largely aligned with chapters in the ICD-10-CM Code Book)	Three Character Abbreviation	Brief Description
Diseases of the digestive system	DIG	DIG contains 25 categories that include diseases of the digestive system such as appendicitis and other appendiceal conditions, hepatic failure, diverticulosis and diverticulitis, and intestinal infection.
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	EAR	EAR contains 6 categories that include diseases of the ear and mastoid process such as otitis media, diseases of the inner ear, and hearing loss.
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases	END	END contains 17 categories that include endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases such as thyroid disorders, diabetes mellitus, obesity, and cystic fibrosis.
External causes of morbidity	EXT	EXT contains 30 categories related to external causes of morbidity that specific the mechanism of the injury such as fall or cut/pierce and the intent of the injury such as accidental/unintentional or self-harm.
Diseases of the eye and adnexa	EYE	EYE contains 12 categories that include diseases of the eye and adnexa such as glaucoma, cataract and other lens disorders, and blindness and vision effects.
Factors influencing health status and contact with health services	FAC	FAC contains 31 categories related to factors influencing health status and contact with health services such as aftercare, organ transplant status, or exposure, encounters, screening or contact with infectious disease.
Diseases of the genitourinary system	GEN	GEN contains 26 categories that include diseases of the genitourinary system such as chronic kidney disease, urinary tract infections, and acute and unspecified renal failure.
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	INF	INF contains 12 categories that include infections and parasitic diseases such as tuberculosis, septicemia, hepatitis, and the coronavirus disease – 2019 (COVID-19).

ICD-10-CM Body System (largely aligned with chapters in the ICD-10-CM Code Book)	Three Character Abbreviation	Brief Description
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	INJ	INJ contains 76 categories related to injuries, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes such as traumatic brain injury (TBI), allergic reactions, maltreatment/abuse, and poisoning by drugs.
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	MAL	MAL contains 10 categories that include congenital malformations, deformations, and chromosomal abnormalities such as cleft lip or palate and cardiac and circulatory congenital anomalies.
Mental, behavioral, and neurodevelopmental disorders	MBD	MBD contains 32 categories that include mental, behavioral, and neurodevelopmental disorders such as depressive disorders, alcohol-related disorders, and suicide ideation/attempt/intentional self-harm.
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	MUS	MUS contains 38 categories that include diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue such as osteoarthritis, gout, low back pain, and spondylopathies/spondyloarthropathy (including infective).
Neoplasms	NEO	NEO contains 78 categories specific to neoplasms, which include malignant neoplasms such as gastrointestinal cancers, skin cancers, and breast cancer, as well as most benign neoplasms.
Diseases of the nervous system	NVS	NVS contains 22 categories that include diseases of the nervous system such as Parkinson's disease, cerebral palsy, neurocognitive disorders, and headache (including migraine).
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	PNL	PNL contains 15 categories that include certain conditions originating in the perinatal period such as liveborn, respiratory distress syndrome, and fetal alcohol syndrome.

ICD-10-CM Body System (largely aligned with chapters in the ICD-10-CM Code Book)	Three Character Abbreviation	Brief Description
Pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium	PRG	PRG contains 30 categories related to pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium such as ectopic pregnancy and complications, early or threatened labor, and diabetes or abnormal glucose tolerance complicating pregnancy, childbirth or the puerperium.
Diseases of the respiratory system	RSP	RSP contains 17 categories that include diseases of the respiratory system such a as influenza, asthma, acute bronchitis, and pneumothorax.
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	SKN	SKN contains 7 categories that include diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue such as pressure ulcers and contact dermatitis.
Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	SYM	SYM contains 18 categories related to symptoms, signs, and abnormal clinical or laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified such as fever, nausea and vomiting, and malaise and fatigue.

Abbreviations: ICD-10-CM, International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification

CCSR Assignment Guidelines

During the development of the CCSR, several guidelines were adopted to address common questions that the team encountered. The following sections describe the general guidelines that apply to all body systems as well as guidelines that are specific to an individual body system.

General Assignment Guidelines

1. The overarching goal of the CCSR is to categorize codes into a manageable number of clinically meaningful categories. The categories themselves should capture a clinical concept, and the codes within a specific category should maintain the clinical intent of that category. Although there was an attempt to keep the clinically meaningful categories from previous versions, there was no attempt to match the trends or utilization counts of the CCS for ICD-9-CM or the beta versions of the CCS for ICD-10-CM, even in cases in which the category title remains the same. Instead, the clinical concept guided the assignment of codes.
2. The number of catch-all categories (those that start with "Other specified") are minimized, because they are of limited value if the ICD-10-CM codes within the category are highly heterogeneous. When a catch-all category is necessary, the number of codes is minimized by separating out clinically relevant groups. This often is a trade-off with the number of overall categories created in the tool.
3. Different CCSR categories may include an overlapping set of codes, but no CCSR is nested completely within another CCSR, except for CCSR categories the *Dental diseases* body system.
4. Every ICD-10-CM code is assigned to at least one CCSR category but can be assigned to multiple categories. Individual ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes can be used to document multiple conditions or a condition and a common symptom/manifestation. Assigning only one CCSR category to these codes would require prioritizing the assignment. Clinical coding guidelines were reviewed and considered when CCSR category assignments were made. Each code is mapped to no more than six categories and an attempt was made to minimize the number of assigned categories. In addition, when possible, a code is mapped to no more than one catch-all category.
    - The CCSR includes the assignment of a default CCSR for the principal diagnosis in inpatient data (starting with the v2020.2) and the first-listed diagnosis in outpatient data (starting with the v2021.1). Information on the rationale used in selecting default categories for principal diagnoses in inpatient data is documented in Appendix C: Default CCSR for Principal Diagnosis in Inpatient Data. Information about the default CCSR for the first-listed diagnosis in outpatient data is detailed in Appendix D: Default for CCSR for First-List Diagnosis in Outpatient Data.

5. Diagnosis codes are mostly retained in the chapters assigned by the World Health Organization[6] unless the clinical review team had a specific rationale for grouping the code only in another body system. For example, an ICD-10-CM code that is in Chapter 9: Diseases and Disorders of the Circulatory System (ICD-10-CM Code Book) is assigned to at least one CCSR category in the *Diseases of the circulatory system* body system (i.e., the category begins with the characters "CIR"). There are a few notable exceptions[7] to this rule:
    - ICD-10-CM codes for Periprosthetic fracture around internal prosthetic joint (i.e., codes starting with characters M97) are included in the *Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes* body system and not in the *Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue* body system. This decision was made after consultation with injury experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
    - Several mental, behavioral, and neurodevelopmental disorders codes (i.e., within the range of ICD-10-CM codes starting with characters F01–F99) related to the clinical concepts of neurocognitive disorders and sleep wake disorders are only mapped to categories in the *Diseases of the nervous system* body system so that they are categorized with similar clinical concepts.
    - Several ICD-10-CM codes starting with characters R01–R99 from Chapter 18: Symptoms, Signs and Abnormal Clinical and Laboratory Findings, Not Elsewhere Classified (ICD-10-CM Code Book) are included only under other body system categories because they aligned with specific conditions or disorders. For example, several R codes are exclusively assigned to a CCSR category within the *Diseases of the circulatory system* body system. In contrast, codes that do not definitively indicate the presence of a condition or disorder (e.g., codes R78.0–R78.5 Finding of substance in blood) are retained within the body system of *Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified*.
    - Several ICD-10-CM codes starting with the characters Z01–Z99 from Chapter 21: Factors Influencing Health Status and Contact with Health Services (ICD-10-CM Code Book) are included only under other body system categories because they aligned with specific conditions or disorders. For example, several Z codes are

[6] Please see "The ICD-10-CM Tabular List of Diseases and Injuries" for details on the chapter assignments for ICD-10-CM codes (available at https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/injury/ice/injury_matrix10.htm or www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/).

[7] There are rare exceptions to this rule not covered by these explanations. Each exception code was identified by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)-certified ICD-10-CM trainers and reviewed by the team of clinical experts before a final decision was made. In each case, the team agreed the best assignment for the ICD-10-CM code in question was only to a CCSR category in a different body system than the codebook chapter.

exclusively assigned to a CCSR category with codes under *Pregnancy, childbirth, and puerperium* or within *Certain conditions originating during the perinatal period* body systems. In contrast, codes that do not definitively indicate the presence of a condition or disorder (e.g., code Z79.891, Long term (current) use of opiate analgesic and Z72.0, Tobacco use) are retained within the body system of *Factors influencing health status and contact with health services*.

Body System-Specific Structure Notes and Exceptions to General Guidelines

1. The *Neoplasms* body system follows the National Cancer Institute (NCI)[8] organization of cancer types by body system and location whenever possible. In addition, the team sought guidance from cancer researchers on beneficial subcategories that go beyond the NCI structure, such as more specific leukemia categories.
2. The *Mental, behavioral, and neurodevelopmental disorders* body system follows the organization of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5),[9] unless there was a specific reason to do otherwise. When questions arose regarding assignment of codes and categories, the ICD-11 classification system was consulted. Two exceptions are NVS011 (Neurocognitive disorders) and NVS016 (Sleep wake disorders), which each contained codes from Chapter 5: Mental, Behavioral, and Neurodevelopmental Disorders as well as Chapter 6: Diseases of the Nervous System (ICD-10-CM Code Book).These codes were placed under the *Diseases of the nervous system* body system even though they are DSM-5 categories.
3. Codes in the *Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities*, *Certain conditions originating during the perinatal period*, and *Pregnancy, childbirth, and puerperium* body systems are frequently, but not extensively, cross-classified to other body systems. The clinical review team believed that most researchers would be interested in either this specific set of congenital, perinatal, or pregnancy codes or the more general codes in the specific body system categories, but not both together. The conditions often are clinically and epidemiologically different, with unique treatment plans. There are exceptions to this decision, such as infectious diseases or critical chronic conditions such as hypertension and diabetes, in which users will observe codes cross-classified across these body systems.
4. The *Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes* and *External causes of morbidity* body systems follow the CDC Injury Mortality Diagnosis Matrix and the External Cause of Morbidity Matrix definitions for ICD-10-CM.[10] Additional categories were created to capture concepts not explicitly included in the CDC injury matrices or

[8] See www.cancer.gov/ for additional information on the National Cancer Institute.

[9] Please see www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/practice/dsm for additional information on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5).

[10] Please see www.cdc.gov/nchs/injury/injury_tools.htm for additional details.

codes from other body systems that are not included in CDC definitions. See Appendix F for information on cross-referencing the CDC injury matrices to the CCSR for diagnoses.

5. Separate CCSR categories within the *Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes* body system were created to maintain the difference between poisoning, adverse effects, and toxic effects with respect to the occurrence of drug toxicity. The guidelines for ICD-10-CM coding[11] define these terms as follows:
    - "Adverse effect" is used when a drug has been properly prescribed and properly administered
    - "Poisoning" involves the improper use of medication
    - "Underdosing" refers to taking less of a medication than is prescribed by a provider or a manufacturer's instruction
    - "Toxic effect" occurs when a harmful substance is ingested or comes in contact with a person.
6. ICD-10-CM medical and surgical complication codes are located in CCSR categories on the basis of the chapter in which they are found in the ICD-10-CM Code Book. This means that there are complication categories in 12 body systems.[12] Codes specifically listed in sections with headers identifying complications (e.g., "intraoperative and postprocedural complications", "complications in anesthesia during pregnancy", "complications of labor and delivery", "complication of device", "complications predominantly related to the puerperium", "complications of surgical and medical care") in the ICD-10-CM Code Book are assigned to a complication category.
7. Within the *Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium* body system, codes for complicating conditions are specified as occurring during pregnancy, childbirth, or the puerperium. When possible, these conditions are grouped into separate categories related to the timing of the complication. However, there is not enough information to distinguish this timing in all cases. If the complicating condition code does not specify the timing, it is placed in a category for other specified complications of pregnancy. This category can include complications that occur during pregnancy, childbirth, or the puerperium.

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[11] Please see ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2027 for additional details (https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2027-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf).

[12] Diseases of the blood and blood forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune system (BLD); Diseases of the circulatory system (CIR); Diseases of the digestive system (DIG); Diseases of the ear and mastoid process (EAR); Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases (END); Diseases of the eye and adnexa (EYE); Diseases of the genitourinary system (GEN); Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes (INJ); Diseases of the musculoskeletal system (MUS); Diseases of the nervous system (NVS); Diseases of the respiratory system (RSP); Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue (SKN).

8. Codes that are described in the ICD-10-CM with the keywords “infection,” “infectious,” or “infective” but are in chapters other than Chapter 1: Certain Infectious and Parasitic Diseases (ICD-10-CM Code Book) are cross-classified only to the *Certain infectious and parasitic disease* body system CCSR categories if there is a specified infection documented in the description. If no specific infection is documented, the code is not classified in a *Certain infectious and parasitic diseases* body system category. For example:
    - Code J20.0, Acute bronchitis due to mycoplasma pneumoniae, is assigned to RSP005 (Acute bronchitis) and INF003 (Bacterial infections)
    - Code J20.5, Acute bronchitis due to respiratory syncytial virus, is assigned to RSP005 (Acute bronchitis) and INF008 (Viral infection)
    - Code J20.9, Acute bronchitis, unspecified, is assigned only to RSP005 (Acute bronchitis) and not to a category within the *Certain infectious and parasitic diseases* body system.
9. Some categories in the CCSR for ICD-10-CM, such as those related to injury, include details on the type of encounter. The CCSR for ICD-10-CM often separately classifies ICD-10-CM diagnoses indicating initial encounters, subsequent encounters, and sequela, where applicable.[13] A sequela is the residual effect (condition produced) after the acute phase of an illness or injury has terminated.[14] A sequela condition for an injury is a separate condition that arises during the treatment of the injury that needs its own treatment. A common example of a sequela condition is scar formation following a burn injury. The scar is the sequela condition and would be grouped with other scar conditions. A burn code with a seventh character of S indicates the injury responsible for the sequela condition and is assigned to the Injury; sequela encounter category. If a category contains a mix of codes (i.e., codes that do not contain a 7th character and codes with a seventh character indicating an initial encounter), the category label does not specify a type of encounter.
10. Categories found within the body system, *Dental diseases*, are arranged in a hierarchical structure. All dental-related ICD-10-CM codes are assigned to DEN001 (Any dental condition including traumatic injury). A subset of these codes is cross-referenced to DEN002 (Nontraumatic dental conditions). Then, a smaller subset of these codes is additionally cross-referenced to DEN003 (Caries, periodontitis, and other preventable dental conditions), which includes conditions that are often treated in a dentist’s office.

[13] Although this approach results in a large number of injury categories, it is analytically easier for many users to combine categories than to disaggregate them.

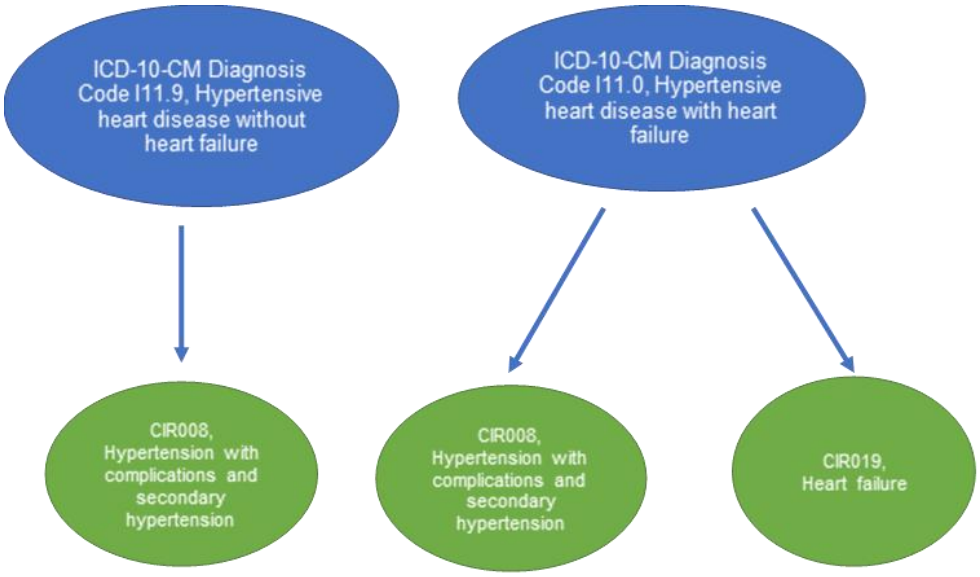
[14] Please see ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2027 for additional details (https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2027-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf).

One-to-One and One-to-Many Mapping of ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes to CCSR

Why Cross-Classification of Codes are Necessary in the CCSR

Figure 1 provides a visual representation of how one-to-one and one-to-many mappings occur in the CCSR, using two ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes related to hypertension as examples. The ICD-10-CM diagnosis code I11.9, Hypertensive heart disease without heart failure, maps to a single CCSR category, CIR008 (Hypertension with complications and secondary hypertension), whereas ICD-10-CM diagnosis code I11.0, Hypertensive heart disease with heart failure, maps to two CCSR categories, CIR008 (Hypertension with complications and secondary hypertension) and CIR019 (Heart failure).

Figure 1. Example of One-to-One and One-to-Many CCSR Mappings for Hypertension and Heart Failure



Abbreviations: CCSR, Clinical Classification Software Refined; ICD-10-CM, International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification.

Having code I11.0 mapped to two CCSR categories allows users to completely identify both hypertension cases and heart failure. The overarching goal of the CCSR, stated earlier, was to create clinically meaningful categories where the ICD-10-CM codes match the clinical intent of the category. The best way to accomplish that goal was to allow the coding and clinical review teams the flexibility to cross-classify individual codes into more than one CCSR category as necessary.

Note: Diagnosis codes for complications starting with the letter T are not cross-referenced. For example, the ICD-10-CM diagnosis code T86290, Cardiac allograft vasculopathy, is mapped to INJ036 (Complication of transplanted organs or tissue, initial encounter) but not cross-referenced to a cardiac-related CCSR category.

Prevalence of Cross-Classified Codes in the CCSR

Every ICD-10-CM code is assigned to at least one CCSR category but can be assigned to multiple categories. Table 2 describes the distribution of CCSR category assignments in v2027.1.

Table 2. Type of CCSR Category Assignment by Number of ICD-10-CM Codes, v2027.1

Type of CCSR Category Assignment	Number of ICD-10-CM Codes (Percent of Total)
Codes assigned to only one category	66,917 (88.1%)
Codes assigned to two categories	6,609 (8.7%)
Codes assigned to three categories	1,783 (2.3%)
Codes assigned to four categories	561 (0.74%)
Codes assigned to five categories	43 (0.06%)
Codes assigned to six categories	2 (0.00%)
Total	**75,915 (100%)**

Abbreviations: CCSR, Clinical Classifications Software Refined; ICD-10-CM, International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification
Source: CCSR for ICD-10-CM diagnoses, v2027.1

Default CCSR for Principal or First-Listed Diagnosis

For some applications, a mutually exclusive categorization scheme is needed. Examples of research designs are:

- Distributing all dataset records into mutually exclusive groups
- Obtaining statistics on discharge-level or record-level outcomes or measures
- Performing rank utilization by principal (or first-listed) diagnoses.

To facilitate these types of analyses, the CCSR tool includes the assignment of a default CCSR for the principal diagnosis in inpatient data (starting with v2020.2) and the first-listed diagnosis in outpatient data (starting with v2021.1). The rationale used in selecting default categories for principal diagnoses in inpatient is documented in Appendix C: Default CCSR for the Principal Diagnosis in Inpatient Data. Information about the default CCSR for the first-listed diagnosis in outpatient data is detailed in Appendix D: Default for CCSR for First-List Diagnosis in Outpatient Data.

Users may choose to assign different default CCSR categories for ICD-10-CM codes, based on their own needs and preferences. For other applications, such as risk adjustment and the identification of any diagnosis on a billing or claims record regardless of whether it is the reason for the hospitalization, the identification of all conditions related to a diagnosis code is beneficial.

Capitalizing on ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Coding Specificity

The previous section described how the specificity of ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes resulted in cross-classification of some codes to fully capture the clinical intent of CCSR categories. This section describes other ways the CCSR capitalized on the specificity of ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes to add value to the tool.

Specificity in Clinical Categories in the CCSR

The CCSR tool also incorporates ICD-10-CM coding specificity by creating more specific clinical categories than were possible in the ICD-9-CM-based CCS.

The following list provides examples of more specific categories available in the CCSR for each body system (than the CCS categories):[15]

- *Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism* (BLD) – nutritional anemia; hemolytic anemia; aplastic anemia
- *Diseases of the circulatory system* (CIR) – chronic rheumatic heart disease; hypotension
- *Dental diseases* (DEN) – caries, periodontitis, and other preventable dental conditions
- *Diseases of the digestive system* (DIG) – gastrointestinal and biliary perforation; noninfective hepatitis
- *Diseases of the ear and mastoid process* (EAR) – diseases of the middle ear and mastoid (except otitis media); diseases of the inner ear and related conditions
- *Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases* (END) – diabetes mellitus type 1; diabetes mellitus type 2; obesity
- External causes of morbidity (EXT) – intent of injury, assault; poisoning by non-drug
- *Diseases of the eye and adnexa* (EYE) – strabismus; refractive error
- *Factors influencing health status and contact with health services* (FAC) – personal history of nicotine dependence; resistance to antimicrobial drugs; organ transplant status
- *Diseases of the genitourinary system* (GEN) – erectile disfunction; male infertility
- *Certain infectious and parasitic diseases* (INF) – COVID-19 (starting in v2020.3), fungal infections; foodborne intoxications
- *Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes* (INJ) – underdosing of drugs, initial encounter; toxic effects, initial encounter
- *Congenital malformations, deformations, and chromosomal abnormalities* (MAL) – cleft lip or palate; chromosomal abnormalities
- *Mental, behavioral, and neurodevelopmental disorders* (MBD) – depressive disorders, bipolar and related disorders, opioid—related disorders

[15] See the CCSR Reference File for a complete list of categories in the CCSR. The CCSR Reference File is available on the CCSR page of the HCUP-US website (https://hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/ccsr/ccs_refined.jsp).

- *Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue* (MUS) – scoliosis and other postural dorsopathic deformities
- *Neoplasms* (NEO) – six categories for different types of leukemia (chronic lymphocytic, acute lymphoblastic, acute myeloid, chronic myeloid, hairy cell, and all other types)
- *Diseases of the nervous system* (NVS) – neurocognitive disorders; cerebral palsy
- *Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period* (PNL) – neonatal cerebral disorders; neonatal digestive and feeding disorders; neonatal abstinence syndrome; fetal alcohol syndrome
- *Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium* (PRG) – anesthesia complications during pregnancy; maternal intrauterine infection
- *Diseases of the respiratory system* (RSP) – sinusitis; pneumothorax
- *Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue* (SKN) – pressure ulcer of skin; non-pressure ulcer of skin; contact dermatitis
- *Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified* (SYM) – dysphagia; abnormal findings without diagnosis

Coding for the Type of Encounter in ICD-10-CM Diagnoses

ICD-9-CM codes did not include information on the types of encounters for injuries. Previous versions of the CCS tool did not distinguish between the type of encounter.

ICD-10-CM coding for injuries often uses a seventh character to distinguish the type of encounter and whether there was a late effect or sequela resulting from a previous injury, and the CCSR capitalizes on this additional information. In most injury codes, the options for the seventh character are initial encounter, subsequent encounter, and sequela.[16]

An initial encounter, designated by a seventh character of A, is the active treatment of the injury. Coding as an initial encounter does not depend on whether the encounter represents the first

[16] ICD-10-CM codes for traumatic fractures have additional seventh character values. A–initial encounter for closed fracture; B–initial encounter for open fracture type I or II; C–initial encounter for open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC; D–subsequent encounter for closed fracture with routine healing; E–subsequent encounter for open fracture type I or II with routine healing; F–subsequent encounter for open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC with routine healing; G–subsequent encounter for closed fracture with delayed healing; H–subsequent encounter for open fracture type I or II with delayed healing; J–subsequent encounter for open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC with delayed healing; K–subsequent encounter for closed fracture with nonunion, M–subsequent encounter for open fracture type I or II with nonunion, N–subsequent encounter for open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC with nonunion, P–subsequent encounter for closed fracture with malunion, Q–subsequent encounter for open fracture type I or II with malunion, R–subsequent encounter for open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC with malunion, S–sequela. These expanded options are aggregated as initial, subsequent, or sequela for the CCSR. The additional detail of the expanded codes is not incorporated. Please see ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2027 (https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2027-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf) for additional details.

time the patient is seen by a healthcare provider. It depends only on receiving active treatment for the injury. In some cases, a patient may need to be stabilized before the active treatment may begin. Therefore, multiple encounters may be coded as an initial encounter for the same injury if active treatment is ongoing.

A subsequent encounter, designated by a seventh character of D, is used when the patient has completed active treatment and is receiving follow-up care after the injury. Subsequent encounters represent routine care during healing and recovery of the injury.

A sequela, designated by a seventh character of S, is the residual effect (condition produced) after the acute phase of an illness or injury has terminated.[17] A sequela condition for an injury is a separate condition that arises during the treatment of the injury that requires its own treatment.

Example of CCSR Categories Related to the Type of Encounter

Table 3 illustrates how coding related to the type of encounter is incorporated into new CCSR categories for codes related to a fracture. Rows 1 and 2 represent codes indicating an initial encounter (seventh character of A and B) for treatment of a fracture, S42.022A and S42.022B. These initial encounters include the active treatment of the fractures. Rows 3–6 show the same code with seventh characters of D, G, K, and P indicating subsequent encounters (ICD-10-CM codes S42.022D, S42.022G, S42.022K, and S42.022P). The subsequent encounters could be the removal of a cast. Row 7 is again the same code but with a seventh character of S indicating a sequela (ICD-10-CM code S42.022S). The sequela condition of the fracture may be ongoing pain.[18] If there is a sequela of the fracture, there would be both an ICD-10-CM code to indicate what the condition in need of treatment is (i.e., the malformation or pain) and the fracture sequela code to indicate the injury responsible for the sequela condition. In this example, there are three separate CCSR categories, one for each type of encounter. This is important because a researcher interested in the number of upper limb fractures may not want to include encounters for cast removal or ongoing pain. In this case, the researcher would only use the CCSR category specific to the initial encounter of the injury. Separating CCSR categories in this way facilitates analyses that wish to distinguish by the type of encounter.

[17] Please see ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2027 for additional details. (https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2027-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf) for additional details.

[18] Another common example of a sequela condition is scar formation following a burn injury. The scar is the sequela condition. A burn code with a seventh character of S indicates the injury responsible for the sequela condition.

Table 3. Example of CCSR Categories for Types of Encounters

Row	ICD-10-CM Code	ICD-10-CM Code Description	CCSR Category	CCSR Category Description
1	S42022A	Displaced fracture of shaft of left clavicle, initial encounter for closed fracture	INJ004	Fracture of the upper limb; initial encounter
2	S42022B	Displaced fracture of shaft of left clavicle, initial encounter for open fracture	INJ004	Fracture of the upper limb, initial encounter
3	S42022D	Displaced fracture of shaft of left clavicle, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing	INJ041	Fracture of the upper limb; subsequent encounter
4	S42022G	Displaced fracture of shaft of left clavicle, subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing	INJ041	Fracture of the upper limb, subsequent encounter
5	S42022K	Displaced fracture of shaft of left clavicle, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion	INJ041	Fracture of the upper limb, subsequent encounter
6	S42022P	Displaced fracture of shaft of left clavicle, subsequent encounter for fracture with malunion	INJ041	Fracture of the upper limb, subsequent encounter
7	S42022S	Displaced fracture of shaft of left clavicle, sequela	INJ073	Injury; sequela

Abbreviations: CCSR, Clinical Classifications Software Refined; ICD-10-CM, International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification
Source: CCSR for ICD-10-CM diagnoses, v2027.1

Pregnancy Trimester Coding in ICD-10-CM Diagnoses

ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes did not include information on the trimester of pregnancy. Previous versions of the CCS tool did not distinguish the trimesters of pregnancy.

Many ICD-10-CM pregnancy codes (starting with characters O00–O99) have characters to indicate a specific trimester.[19] This is another example of code specificity that has been

[19] Although the majority of ICD-10-CM codes in the Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium chapter include trimester coding, the position of this character is not always the same. In other words, trimesters are not always indicated with the seventh character like injury codes and the type of encounter. However, trimester coding is indicated with the final character of pregnancy codes. Please see ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2027 (https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2027-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf) for additional details.

incorporated into the CCSR categories. Table 4 illustrates how trimester coding is incorporated into new CCSR categories. Each row represents code O26.85, Spotting complicating pregnancy, with a different final character indicating the trimester of pregnancy. The CCSR categories for these codes separate hemorrhages into two groups, (1) first or unspecified trimester and (2) second or third trimester. This allows users to easily separate first trimester bleeding from second or third trimester bleeding.

Table 4. Example of CCSR Categories by Pregnancy Trimester

Row	ICD-10-CM Code	ICD-10-CM Code Description	CCSR Category	CCSR Category Description
1	O26851	Spotting complicating pregnancy, first trimester	PRG009	Early, first or unspecified trimester hemorrhage
2	O26852	Spotting complicating pregnancy, second trimester	PRG010	Hemorrhage after first trimester
3	O26853	Spotting complicating pregnancy, third trimester	PRG010	Hemorrhage after first trimester
4	O26859	Spotting complicating pregnancy, unspecified trimester	PRG009	Early, first or unspecified trimester hemorrhage

Abbreviations: CCSR, Clinical Classifications Software Refined; ICD-10-CM, International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification
Source: CCSR for ICD-10-CM diagnoses, v2027.1

Impact of New Clinical CCSR Categories on Users

The decision to create new CCSR categories unavailable in previous versions of the CCS enhances the ability for researchers to use the CCSR to identify more targeted patient populations. However, it does create a discontinuity for longitudinal trend analyses with previous versions of the CCS. Discontinuities in trend analyses are likely even for CCSR categories with similar descriptions or names to those in the CCS for ICD-9-CM, as the coding definitions of the categories may have changed.

Users wanting to look at trends should carefully analyze their data before and after the transition to ICD-10-CM to determine if additional statistical methods are necessary to address trend breaks introduced by ICD-10-CM coding and the differences between the CCS for ICD-9-CM and the CCSR for ICD-10-CM.

USING THE CCSR TO TREND ICD-10-CM DIAGNOSES ACROSS DATA YEARS

The ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes included in the AHRQ HCUP CCSR are cumulative starting on October 1, 2015, when the United States transitioned to reporting of diagnoses for hospital inpatient stays and outpatient encounters in the ICD-10-CM coding system.

ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes are updated each year with new codes becoming effective on October 1.[20] Coding instructions may also be updated. Changes in coding instructions may impact trending within and across data years. For example, effective October 1, 2017, the coding instructions for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and pneumonia was revised to indicate that the J44.0 code for COPD should be coded as the principal diagnosis with the type of pneumonia reported as a secondary diagnosis. This causes a large increase in inpatient stays with a principal diagnosis of COPD and a large decrease in inpatient stays with a principal diagnosis of pneumonia starting in October 2017. The coding note was modified effective October 1, 2018, to leave the order of the COPD and pneumonia diagnosis codes at the discretion of the coder. The code reported as the principal diagnosis should be the condition principally responsible for the inpatient stay and could be either COPD or pneumonia.

USING THE DOWNLOADABLE CCSR FILES

System Requirements

Using the CCSR for ICD-10-CM diagnoses requires a program to decompress or "unzip" files.[21] Approximately 4.5 megabytes of disk space available on one's hard drive also will be needed to accommodate all the CCSR files. Additional space is necessary for saving CCSR output files. See below for additional details on the options for CCSR output and the disk space considerations for each option.

Downloadable Files

The following files related to the CCSR for ICD-10-CM diagnosis are contained in a downloadable zip file:

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[20] Please note that with the publication of the Final Rule for the inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) for fiscal year 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services releases ICD-10-CM/PCS code updates twice a year (every April 1 and October 1). ICD-10-CM codes that will become effective on April 1, 2027, are not included in v2027.1.

[21] Third-party zip utilities are available from the following reputable vendors on their official websites: ZIP Reader (Windows) (free download offered by PKWARE, Inc.), SecureZIP® for Mac or Windows (free evaluation and licensed/fee software offered by PKWARE, Inc.), WinZip (Windows) (evaluation and fee versions offered by the Corel Corporation), Stuffit Expander® (Mac) (free evaluation and licensed/fee software offered by Smith Micro Software Inc.).

1. CSV file that includes the mapping of ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes into CCSR categories with labels for the individual CCSR categories and the assignment of a default CCSR, where applicable
2. SAS mapping program to apply the tool to the user's data
3. CCSR for ICD-10-CM User Guide (PDF)
4. CCSR for ICD-10-CM Reference File (Excel)
5. Change log with specific detail on coding changes between versions (Excel).

Table 5 includes additional detail on the name and purpose of the files included in the CCSR for ICD-10-CM diagnosis zip file.

Table 5. Contents of the CCSR for ICD-10-CM Diagnoses Zip File

File Name	Purpose
DXCCSR_v*yyyy-r*.csv where *yyyy* represents fiscal year and *r* represents a release number within fiscal year. For example, the first mapping file release to include codes valid through fiscal year 2027 is named DXCCSR_v2027-1.csv.	The CSV mapping file lists ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes along with a description for each ICD-10-CM diagnosis code, the CCSR categories assigned, the full description corresponding to each CCSR category, and the default CCSR, where applicable. This is a *horizontal* file that the SAS program uses as input to build the tool. The term horizontal is used because each individual ICD-10-CM diagnosis code is listed once (on a single row) with the information on the CCSR categories listed across the columns of the CSV file. This file can be converted to Excel where a filter can be applied to examine individual ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes or CCSR categories.
DXCCSR_Mapping_Program_v*yyyy-r*.sas where *yyyy* represents fiscal year and *r* represents a release number within fiscal year	SAS mapping program that applies the CCSR to the user's ICD-10-CM-coded data. The mapping program includes three options for the file structure of CCSR output.
DXCCSR-User-Guide-v*yyyy-r*.pdf where *yyyy* represents fiscal year and *r* represents a release number within fiscal year	This document (i.e., the User Guide for the CCSR in PDF format).

File Name	Purpose
DXCCSR-Reference-File-v*yyyy-r*.xlsx where *yyyy* represents fiscal year and *r* represents a release number within fiscal year	A reference file (Microsoft Excel) includes four tabs: (1) The first tab is a table of contents with links to the other tabs. (2) The second tab includes a list of the CCSR body systems and the corresponding 3-character CCSR abbreviation for the body system. (3) The third tab includes a list of CCSR categories and numbers. (4) The fourth tab lists all ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes with descriptions, the assigned CCSR categories with descriptions, and an indication of the default CCSR, where applicable. A filter is applied to examine individual ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes or CCSR categories. This file differs from the CSV file in structure, but not in content. The mapping of the ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes to the CCSR categories is structured in a stacked (i.e. vertical) format, where cross-classified codes are listed in multiple rows for each different CCSR assignment.
DXCCSR-ChangeLog-vyyyyr-vyyyyr.xlsx where *yyyy* represents fiscal year and *r* represents a release number within fiscal year	A log of changes (Microsoft Excel) between two versions of the CCSR software tool including lists of changes in categories and the mapping of ICD-10-CM codes into categories.

Abbreviations: CCSR, Clinical Classifications Software Refined; CSV, comma separated values; ICD-10-CM, International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification

Data Elements Required for Input Dataset

The input dataset **must** contain a data element that uniquely identifies the record and an array of ICD-10-CM diagnosis without decimals. These data elements are required for the assignment of the CCSR for ICD-10-CM diagnoses (Table 6).

Table 6. Required Input Data Elements

Data Element Name in Program	Purpose	How to Modify the Data Element Name Used in the Program	Data Element Name in HCUP Databases
Macro data element &RECID	The unique record identifier on the input SAS file that can be used to link the CCSR output files back to original input SAS dataset	Specify the name of the variable using the macro statement %LET RECID=	KEY in the HCUP State Databases
DX1-DXn where n is the dimension of the diagnosis array	Array of ICD-10-CM diagnoses (without decimals) used to assign CCSR categories	Specify prefix for DX array using macro statement %LET DXPREFIX=	I10_DX1-I10DXn in all HCUP databases starting in data year 2016
Required only if using data that is a mixture of inpatient and outpatient data: DBTYPE	Flag to identify which records are inpatient and which are outpatient	Specify data element name using macro statement %LET IOVAR=	HCUPFILE in the HCUP Nationwide Emergency Department Sample (NEDS)

IMPORTANT NOTE WHEN USING THE 2015 and 2016 HCUP DATABASES: Prior to data year 2017, the ICD-10-CM external cause of morbidity codes are stored in separate data elements (I10_ECAUSEn, I10_NECAUSE, and E_POAn) from other diagnoses (I10_DXn, I10_NDX, and DXPOAn). When applying the CCSR for ICD-10-CM diagnoses to the HCUP databases for this time period, users need to combine the diagnosis-related data elements to capture all diagnoses:

- Append I10_ECAUSEn to the end of I10_DXn array
- Append E_POAn to the end of DXPOAn array
- Modify I10_NDX to count all codes in the combined arrays.

Beginning with the 2017 HCUP databases, ICD-10-CM external cause of morbidity codes are included with other diagnoses in the diagnosis-related data elements (I10_DXn, I10_NDX, and DXPOAn).

Representation of ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes

ICD-10-CM diagnoses often are represented by 4- to 7-digit alphanumeric codes with explicit decimals. In the CSV mapping file, the ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes are enclosed in quotation marks and do not contain decimals. Table 7 provides examples for how the ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes are represented in the CSV mapping file.

Table 7. Example of Representation of ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes in the CCSR for ICD-10-CM

Condition	ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Code	Alphanumeric Code (With Implicit Decimals) in the CSV File
Single liveborn infant, delivered vaginally	Z38.00	'Z3800 '
Sepsis, unspecified organism	A41.9	'A419 '
Pneumonia, unspecified organism	J18.9	'J189 '

Abbreviations: CCSR, Clinical Classifications Software Refined; CSV, comma separated values; ICD-10-CM, International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification

For the accurate assignment of CCSR, the ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes in the input files must be reported as follows:

- Alphanumeric diagnosis codes must be left-justified, allowing trailing blanks to fill up the full length of 7 characters.
    - Example: Diagnosis J18.9 should be retained as 'J189 ' in the input file.
- Trailing blanks should never be zero-padded.
    - Example: Diagnosis 'J189 ' should *not* be represented as 'J189000'.
- Only fully specified ICD-10-CM codes should be included. The CCSR software does not account for substrings or parent codes, such as three-digit code blocks
    - Example: Diagnosis E11 (Type 2 diabetes mellitus) or E11x cannot be used to capture all codes that begin with the characters E11.

Flexible File Structure for Outputting the CCSR for ICD-10-CM Diagnoses

Within the SAS mapping program, users are given three options for the file structure of their output once the CCSR tool is applied to the data. The programs assume that the input file will have one record per encounter (inpatient stay, emergency department visits, etc.) with a unique record identifier and an array of ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes. There is no restriction on the maximum length of the input diagnosis array. Users will need to modify the SAS macros in the mapping program to specify the file characteristics of their data and the desired output file structure.

Output Option 1, Vertical Output File

By default, the SAS program creates a "vertical" file with one or more observations (i.e., rows) for each input record. The number of observations created from each input record depends on the number of CCSR categories triggered by the ICD-10-CM diagnoses on the input record. For example, if an input record has only one ICD-10-CM diagnosis code and that code maps to two CCSR categories, the vertical file for that input record would have two observations to display the CCSR records. If an input record has ten diagnosis ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes and they each map to just one CCSR category, the vertical file for that record would have ten observations to display the CCSR records.

The vertical file contains four data elements (i.e., columns):

- The record identifier (data element specified by the RECID macro)
- A CCSR category (data element DXCCSR)
- The diagnosis position (data element DX_Position) which indicates which ICD-10-CM diagnosis code on the record triggered the CCSR category assignment
- An indicator for whether the CCSR category represents the default CCSR for the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis on the record (data element DEFAULT_DXCCSR) with values Y indicating the category is the default CCSR, N indicating the category is not the default, and X indicating that the diagnosis is unacceptable as a principal (or first-listed) diagnosis according to ICD-10-CM coding guidelines (and the Medicare Code Edits for Inpatient data).
- An identifier for the CCSR version (data element DXCCSR_VERSION)

The vertical file option affords users more efficient storage—about 20 bytes per record. It also maintains information on the exact position of the ICD-10-CM diagnosis that triggered the CCSR category as well as identifies the default CCSR category for the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis on the record. However, because this option outputs multiple observations corresponding to a single input record and a single diagnosis code, its practical application may be challenging for users with limited statistical programming experience.

Output Option 2, Horizontal Array of all CCSR Categories

Users also can specify the SAS mapping program to create a horizontally structured CCSR output file. The output file indicates which CCSR categories are triggered by the ICD-10-CM diagnoses and starting with v2020.3, also includes the default CCSR category for the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis. If this option is selected, the SAS program creates a file with only one observation (i.e., row) for each input record that includes the record identifier, the default CCSR (data element DEFAULT_DXCCSR_DX1), and a horizontal array of over 530 data elements corresponding to the CCSR categories. There is one data element for each CCSR category, with the data element name corresponding to the CCSR category along with a "DXCCSR_" prefix, where DX stands for diagnosis. For example, the data element name for the CCSR category for Essential hypertension is "DXCCSR_CIR007".

The horizontal file option allows users to differentiate between the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis, secondary diagnoses, or both types of diagnoses but does not retain the exact position of the ICD-10-CM diagnosis on the record in the input data file. The SAS program assigns one of four values for each DXCCSR data element:

- 0 – The CCSR was not triggered by any ICD-10-CM diagnosis code on the input record.
- 1 – The CCSR was triggered by only the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis on the input record.
- 2 – The CCSR was triggered by both the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis and any secondary diagnosis on the input record.
- 3 – The CCSR was triggered by only secondary diagnosis code(s) on the input record.

The SAS program produces a SAS data set with the following data elements:

- The record identifier (data element specified by the RECID macro)
- The default CCSR category for the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis (data element DEFAULT_DXCCSR_DX1)
- Horizontal array of over 530 "DXCCSR_AAAnnn" data elements, where AAA is the three-character abbreviation for the body system and nnn is the category number within the body system.
- An identifier for the CCSR version (data element DXCCSR_VERSION)

This option is conceptually straightforward for analyses because all CCSR categories triggered by diagnoses on a record are kept at the record level without further transformation. However, the horizontal structure includes a data element for every CCSR category, and as a result, it retains CCSR categories that are not triggered by a record. Each record of horizontal output takes up approximately 1.5 KB disk space, potentially presenting computational or data storage challenges for users with large datasets or limited disk space.

Users need to be careful when using the horizontal file structure to count the number of records in a CCSR category.

- To count records in which the principal/first-listed diagnosis is in a CCSR category, you need to look for values 1 and 2 in the DXCCSR_AAAnnn variable of interest. Summing these values would not result in an accurate record count.
- To count records in which any-listed diagnosis is in a CCSR category, you need to look for non-zero values (1, 2, and 3) in the DXCCSR_AAAnnn variable of interest. Again, summing these values would not result in an accurate record count.

One option is to create a corresponding array of data elements in which values greater than 0 are recorded to 1. Then the data elements can be used to produce a count of records by summing the data element values.

Output Option 3, Optional File with Default Assignment for Principal or First-Listed Diagnosis

Users also can specify the SAS mapping program to create an optional separate output file that includes one observation per each input record and the default CCSR category for the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis.

The optional file contains two data elements (i.e., columns):

- The record identifier (data element specified by the RECID macro)
- The default CCSR category for the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis (data element DEFAULT_DXCCSR_DX1).
- An identifier for the CCSR version (data element DXCCSR_VERSION)

This file easily can be merged with the original input file by RECID and then be used to count hospital encounters by principal (or first-listed) diagnosis CCSR without double counting.

Example of Output from the Three Different Output Files

Table 8 displays a sample input record, where four ICD-10-CM diagnoses are stored in an array of data elements I10_DX1–I10_DX4 for a record with RECID equal to 1234. The following three tables display the different output file formats. Table 9 displays the vertical file output for this sample input record. Table 10 contains an example of the horizontal output file, using the same sample input record. Table 11 contains an example of the optional output file for the default CCSR for the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis, again using the same sample input record.

Table 8. Sample of Input File Record

RECID	I10_DX1	I10_DX2	I10_DX3	I10_DX4
1234	E1122	N184	M84664A	M80862A

Table 9. Example of the Vertical Output File for the Sample Record

Row	RECID	DXCCSR	DX_POSITION	DEFAULT_DXCCSR	DXCCSR_VERSION
1	1234	END003	1	Y	2027.1
2	1234	END005	1	N	2027.1
3	1234	GEN003	1	N	2027.1
4	1234	GEN003	2		2027.1
5	1234	MUS014	3		2027.1
6	1234	MUS013	4		2027.1
7	1234	MUS014	4		2027.1

Rows 1-3 of Table 9 indicate that the first diagnosis code (DX_POSITION=1) for RECID 1234 is cross-classified into three CCSR categories: END003 (Diabetes mellitus with complication), END005 (Diabetes mellitus, Type 2), and GEN003 (Chronic kidney disease). END003 is the default CCSR for the first diagnosis code and is assigned the value “Y” for DEFAULT_DXCCSR. The other cross-classified codes for the first diagnosis are assigned the value "N” indicating that neither END005 nor GEN003 are the default CCSR categories for this diagnosis code.

The second diagnosis code maps to only one CCSR listed in row 4, GEN003 (Chronic kidney disease) that is triggered also by the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis. The third diagnosis also maps to only one CCSR listed in row 5 (DXCCSR=MUS014 and DX_POSITION=3). The fourth diagnosis code (Rows 6–7 in Table 9) is cross-classified into two CCSR (DXCCSR=MUS013 and MUS014 and DX_POSITION=4). All secondary diagnoses on this sample input record have a “blank” value for DEFAULT_DXCCSR given that default assignment is only applicable to the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis.

In the example of the horizontal output file (Table 10) the fact that both the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis and a secondary diagnosis trigger GEN003 results in data element DXCCSR_GEN003 being assigned the value 2. DXCCSR_END003 and DXCCSR_END005 are only triggered by the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis on the sample record and therefore assigned the value 1. DXCCSR_MUS013 and DXCCSR_MUS014 are assigned the value 3 because they are triggered by secondary diagnoses only (i.e., data elements I10_DX3 and I10_DX4 in Table 8). Data element DXCCSR_BLD001 (as well as all other “DXCCSR_” data elements not shown in Table 10) are assigned the value 0 because they are not triggered by any ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes on the input record.

Table 10. Example of Optional Horizontal Output File

RECID	DXCCSR_Default_DX1	DXCCSR_BLD001	..	DXCCSR_END003	.	DXCCSR_END005	.	DXCCSR_GEN003	.	DXCCSR_MUS013	DXCCSR_MUS014	..	DXCCSR_VERSION
1234	END003	0		1		1		2		3	3		2027.1

The optional output file for the default CCSR for principal (or first-listed) diagnosis will only have one row per input record, pertaining to the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis (Table 11). In the sample input record above, the first diagnosis code is cross classified to three CCSR categories, but the default for the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis is END003, which is listed as the value for DEFAULT_DXCCSR_DX1.

Table 11. Example of the Optional Output File for Default Assignment for the Principal or First-Listed Diagnosis

RECID	DEFAULT_DXCCSR_DX1	DXCCSR_VERSION
1234	END003	2027.1

Running the SAS Mapping Program to Add CCSR Categories to Data

To download, modify, and run the software to apply the CCSR for ICD-10-CM diagnoses to an input dataset, follow these steps:

1. Users should download and extract the contents of the zip file containing the CSSR for ICD-10-CM diagnosis tool to a saved location on their computer. Files included in the zip file are described in Table 5 and referenced below.
2. Users must set up the SAS program (DXCCSR_Mapping_Program.sas) to run on their data. They must specify or modify the following where appropriate:
    a. Change the paths in the SAS program to point to the computer location(s) of
        i. the CSV mapping file (DXCCSR_v*yyyy-r*.csv)
        ii. the input dataset
        iii. the output dataset
    b. Set the macro variables in the SAS program to match the data element names and file structure of the input dataset (see Table 12).

Table 12. Modifiable Macro Variables and Directory Paths by Type of Information

Description of Macro Variables and Directory Paths	SAS Program Syntax Example
File Locations	
Specify the location of the CSV mapping file	FILENAME INRAW1
Specify the location of the input dataset	LIBNAME IN1
Specify the location of the output dataset(s)	LIBNAME OUT1
Type of Input Data	
Specify the type of input data with one of the following 2-character values: inpatient records only (IP), outpatient records only (OP), or a mixture of inpatient and outpatient records (IO)	%LET DBTYPE=IP;
Specify the name of the SAS variable that can be used to distinguish inpatient from outpatient records in a mixed file. In this example the variable is name DBVARNAME. This is only needed if the input data are a mixture of inpatient and outpatient data.	%LET IOVAR=DBVARNAME;
Specify the value that indicates an inpatient record in the data element that can be used to distinguish inpatient from outpatient records. In this example it would be DBVARBAME=”IP”	%LET IOVALI=IP;
Specify the value that indicates an outpatient record in the data element that can be used to distinguish inpatient from outpatient records. In this example it would be DBVARNAME=”OP”	%LET IOVALO=OP;
Input File Characteristics	
Specify the unique record identifier on the input SAS file that can be used to link the CCSR output files back to original input SAS dataset. NOTE: If there are any missing values in this unique record identifier, this mapping program will have an error.	%LET RECID=KEY;
Specify the prefix used to name the ICD-10-CM diagnosis data element array of the input dataset. In this example, the diagnosis data elements would be named I10_DX1, I10_DX2, etc., similar to the naming of ICD-10-CM data elements in HCUP databases.	%LET DXPREFIX=I10_DX;

Description of Macro Variables and Directory Paths	SAS Program Syntax Example
Specify the maximum number of diagnosis codes on any record in the input file. In this example the maximum number of diagnosis codes on any record is 30. The value of NUMDX must be numeric and greater than or equal to 1.	%LET NUMDX=30;
Specify the data element that identifies the number of diagnoses reported on the record. This is optional and can be left blank if no such data element exists. (In the HCUP databases, this is the variable I10_NDX).	%LET NDXVAR=I10_NDX;
Specify the number of observations to use from the input dataset. Use MAX to use all observations and use a smaller value for testing the program.	%LET OBS=MAX;
Output File Types	
Choose whether to have the program to build the vertical CCSR output file (1=yes, 0=no).	%LET VERT=1;
Choose whether to have the program to build the default CCSR output file (1=yes, 0=no).	%LET DFLT=1;
Choose whether to have the program to build the horizontal output file (1=yes, 0=no).	%LET HORZ=1;
Input and Output File Names	
Specify the file member name for the input dataset	%LET CORE=INPUT_SAS_FILE;
Specify a file member name for the vertical output file	%LET VERTFILE=OUTPUT_VERT_FILE_NAME;
Specify a file member name for the horizontal output file	%LET HORZFILE=OUTPUT_HORZ_FILE_NAME;
Specify a file member name for the default CCSR output file	%LET DFLTFILE=OUTPUT_DFLT_FILE_NAME;

Abbreviation: CSV, comma separated values

CCSR for ICD-10-CM Data Elements in the Output Files

After running of the SAS mapping program, up to three output datasets are generated. The vertical file contains the following data elements:

- Record identifier (data element specified by the RECID macro)
- CCSR category (data element DXCCSR)
- The position of the diagnosis (data element DX_Position)
- The CCSR version number (data element DXCCSR_VERSION).

In this file, there is one observation for all non-missing diagnoses on the input record.

The horizontal file contains the following data elements:

- Record identifier (data element specified by the RECID macro)
- The default CCSR category applicable to the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis for that record (Default_DXCCSR_DX1)
- The data elements DXCCSR_AAAnnn where "AAAnnn" are the values of CCSR categories. See the CCSR Reference File for specific names and descriptions of the CCSR categories.[22]
- The CCSR version number (data element DXCCSR_VERSION).

In this file, there is one observation for each input record. This file can be merged back to the original input dataset using the variable specified in RECID.

The default CCSR file contains the following data elements:

- Record identifier (data element specified by the RECID macro)
- The default CCSR category applicable to the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis for that record (Default_DXCCSR_DX1)
- The CCSR version number (data element DXCCSR_VERSION).

In this file, there is one observation for each input record. This file can be merged back to the original input dataset using the variable specified in RECID.

Handling of Missing or Invalid Diagnoses by the SAS Program to Assign CCSR Categories

If a record in the input file includes no diagnoses (i.e., the diagnosis array is filled with blank values), the output files will handle the record as follows:

- In the vertical output file, there will be one record indicating the first diagnosis was missing. DXCCSR will be set to "noDX1" and DX_POSITION will be set to 1.
- In the optional horizontal output file, there will be a record with the record identifier (data element RECID) and the array of categorical data elements DXCCSR_AAAnnn, but all

[22] See the CCSR Reference File for a complete list of categories in the CCSR. The CCSR Reference File is only available on the CCSR page of the HCUP-US website (https://hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/ccsr/ccs_refined.jsp).

of the categorical data elements will have the value 0 because no diagnoses triggered a CCSR category. The default CCSR for the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis (data element Default_DXCCSR_DX1) will be set to “noDX1” to indicate there was no diagnosis in the first position.

- In the optional output file for the default CCSR for the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis, there will be a record with the record identifier (data element RECID) and the default CCSR for the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis (data element Default_DXCCSR_DX1) will be set to “noDX1” to indicate there was no diagnosis in the first position.

If a record in the input file includes a diagnosis that is not valid for the time period covered by the version of the software (v2027.1 covers ICD-10-CM codes valid from October 1, 2015, to September 30, 2027),[23] the output files will handle the record as follows:

- In the vertical output file, there will be a record with the record identifier (data element RECID) and the corresponding diagnosis CCSR (data element DXCCSR) will be set to “invlDX” to indicate an invalid diagnosis.
- In the optional horizontal output file, there will be a record with the record identifier (data element RECID) and the array of categorical data elements DXCCSR_AAAnnn. The categorical data elements will only be set based on valid diagnoses. If the invalid diagnosis was the first-listed code in the diagnosis array, then the default CCSR for the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis (data element Default_DXCCSR_DX1) will be set to “invlDX” to indicate there was an invalid diagnosis in the first position.
- In the optional output file for the default CCSR for the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis, there will be a record with the record identifier (data element RECID). If the invalid diagnosis was the first-listed code in the diagnosis array, then the default CCSR for the principal (or first-listed) diagnosis (data element Default_DXCCSR_DX1) will be set to “invlDX” to indicate there was an invalid diagnosis in the first position.

[23] Please note that with the publication of the Final Rule for the inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) for fiscal year 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services releases ICD-10-CM/PCS code updates twice a year (every April 1 and October 1). ICD-10-CM codes that will become effective on April 1, 2027, are not included in v2027.1.

APPENDIX A: BACKGROUND ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CCSR

In October 2015, the United States transitioned to a modified version of the World Health Organization International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), replacing the ICD-9-CM diagnosis coding system with the ICD-10-CM diagnosis coding system for most inpatient and outpatient medical encounters. An overview of differences between ICD-10-CM and ICD-9-CM is available on the HCUP User Support website at https://hcup-us.ahrq.gov/datainnovations/icd10_resources.jsp.

Impact on the Clinical Classifications Software

In preparation for the October 2015 implementation of ICD-10-CM, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) tools were converted to the new coding system. The initial mapping was completed by linking ICD-10-CM/PCS (Procedure Coding System) codes to the current Clinical Classifications Software (CCS) Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) classification assignments via the General Equivalence Mappings (GEMs) available from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website (see https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coding-billing/icd-10-codes/icd-10-cm-icd-10-pcs-gem-archive for more information on GEMS). The GEMs files were processed to create GEMs-driven maps between ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM codes. Credentialed coders trained in both ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM reviewed the maps to ensure the validity of the CCS. The goal of the team was to create a set of clinical coding definitions that matched the categories in the CCS for ICD-9-CM and would ease the transition of users from ICD-9-CM- to ICD-10-CM-coded data. The CCS categories remained the same, although some categories received slight naming modifications to remain accurate descriptions for the codes included in ICD-10-CM. The resultant first iteration of the ICD-10-CM classification was considered a beta version.

However, the development of the beta version of the CCS for ICD-10-CM was completed before ICD-10-CM-coded data became available. Once ICD-10-CM coded data became available, the beta version of the CCS was evaluated through preliminary analyses on HCUP data, which revealed unexpected discontinuities between the ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM versions of the CCS. These initial analyses encouraged AHRQ to reconsider the need for a refined ICD-10-CM version of the CCS.

Refinement of the Beta Versions of the CCS

In January 2018, AHRQ initiated planning for a refined version of the CCS, the Clinical Classifications Software Refined (CCSR) for ICD-10-CM diagnosis, which would take advantage of the specificity built into ICD-10-CM codes. The new goal was to create a CCS tool that prioritized defining the codes in each category to match the clinical intent of the category description. To adequately map the codes to clinically meaningful categories, it was important to have expert input from a coding and a clinical perspective from a variety of specialties.

The team first discussed and debated the intricacies and specificity of ICD-10-CM coding, shortcomings of the existing beta versions of the CCS tool, and potential revisions and modifications that could be implemented in a new diagnosis categorization tool. AHRQ staff reviewed the team's recommendations and made overarching decisions about the structure and design of the tool. The new CCSR tool was not restricted to include the same set of categories as the beta versions of the CCS tool, but rather the team was tasked with creating a set of categories that were identifiable in ICD-10-CM codes and valuable for health services research. Many categories were maintained from the beta versions of the CCS for ICD-10-CM with the clinical concept retained, but the specific ICD-10-CM diagnoses included in the category may have been revised. The coding and clinical review teams were encouraged to create new categories or disaggregate existing categories when they identified opportunities to increase the value of the tool to health services researchers.

The most substantial change to the CCSR for ICD-10-CM compared with the beta versions of the CCS for ICD-10-CM diagnosis is that individual categories no longer contain a mutually exclusive set of ICD-10-CM codes. ICD-10-CM codes under the CCSR are mapped to at least one category but can be mapped to more than one category. Mutually exclusive category assignments have been a design feature of the CCS since its initial release (i.e., each ICD-9-CM diagnosis code was included in one and only one CCS category). However, individual ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes can be used to document multiple conditions or a condition and a common symptom or manifestation. Assigning only one CCS category for these codes would require prioritizing the assignment (and the preferred hierarchy of conditions might be different for different applications). An overarching goal of the CCSR was to create clinically meaningful categories where the ICD-10-CM codes match the clinical intent of the category. The best way to accomplish that goal was to allow the coding and clinical review teams the flexibility to cross-classify individual codes into more than one CCSR category as necessary. However, for some applications, such as ranking inpatient hospitalizations by the principal diagnosis, a mutually exclusive categorization scheme is needed. To facilitate this type of analysis, the CCSR tool includes the assignment of a default CCSR for the principal diagnosis in inpatient data (starting with v2020.2) and a default CCSR for the first-listed diagnosis in outpatient data (starting with v2021.1). A comparison table of the CCSR for ICD-10-CM, beta versions of the CCS for ICD-10-CM, and the CCS for ICD-9-CM is available in Appendix B.

Refinement Review Process

During the development of the CCSR, the coding definitions for each existing and proposed new category were reviewed thoroughly. The team worked through the set of ICD-10-CM codes and CCSR categories in groups organized by body system or ICD-10-CM Code Book chapter. This structure was retained in the final CCSR tool so that related categories would be easier to identify and so that future revisions to the CCSR would allow new categories to be inserted in a relevant section, rather than being relegated to the end of the category listing.

Within each body system, an American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)-certified ICD-10-CM/PCS trainer suggested a set of relevant categories and assigned individual

ICD-10-CM codes to each category. Each assignment was reviewed by a second AHIMA-certified ICD-10-CM/PCS trainer who checked for completeness, appropriate categorization for each code, and recognition of both directions regarding specific ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes within the ICD-10-CM Code Book[24] and the published ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting.[25] Review from a third AHIMA-certified ICD-10-CM/PCS trainer was available to reconcile differences in assignment by the first two coders. Following the initial code assignments for each body system, a team of three physicians on the clinical review team also reviewed all categories and code assignments. The clinical team answered specific questions posed by the ICD-10-CM coders, such as whether to create a new category to capture a specific condition group. When necessary, specialty physicians were identified and called on to add body system specific expertise.

Following clinical review, AHRQ provided additional oversight and guidance. AHRQ staff continued to consult the expertise of the ICD-10-CM coders, the physicians, and other researchers to resolve any outstanding issues or decision points. The review process included multiple iterations of review and refinements. The team conducted various tests of the CCSR tool to identify potential improvements and modifications after its initial build with the aim of a more parsimonious set of categories. These tests resulted in additional cross-listings of codes across categories, creating new categories, renaming categories, combining or rolling up categories, and/or shifting categories from one body system to another. Such changes were the result of extensive input across multiple organizations and clinical specialties that evaluated the CCSR category assignments for accuracy and clinical significance. The team extensively reviewed the CCSR tool at each stage of its development, using HCUP State Inpatient Databases (SID) from multiple States and years for some quality control testing. The team reviewed utilization counts of CCSR categories and individual ICD-10-CM codes, cross-tabulations by patient demographic characteristics, and correlation with Major Diagnostic Category and Medicare-Severity Diagnosis Related Group assignment. These tabulations were for informational purposes and assisted in further refinements, but there was not effort made to perfectly align the CCSR categories with MDCs and MS-DRGs, as the purpose of the classifications systems vary (i.e., CCSR is intended to assist in answering health research and policy questions, while MDCs and MS-DRGs are intended to assist with reimbursement). The ICD-10-CM coders identified all ICD-10-CM codes not categorized in body systems that match their ICD-10-CM Code Book chapter location and reviewed the mapping assignments across body systems to ensure consistency with the CCSR category assignment rules.

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[24] AHIMA Press/Decision Health, ed. ICD-10-CM Code Book, 2027. Chicago, IL: American Health Information Management Association; 2026.

[25] Please see ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2027 for additional details (https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2027-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf).

Summary of Key Changes in the Versions of the CCSR for ICD-10-CM

The following is a summary of key changes between released versions of the CCSR for ICD-10-CM:

- v2027.1 (released October 2026)
    - Added ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes valid starting in fiscal year (FY) 2027 so the tool now includes all ICD-10-CM codes valid from October 2015 through September 2027.[26]
    - Added a new CCSR category specific to cachexia and low BMI – SYM019 Cachexia and low BMI. This new CCSR category includes R64, Cachexia, which was deleted from CCSR SYM016 (Other general signs and symptoms). FAC031 is now the Inpatient and Outpatient Default CCSR category.
    - Changed the description of CCSR category DIG016 from “Peritonitis and intra-abdominal abscess” to “Peritonitis and intra-abdominal or intra-pelvic abscess.”
    - Changed the description of CCSR category END009 from “Obesity” to “Obesity or elevated BMI.”
    - Added cross-classification of ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes K0402 Irreversible pulpitis, K041 Necrosis of pulp, K046 Periapical abscess with sinus, K047 Periapical abscess without sinus, K0490 Unspecified diseases of pulp and periapical tissues, K0499 Other diseases of pulp and periapical tissues, K063 Horizontal alveolar bone loss, K068 Other specified disorders of gingiva and edentulous alveolar ridge, and K069 Disorder of gingiva and edentulous alveolar ridge, unspecified, to CCSR category DEN003 (Caries, periodontitis, and other preventable dental conditions).
    - Deleted K7010 Alcoholic hepatitis without ascites, and K7011 Alcoholic hepatitis with ascites, from CCSR INF007 (Hepatitis), added assignment to CCSR DIG023 (Noninfectious hepatitis), and made DIG023 the Inpatient and Outpatient Default CCSR category.
    - Deleted R108A3 Suprapubic tenderness, from CCSR SYM019 (Flank pain and tenderness), added assignment to CCSR SYM006 (Abdominal pain and other digestive/abdomen signs and symptoms), and made SYM006 the Inpatient and Outpatient Default CCSR category.
    - Deleted R196 Halitosis, from CCSR SYM006 (Abdominal pain and other digestive/abdomen signs and symptoms), added assignment to CCSR SYM016 (Other general signs and symptoms) and made SYM016 the Inpatient and Outpatient Default CCSR category.

[26] Please note that with the publication of the Final Rule for the inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) for fiscal year 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services releases ICD-10-CM/PCS code updates twice a year (every April 1 and October 1). ICD-10-CM codes that will become effective on April 1, 2027, are not included in v2027.1.

- Deleted Z6851 “Body mass index [BMI] pediatric, less than 5th percentile for age” from CCSR FAC025 (Other specified status), added assignment to CCSR FAC031 (Cachexia and low BMI) and made FAC031 the Inpatient and Outpatient Default CCSR category.

- v2026.1 (released October 2025)
  - Added ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes valid starting in fiscal year (FY) 2027 so the tool now includes all ICD-10-CM codes valid from October 2015 through September 2026.[27]
  - Added a new CCSR category specific to flank pain and tenderness – SYM019 Flank pain and tenderness
  - Deleted A393, Chronic meningococcemia, from CCSR category INF002 (Septicemia), and changed its Inpatient and Outpatient Default CCSRs to INF003 (Bacterial infections)
  - Deleted B007, Disseminated herpesviral disease, from CCSR category INF002 (Septicemia), and changed its Inpatient and Outpatient Default CCSRs to INF008 (Viral infection)
  - Deleted I76, Septic arterial embolism, from CCSR category INF002 (Septicemia), added assignment to CCSR category INF003 (Bacterial infections), and changed the Outpatient Default CCSR to CIR030 (Aortic and peripheral arterial embolism or thrombosis)
  - Added cross-classification of ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes I26.01, Septic pulmonary embolism with acute cor pulmonale, and I26.90, Septic pulmonary embolism without acute cor pulmonale, to CCSR category INF003 (Bacterial infections)
  - Added cross-classification of ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes O88311, Pyemic and septic embolism in pregnancy, first trimester, O88312, Pyemic and septic embolism in pregnancy, second trimester, O88313, Pyemic and septic embolism in pregnancy, third trimester, O88319, Pyemic and septic embolism in pregnancy, unspecified trimester, O8832, Pyemic and septic embolism in childbirth, and O8833, Pyemic and septic embolism in the puerperium, to CCSR category INF003 (Bacterial infections)

- v2025.1 (released November 2024)

[27] Please note that with the publication of the Final Rule for the inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) for fiscal year 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services releases ICD-10-CM/PCS code updates twice a year (every April 1 and October 1). ICD-10-CM codes that became effective on April 1, 2026, are not included in v2026.1.

- Added ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes valid starting in fiscal year (FY) 2025 so the tool now includes all ICD-10-CM codes valid from October 2015 through September 2025.[28]
- Added a new CCSR category specific to prediabetes – SYM018 Prediabetes
- Split FAC021 Personal/family history of disease into 5 categories:
  - FAC026 Personal history of nicotine dependence
  - FAC027 Personal history of malignant neoplasm
  - FAC028 Family history of disease
  - FAC029 Genetic susceptibility to disease
  - FAC030 Personal history of other disease
- Revised handling of "in remission" neoplasm codes by creating 4 new categories, and mapping all existing "in remission" leukemia and myeloma codes, and all new "in remission" lymphoma codes, to one of these new categories:
  - NEO075 Leukemia in remission
  - NEO076 Hodgkin lymphoma in remission
  - NEO077 Non-Hodgkin lymphoma in remission
  - NEO078 Myeloma in remission
- Added cross-classification of ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes Z19.1, Hormone sensitive malignancy status, and Z19.2, Hormone resistant malignancy status, to CCSR category NEO071 (Malignant neoplasm, unspecified)
- Changed the Outpatient Default CCSR for codes Z19.1 and Z19.2 from FAC021 (Personal/family history of disease) to "X" (None – Unacceptable DX1)

- v2024.1 (released March 2024)
  - Added ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes valid starting in fiscal year (FY) 2024 so the tool now includes all ICD-10-CM codes valid from October 2015 through September 2024, including 42 ICD-10-CM codes that became effective April 2023.[29]
  - Added cross-classification of ICD-10-CM diagnosis code K76.7, Hepatorenal syndrome, to the CCSR category GEN002 (Acute and unspecified renal failure)
  - Added cross-classification of ICD-10-CM diagnosis code K91.83, Postprocedural hepatorenal syndrome, to the CCSR categories DIG019 (Other specified and unspecified liver disease), and GEN002 (Acute and unspecified renal failure)

[28] Please note that with the publication of the Final Rule for the inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) for fiscal year 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services releases ICD-10-CM/PCS code updates twice a year (every April 1 and October 1). However, there were no new ICD-10-CM codes that became effective on April 1, 2024.

[29] Please note that with the publication of the Final Rule for the inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) for fiscal year 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services releases ICD-10-CM/PCS code updates twice a year (every April 1 and October 1).

- Added cross-classification of ICD-10-CM diagnosis code K22.6, Gastro-esophageal laceration-hemorrhage syndrome, to the CCSR category DIG021 (Gastrointestinal hemorrhage)
- Added cross-classification of ICD-10-CM diagnosis code K31.82, Dieulafoy lesion (hemorrhagic) of stomach and duodenum, to the CCSR category DIG021 (Gastrointestinal hemorrhage)

- v2023.1 (released November 2022)
  - Added ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes valid starting in FY 2023 so the tool now includes all ICD-10-CM codes valid from October 2015 through September 2023, including three ICD-10-CM codes that became effective April 2022 for reporting COVID-19 vaccination status:[30]
    - Z28.310, Unvaccinated for COVID-19
    - Z28.311, Partially vaccinated for COVID-19
    - Z28.39, Other under immunization status
  - Added a new body system, Dental Diseases (DEN), which includes three CCSR categories. A total of 657 ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes are identified as a dental condition and cross-referenced to at least one of the three new CCSR categories:
    - DEN001: Any dental condition including traumatic injury
    - DEN002: Nontraumatic dental conditions
    - DEN003: Caries, periodontitis, and other preventable dental conditions
  - Changed the mapping of ICD-10-CM diagnosis code Z79.890, Hormone replacement therapy, to the CCSR category FAC025, Other specified status, instead of the CCSR category GEN023, Menopausal disorders, because this diagnosis code (Z79.890) includes hormone therapy without specification of a particular condition.
  - Certain ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes indicating a postpartum or puerperal complication are mapped consistently to PRG027, Complications specified during the puerperium, as well as to the applicable non-PRG CCSR category that represents the complication. In all cases, both the inpatient and outpatient default CCSR category is PRG027.
  - Aligned (added, deleted and revised) the mapping of new FY 2023 diagnosis codes in the injury and external cause of morbidity CCSR categories to be consistent with the planned updates to the ICD-10-CM Injury Diagnosis Framework for Categorizing Injuries by Body Region and Nature of Injury and the

[30] Please note that with the publication of the Final Rule for the inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) for fiscal year 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services releases ICD-10-CM/PCS code updates twice a year (every April 1 and October 1). ICD-10-CM codes that became effective on April 1, 2023, are not included in v2023.1.

ICD-10-CM External Cause-of-Injury Framework for Categorizing Mechanism and Intent of Injury.

- v2022.1 (released October 2021)
  - Added ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes valid starting in fiscal year (FY) 2022 so the tool now includes all ICD-10-CM codes valid from October 2015 through September 2022
  - Renamed the following two CCSR categories to clarify the difference between the two categories
    - NVS006 is now entitled *Other nervous system disorders (often hereditary or degenerative)*
    - NVS020 is now entitled *Other nervous system disorders (neither hereditary nor degenerative)*
  - Moved ICD-10-CM codes related to Parkinsonism from NVS004 *Parkinson's disease* to NVS006 *Other nervous system disorders (often hereditary or degenerative)*
  - Aligned (added, deleted and revised) the mapping of new FY 2022 diagnosis codes in the injury and external cause of morbidity CCSR categories to be consistent with the ICD-10-CM Injury Diagnosis Framework for Categorizing Injuries by Body Region and Nature of Injury and the ICD-10-CM External Cause-of-Injury Framework for Categorizing Mechanism and Intent of Injury and the associated updates for FY 2022.

- v2021.2 (released March 2021)
  - Added six codes related to COVID-19 that became effective January 1, 2021.
  - Aligned the mapping of diagnosis codes in the injury and external cause of morbidity CCSR categories with the finalized 2020 ICD-10-CM Injury Diagnosis Framework for Categorizing Injuries by Body Region and Nature of Injury and the ICD-10-CM External Cause-of-Injury Framework for Categorizing Mechanism and Intent of Injury (Updated October 2020).
  - Updated mapping of default CCSR category for the principal and first-listed diagnosis when the diagnosis is unacceptable as a principal or first-listed diagnosis.
  - Includes ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes valid from October 2015 through September 2021.

- v2021.1 (released October 2020)
  - Added ICD-10-CM codes valid through September 2021
  - Added the identification of a default category for the first-listed diagnosis in outpatient data
  - Synchronized the identification of the principal diagnosis for inpatient data as unacceptable with the Medicare Code Edits v38.0 R1.

    - Aligned the identification of the first-listed diagnosis for outpatient data as unacceptable (default category XXX111) with the ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines for fiscal year 2021.[31]
    - Cross-referenced codes for poisoning by ecstasy with hallucinogen-related disorders

- v2020.3 (released May 2020)
    - Added new category for COVID-19 (total of 540 categories)
    - Added ICD-10-CM code for vaping-related disorder
    - Includes ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes valid from October 2015 through September 2020

- v2020.2 (released February 2020)
    - Added new category for back pain (total of 539 categories)
    - Added the assignment of the default CCSR for the principal diagnosis in inpatient data
    - Aligned the mapping of diagnosis codes into CCSR categories for injuries with the Proposed Framework for Presenting Injury Data Using ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes and the ICD-10-CM External Cause-of-Injury Framework for Categorizing Mechanism and Intent of Injury (Updated December 2019)
    - Includes ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes valid from October 2015 through September 2020

- v2020.1 (released October 2019)
    - Added ICD-10-CM codes valid through September 2020

- v2019.1 (released September 2019)
    - Includes 538 categories
    - Includes ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes valid from October 2015 through September 2019.

[31] Please see ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2021 for additional details.

APPENDIX B: COMPARISON OF THE CCSR FOR ICD-10-CM DIAGNOSES, THE BETA VERSIONS OF THE CCS FOR ICD-10-CM, AND THE CCS FOR ICD-9-CM

There are several differences to note across the HCUP ICD-based diagnosis classification software: the CCSR for ICD-10-CM diagnoses, the beta versions of the CCS for ICD-10-CM diagnoses, and the CCS for ICD-9-CM diagnoses. Table B.1 summarizes key differences. Additional details are provided in the following report available on the CCSR page of the HCUP-US website:

- *Comparison of the CCSR for ICD-10-CM diagnosis, v2019.1, to the beta version of the CCS for ICD-10-CM diagnosis, v2019.1*
- Companion Microsoft Excel file with comparisons by category and individual ICD-10-CM diagnosis code.

Table B.1. Differences Among the CCSR for ICD-10-CM v2027.1, Beta Versions of the CCS for ICD-10-CM, and CCS for ICD-9-CM

CCSR for ICD-10-CM Diagnoses v2027.1	Beta Versions of the CCS for ICD-10-CM Diagnoses	CCS for ICD-9-CM Diagnoses
More than 75,000 ICD-10-CM codes are categorized into 555 categories	More than 70,000 ICD-10-CM codes are categorized into 283 categories	More than 14,000 ICD-9-CM codes are categorized into 283 categories
Valid for ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes from October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2027 (v2027.1) and updated annually for each fiscal year update to ICD-10-CM codes	Valid for ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes from October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2019 (v2019.1). Not updated for ICD-10-CM codes effective after September 2019.	Valid for ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes through September 30, 2015
Capitalizes on the specificity of ICD-10-CM coding by creating new clinical categories that did not previously exist	Uses the same categories as previously available under CCS for ICD-9-CM diagnoses	283 CCS diagnosis and external cause of injury categories beginning in fiscal year 2008 after the CCS for Mental Health and Substance Use categories were permanently integrated into the CCS tool
Categories are organized into 22 body systems, generally following the chapters of the ICD-10-CM Code Book[32]	Uses the same categories and order as previously available under CCS for ICD-9-CM diagnoses	Categories are ordered to generally follow the chapters of the ICD-9-CM Code Book across 17 chapters plus two supplementary classifications

[32] AHIMA Press/Decision Health, ed. ICD-10-CM Code Book, 2027. Chicago, IL: American Health Information Management Association; 2026.

CCSR for ICD-10-CM Diagnoses v2027.1	Beta Versions of the CCS for ICD-10-CM Diagnoses	CCS for ICD-9-CM Diagnoses
Each ICD-10-CM code **maps to one or more** CCSR categories	Each ICD-10-CM code maps to one CCS category	Each ICD-9-CM code maps to one CCS category
Codes mapped to multiple CCSR categories include the assignment of a default CCSR for the principal diagnosis in inpatient data (starting with v2020.2) and for the first-listed diagnosis in outpatient data (starting in v2021.1)	Mutually exclusive categories facilitate ranking principal diagnoses categories	Mutually exclusive categories facilitate ranking principal diagnoses categories
No multi-level system with additional diagnostic specificity has been developed	Multi-level system with additional diagnostic specificity available for up to two levels	Multi-level system with additional diagnostic specificity available for up to four levels
SAS® programming code available. Comma separated values (CSV) mapping file available for use with other programming languages	SAS programming code available. CSV mapping file available for use with other programming languages	SAS and Stata® programming code available. CSV mapping file available for use with other programming languages
Allows users the flexibility to choose between output files structured horizontally or vertically. The vertical file structure improves storage efficiency.	Horizontal output only, one CCS data element for every diagnosis code.	Horizontal output only, one CCS data element for every diagnosis code.

Abbreviations: CCS, Clinical Classifications Software; CCSR, Clinical Classification Software Refined; CSV, comma separated values; ICD-9-CM, International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification; ICD-10-CM, International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification.

The AHRQ HCUP CCSR tool incorporates ICD-10-CM coding specificity by creating clinical categories not available in previous versions of the tool. The CCSR has nearly twice as many categories as the beta versions of the CCS for ICD-10-CM. All 22 body systems under the CCSR for ICD-10-CM have additional clinical categories as compared with the beta versions of the CCS, with the largest increases occurring in the *Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes* and *Neoplasms* body systems. Table B.2 shows the number of CCSR categories and the number of CCS categories in the beta versions for ICD-10-CM for each body system.

Table B.2 Number of CCSR and CCS (Beta Versions) Categories by Body System

Three-Character Body System Abbreviation	ICD-10-CM Body System Description	CCSR Categories, v2027.1	Beta Version CCS Categories, v2019.1
BLD	Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism	10	6
CIR	Diseases of the circulatory system	39	26
DEN	Dental diseases	3	NA
DIG	Diseases of the digestive system	25	20
EAR	Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	6	3
END	Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	17	11
EXT	External causes of morbidity	30	21
EYE	Diseases of the eye and adnexa	12	6
FAC	Factors influencing health status and contact with health services	31	6
GEN	Diseases of the genitourinary system	26	20
INF	Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	12	10
INJ	Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	76	20
MAL	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	10	5
MBD	Mental, behavioral and neurodevelopmental disorders	32	15
MUS	Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	38	12
NEO	Neoplasms	78	37
NVS	Diseases of the nervous system	22	11
PNL	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	15	7
PRG	Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	30	21

Three-Character Body System Abbreviation	ICD-10-CM Body System Description	CCSR Categories, v2027.1	Beta Version CCS Categories, v2019.1
RSP	Diseases of the respiratory system	17	13
SKN	Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	7	4
SYM	Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	19	9

Abbreviations: CCS, Clinical Classifications Software; CCSR, Clinical Classifications Software Refined; ICD-10-CM, International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification; NA, not applicable
Source: CCSR for ICD-10-CM diagnoses, v2027.1 and beta version of the CCS for ICD-10-CM diagnoses, v2019.1

APPENDIX C: DEFAULT CCSR FOR THE PRINCIPAL DIAGNOSIS IN INPATIENT DATA

Introduction

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has created a supplemental default categorization scheme for the CCSR that can be used in analyses of the principal diagnosis in inpatient data (starting with v2020.2). Under this default categorization scheme, each ICD-10-CM diagnosis code is assigned to a mutually exclusive category. In general, the default assignment is based on ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines,[33] clinical input on the etiology and pathology of diseases, coding input on the use of and ordering of ICD-10-CM codes on a billing record, and standards set by other Federal agencies.

During development of the default category assignments, the same clinical review team that made the initial CCSR category assignment recommendations provided clinical recommendations on assigning a default category. The group recommended potential assignment rules (referred to as rationales) and reviewed which rationale would apply to the cross-classified ICD-10-CM codes. After thorough discussion, the group decided on a final set and ordering of rationales. Users may choose to assign different default CCSR categories for ICD-10-CM codes, based on their own needs and preferences. It is not recommended that this default categorization scheme be used for other applications such as analyses based on all-listed diagnoses on a billing record, risk adjustment, and the identification of comorbidities. For these analyses, AHRQ recommends using the cross-classified CCSR categories.

The default CCSR categorizations are part of the CSV mapping file beginning with v2020.2 of the CCSR for ICD-10-CM diagnoses. The guidelines for determining the default CCSR are ordered in a hierarchical fashion. If a code does not fit the first rationale, then the next rationale is considered, and so forth until an appropriate rationale is determined. The default categorizations chosen by AHRQ will not apply to all situations. Users may choose to assign different default CCSR categories for ICD-10-CM codes that are cross-classified, based on their own reporting purpose, research design, study purpose, or clinical preferences.

The selection of a default CCSR for the principal diagnosis is not applicable in two instances. First, there are ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes that are not to be reported as a principal diagnosis according to ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines[34] and the Medicare Code Edits.[35] Second, for diagnosis codes assigned to only one CCSR category, the default CCSR is the same as the

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[33] Please see ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2027 (https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2027-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf) for additional details.

[34] Please see ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2027 (https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2027-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf) for additional details.

[35] Please see the Medicare Coding Edits for additional details.

assigned category. In this case, the rationale is not applicable. Table C.1 enumerates the number of ICD-10-CM codes by the type of default CCSR assignment.

Table C.1. Type of Default CCSR Assignment by Number of ICD-10-CM Codes, v2027.1

Type of ICD-10-CM Code in CCSR	Number of ICD-10-CM Codes (Percent of Total)
All ICD-10-CM codes through FY 2027	75,915 (100%)
Codes that are unacceptable as a principal diagnosis (according to ICD-10-CM coding guidelines and the Medicare Code Edits, v44.0 October 2026)	10,854 (14.3%)
Codes classified by only one CCSR category (and the code is a valid principal diagnosis)	58,929 (77.6%)
Codes classified into a default CCSR category for the principal diagnosis	6132 (8.1%)

Abbreviation: CCSR, Clinical Classifications Software Refined; ICD-10-CM, International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision, Clinical Modification; FY, fiscal year.
Source: CCSR for ICD-10-CM diagnoses, v2027.1

Codes with a Default CCSR of Unacceptable Principal Diagnosis

With each fiscal year update to the CCSR for ICD-10-CM, the Medicare Code Edits designation of ICD-10-CM codes that are unacceptable as a principal diagnosis is applied to the tool. These codes have a default categorization of XXX000. Included in this group are the following:

- External causes of morbidity codes (i.e., codes beginning with V00–Y99)
- Underdosing codes (i.e., codes beginning with T36–T50 with fifth or sixth character “6”)
- Adverse effects codes (i.e., codes beginning with T36–T50 with fifth or sixth character “5”)
- Manifestation codes that describe the manifestation of the underlying disease, but not the disease itself (e.g., anemia in neoplastic diseases),
- Diagnoses that describe an individual’s health status but not a current illness or injury (e.g., outcome of delivery codes beginning with Z37)
- Codes specifying body mass index (BMI), coma scale, and National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS)
- Z codes for persons with potential health hazards related to socioeconomic and psychosocial circumstances (i.e., codes beginning with Z55–Z65).

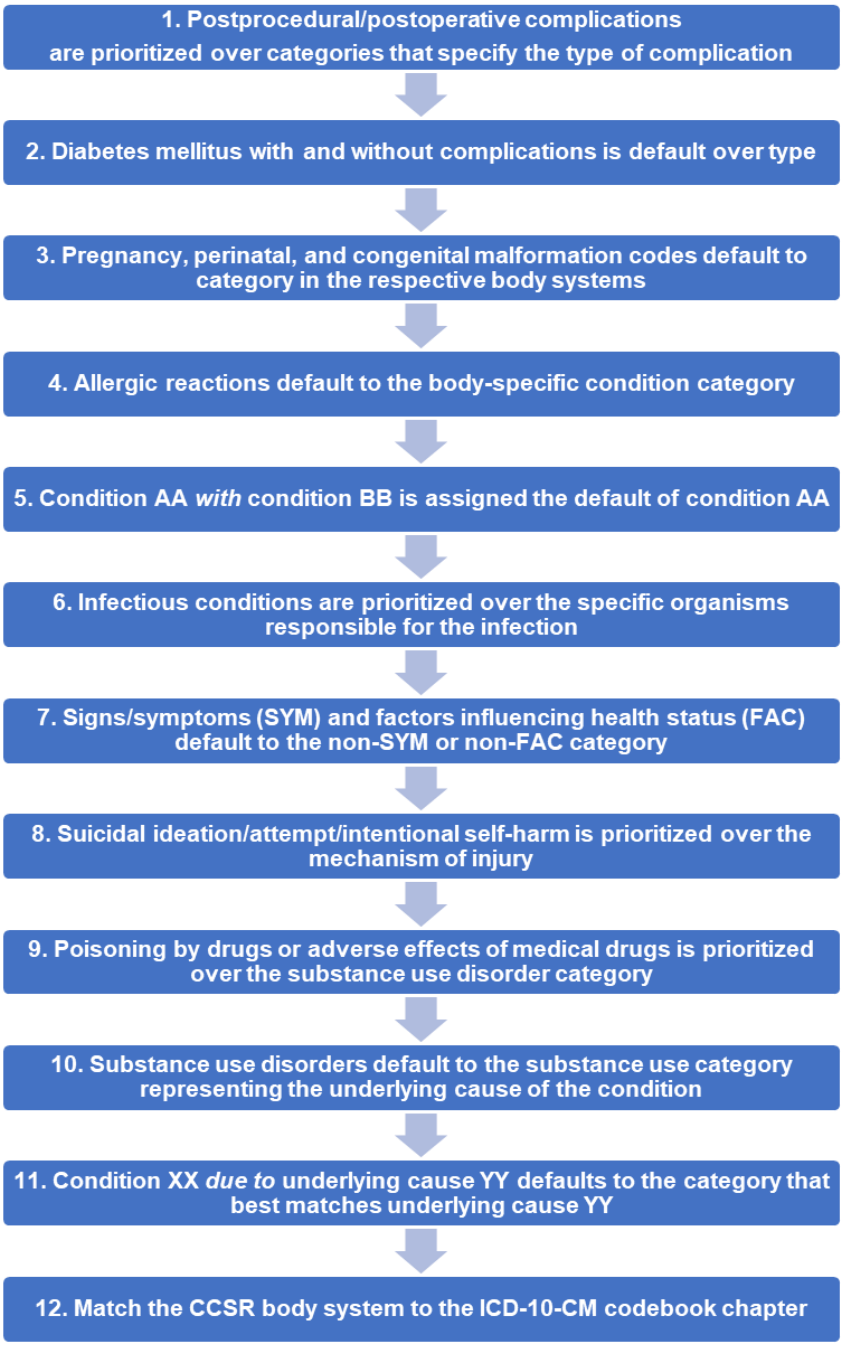
It should be noted that the Medicare Code Edit list was greatly expanded for fiscal year 2018 (starting October 2017). Prior to then, codes such as the following could be a principal diagnosis: manifestations of the underlying disease, adverse effects, underdosing, and screening for mental health, depression, developmental delays, and autism. Also starting in October 2017, the coding rules for sepsis changed. ICD-10-CM diagnosis code R65.2, Severe sepsis, and T81.12, Postprocedural septic shock, are not allowed as a principal diagnosis.

Instead, the code for the systemic infection is to be sequenced first with the sepsis code as a secondary diagnosis.

Guidelines for Determining the Default CCSR for the Principal Diagnosis

The guidelines are ordered in a hierarchical fashion. If a code does not fit the first rationale, then the next rationale is considered, and so forth until an appropriate rationale is determined. Figure C.1 provides an overview of the guidelines followed by a detailed description of each guideline.

Figure C.1. Hierarchical Guidelines for Assignment of Default CCSR for the Principal Diagnosis



1. **Postprocedural or postoperative complications are prioritized over categories that specify the type of complication:** Codes mapped to a postprocedural or postoperative complication category, default to the postprocedural CCSR categories over other categories that specify the type of complicating condition. For example, the ICD-10-CM code for postprocedural hypothyroidism has the default CCSR of END014 (Postprocedural or postoperative endocrine or metabolic complication) instead of END001 Thyroid disorders. Similarly, priority is given to categories that identify the underlying cause of a condition as being due to or related to neoplasms or the treatment of neoplasms. For example, the ICD-10-CM code for anemia in neoplastic disease has the default CCSR NEO074 (Conditions due to neoplasm or the treatment of neoplasm) instead of BLD003 (Aplastic anemia).

2. **Diabetes mellitus with and without complications is default over type of diabetes:** END002 (Diabetes mellitus without complication) or END003 (Diabetes mellitus with complication) are the default categories when cross-classified with END004-END006 (Diabetes mellitus, Type 1; Diabetes mellitus, Type 2; Diabetes mellitus, due to underlying condition, drug or chemical induced, or other specified type). For example, diagnoses for diabetes that specify the diabetic complication and Type 1 diabetes have the default CCSR END003 (Diabetes mellitus with complication) instead of END004 (Diabetes mellitus, Type 1).

3. **Pregnancy, perinatal, and congenital malformation codes default to category in the respective body systems:** Codes in the *Pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium*, *Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period*, and *Congenital malformations, deformations,* and *chromosomal abnormalities* body systems (i.e., PRG, PNL, or MAL), default to a category in those respective body systems when cross-classified with any of the other body systems. For example, diagnoses for pre-existing hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease complicating pregnancy have the default CCSR PRG020 (Hypertension and hypertensive-related conditions complicating pregnancy; childbirth; and the puerperium) instead of CIR008 (Hypertension with complications and secondary hypertension).

4. **Allergic reactions default to the body-specific condition category:** Codes cross-classified to INJ031 (Allergic reactions), default to the body-specific condition category and not to allergic reactions. For example, the ICD-10-CM code for allergic contact dermatitis due to metals has the default CCSR SKN005 (Contact dermatitis) instead of INJ031 (Allergic reactions).

5. **Condition AA *with* condition BB is assigned the default of condition AA:** In general, code descriptions of “Condition AA *with* condition BB” follow a pattern that the underlying cause is listed as condition AA and the manifestation of that underlying cause is listed as condition BB. Therefore, in most cases, the default categorization priority is given to the category that best matches condition AA. For example, the ICD-10-CM code for acute gastric ulcer with perforation has the default CCSR DIG005 (Gastroduodenal ulcer) instead of DIG006 (Gastrointestinal and biliary perforation).

There are some exceptions to the implementation of this guideline in the default categorization assignments. In certain cases, the manifestation listed as condition BB was far more severe relative to the underlying cause listed as condition AA. Alternatively, condition AA could be a chronic condition stably controlled for a large proportion of the population and condition BB more obviously indicates the acute reason for hospital care. For example, despite being listed as condition BB, CIR019 (Heart failure) and GEN003 (Chronic kidney disease) are both default categories over CIR008 (Hypertension with complications and secondary hypertension). Similarly, CIR020 (Cerebral infarction) is the default category over NVS010 (Headache; including migraine).

For codes that begin with M05, rheumatoid arthritis is considered the underlying cause of the conditions even though it is listed as condition BB. For these codes, MUS003 (Rheumatoid arthritis and related disease) is the default CCSR category in all cases.

6. **Infectious conditions are prioritized over the specific organisms responsible for the infection:** Infectious conditions are prioritized over the specific organisms responsible for the infection. Therefore, INF002 (Septicemia), INF007 (Hepatitis), and DIG001 (Intestinal infection) are default categories when cross-classified to another category in the *Certain infectious and parasitic diseases* body system (INF). For example, ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes for sepsis due to streptococcus (codes beginning with A40) have the default CCSR INF002 (Septicemia) instead of INF003 (Bacterial infections).

   ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes for infections with a predominantly sexual mode of transmission (codes starting with A50-A64) default to INF010 (Sexually transmitted infections) due to the importance of tracking from a public health perspective unless the condition is congenital or likely an infection of a newborn acquired from the mother at birth. CCSR INF007 (Hepatitis) is also the default category over CCSR MBD017 (Alcohol-related disorders) because codes cross-classified into these categories specify that an additional code should be used to specify alcohol abuse and dependence.

7. **Signs/symptoms and factors influencing health status default to the other category:** Codes cross-classified to a category in the *Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified* (SYM) body system or *Factors influencing health status and contact with health services* (FAC) body system as well as a category in another body system, default to the non-SYM or non-FAC category, respectively. For example, the diagnosis for drug induced fever has the default CCSR of INJ030 (Drug induced or toxic related condition) instead of SYM002 (Fever).

8. **Suicidal ideation/attempt/intentional self-harm is prioritized over the mechanism of injury:** Codes identifying suicidal attempt/intentional self-harm (i.e., mapped to MBD012 or MBD027), default to those categories. These hospital encounters are critical to track accurately and are undercounted historically. For example, the ICD-10-CM diagnosis code T40.1X2A, Poisoning by heroin, intentional self-harm, initial encounter,

has the default CCSR MBD012 (Suicidal ideation/attempt/intentional self-harm) instead of INJ022 (Poisoning by drugs, initial encounter).

9. **Poisoning by drugs or adverse effects of medical drugs is prioritized over the substance use disorder category:** Codes mapped to both a poisoning or adverse effects category in the *Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes* body system (INJ022, INJ028, INJ059, or INJ065) as well as a substance use disorder category in the *Mental, behavioral, and neurodevelopmental disorder* body system (MBD018-MBD025, MBD028-MBD033), default to the poisoning or adverse effects categories to align with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention categorizations. For example, the ICD-10-CM diagnosis code T41.0X5A, Adverse effect of inhaled anesthetics, initial encounter, has the default CCSR of INJ028 (Adverse effects of drugs and medicaments, initial encounter) instead of MBD023 (Inhalant-related disorders).

10. **Substance use disorders default to the substance use category representing the underlying cause of the condition:** Codes mapped to both a substance use disorder category (MBD018-MBD025) and another category, default to the substance use category representing the underlying cause of the condition. The substance use category captures the underlying cause (e.g., opioids, alcohol, stimulants) and the other category captures the manifestation (e.g., delusions, hallucinations, anxiety). For example, the ICD-10-CM diagnosis code F12.180, Cannabis abuse with cannabis-induced anxiety disorder, has the default CCSR MBD019 (Cannabis-related disorders) instead of MBD005 (Anxiety and fear-related disorders).

11. **Condition XX *due to* underlying cause YY defaults to the category that best matches underlying cause YY:** In general, code descriptions of "Condition XX *due to* YY" follow a pattern that the underlying cause is listed as YY (i.e., after the "due to") and the manifestation of that underlying cause is listed as condition XX. Therefore, in most cases, the default categorization priority is given to the category that best matches underlying cause YY. For example, the ICD-10-CM diagnosis code D61.2, Aplastic anemia due to other external agents, has the default CCSR INJ030 (Drug induced or toxic related condition) instead of BLD003 (Aplastic anemia).

    Similarly, codes describing conditions as "drug-induced" default to category INJ030 (Drug induced or toxic related conditions). When a code is cross classified into both MUS011 (Spondylopathies/spondyloarthropathy) and MUS038 (Low back pain), MUS011 is the default because the underlying cause takes precedence over the manifestation.

12. **Match the CCSR body system to the ICD-10-CM Code Book chapter:** This guideline for choosing a default category covers any remaining cases where the code is assigned to CCSR categories in at least 2 different body systems and can be separated into three scenarios.

    a. **Only one CCSR category matches the ICD-10-CM Code Book chapter:** In most of these cases, the default category assignment matches the ICD-10-CM Code Book chapter of the diagnosis code. ICD-10-CM Code Book chapter is determined by the first character (or sometimes the first and second characters) of the code. Code ranges and CCSR body system abbreviations for each chapter are listed in Table C.2.
    b. **Exception to match the CCSR body system to the ICD-10-CM Code Book chapter:** There are a small number of cases in which the body system category from the nonmatching ICD-10-CM Code Book chapter captures the clinical intent of the codes in question better than the category with a matching body system. These exceptions are listed in Table C.3.
    c. **More than one CCSR category matches the ICD-10-CM Code Book chapter:** If there is more than one CCSR category that matches the ICD-10-CM Code Book chapter, the code was reviewed by clinicians to determine which potential category was most appropriate to set as the default for the code in question.

Table C.2. ICD-10-CM Code Book Chapters Organization and CCSR Abbreviations

ICD-10-CM Code Book Chapter	Code Range of First Three Characters	CCSR Body System Abbreviation
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	A00–B99	INF
Neoplasms	C00–D49	NEO
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism	D50–D89	BLD
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	E00–E89	END
Mental, behavioral and neurodevelopmental disorders	F01–F99	MBD
Diseases of the nervous system	G00–G99	NVS
Diseases of the eye and adnexa	H00–H59	EYE
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	H60–H95	EAR
Diseases of the circulatory system	I00–I99	CIR
Diseases of the respiratory system	J00–J99	RSP
Diseases of the digestive system	K00–K95	DIG
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	L00–L99	SKN
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	M00–M99	MUS
Diseases of the genitourinary system	N00–N99	GEN
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	O00–O9A	PRG
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	P00–P96	PNL
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	Q00–Q99	MAL
Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, NEC	R00–R99	SYM
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	S00–T88	INJ
External causes of morbidity	V00–Y99	EXT
Factors influencing health status and contact with health services	Z00–Z99	FAC

Abbreviations: CCSR, Clinical Classifications Software Refined; ICD-10-CM, International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification.

Table C.3. Exceptions to Guideline 12 to Default to the Matching ICD-10-CM Code Book Chapter

ICD-10-CM Code	ICD-10-CM Code Description	Default CCSR Category	Default CCSR Category Description	CCSR Category Matching ICD-10-CM Code Book Chapter	CCSR Category Description Matching ICD-10-CM Code Book Chapter	Other CCSR Category	Other CCSR Category 2 Description
E28310	Symptomatic premature menopause	GEN023	Menopausal disorders	END015	Other specified and unspecified endocrine disorders	GEN024	Female infertility
E28319	Asymptomatic premature menopause	GEN023	Menopausal disorders	END015	Other specified and unspecified endocrine disorders	GEN024	Female infertility
G980	Neurogenic arthritis, not elsewhere classified	MUS032	Neurogenic/ neuropathic arthropathy	NVS020	Other specified nervous system disorders	None	None
K317	Polyp of stomach and duodenum	NEO073	Benign neoplasms	DIG008	Other specified and unspecified disorders of stomach and duodenum	None	None
Q860	Fetal alcohol syndrome (dysmorphic)	PNL015	Fetal alcohol syndrome	MAL010	Other specified and unspecified congenital anomalies	None	None

Abbreviations: CCSR, Clinical Classifications Software Refined; ICD-10-CM, International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification.

APPENDIX D: DEFAULT CCSR FOR THE FIRST-LISTED DIAGNOSIS IN OUTPATIENT DATA

This appendix provides information on the ICD-10-CM guidelines on the coding of diagnoses on outpatient data and discusses differences that might affect the AHRQ HCUP CCSR assignment.

Background on the Coding of the First-Listed Diagnosis in Outpatient Data

Section IV of the ICD-10-CM Guidelines for Coding and Reporting is specific to Diagnostic Coding and Reporting Guidelines for Outpatient Services.[36] These guidelines specify the following:

- In the outpatient setting, the term first-listed diagnosis is used in lieu of principal diagnosis (Section IV.A).
- List first the ICD-10-CM code for the diagnosis, condition, problem, or other reason for encounter/visit shown in the medical record to be chiefly responsible for the services provided. List additional codes that describe any coexisting conditions. In some cases, the first-listed diagnosis may be a symptom when a diagnosis has not been established (confirmed) by the provider (Section IV.G).
- Do not code diagnoses documented as "probable", "suspected," "questionable," "rule out," "compatible with," "consistent with," or "working diagnosis" or other similar terms indicating uncertainty. Rather, code the condition(s) to the highest degree of certainty for that encounter/visit, such as symptoms, signs, abnormal test results, or other reason for the visit (Section IV.H).
    - Codes that describe symptoms and signs are in Chapter 18: Symptoms, Signs, and Abnormal Clinical and Laboratory Findings Not Elsewhere Classified codes (ICD-10-CM Code Book)
    - Codes for encounters for circumstances other than a disease or injury are Chapter 21: Factors Influencing Health Status and Contact with Health Services (ICD-10-CM Code Book).

Emergency Department Data

We consider the possible impact of the following coding guidelines on emergency department (ED) data:

- List first the ICD-10-CM code for the diagnosis, condition, problem, or other reason for encounter/visit shown in the medical record to be chiefly responsible for the services provided:

[36] Please see ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2027 (https://www.cms.gov/files/doc ument/fy-2027-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf) for additional details.

- Because of this coding guideline, the first-listed diagnosis may or may not be indicative of the underlying cause for medical care.

- For example, consider a patient who goes to the ED because of a bad fall. Evaluation in the ED might include imaging of multiple body regions, revealing an arm fracture that requires casting. The evaluation might also determine that the fall was caused by gait instability due to chronic leg weakness.
  - The first-listed diagnosis on the ED record would be a fall diagnosis, since the fall led to a set of imaging procedures and other evaluations for fall-related injuries. The underlying medical cause (e.g., gait instability), would not be assigned in the first-listed position, because it was not chiefly responsible for the services provided in the ED.
- In contrast, if the underlying cause was determined to be a stroke, the patient would be admitted to the hospital, and the inpatient principal diagnosis would be stroke, since that is the condition that was established after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning the admission of the patient to the hospital for care.

- Do not code diagnoses documented as “probable”, “suspected,” “questionable,” “rule out,” “compatible with,” “consistent with,” or “working diagnosis” or other similar terms indicating uncertainty.
  - Because of this coding guideline, the diagnoses on the ED records will not list a suspected diagnosis, such as COVID-19.
  - For example, consider a patient who goes to the ED with flu-like symptoms and is given a test to determine the type of influenza (e.g., influenza B, COVID-19). The patient is discharged and sent home to wait for the test results. In this case, the diagnoses listed on the ED record would reflect the symptoms the patient was exhibiting.

Default CCSR Category on Emergency Department Data

The default CCSR assignment for the first-listed diagnosis on an outpatient record can be used with ED data. There are limitations to this approach. The first limitation is based on the fact that the criteria used to identify the default CCSR category is from inpatient coding guidelines. The second limitation is about one-quarter of ED visits have a nonspecific first-listed diagnosis that is from Chapter 18: Symptoms, Signs and Abnormal Clinical and Laboratory Findings, Not Elsewhere Classified (ICD-10-CM Code Book) or Chapter 21: Factors Influencing Health Status and Contact with Health Services (ICD-10-CM Code Book). These two limitations are discussed in more detail with examples from the 99.1 million records in the 2017 HCUP State Emergency Department Databases (SEDD) from 37 States.

The selection of the default CCSR is based on inpatient coding guidelines that assume there has been sufficient time and testing to determine a definitive diagnosis. Examples include the following:

- The first-listed diagnosis is M51.116, Intervertebral disc disorders with radiculopathy, lumbar region. This diagnosis is mapped to two CCSR categories: MUS011 (Spondylopathies/spondyloarthropathy) and MUS038 (Low back pain). The default is CCSR MUS011 (Spondylopathies/spondyloarthropathy). To identify that the patient had back pain, you would need to consider all possible CCSR categories.
- The first-listed diagnosis is E10.10, Type 1 diabetes mellitus with ketoacidosis without coma. This diagnosis is mapped to two CCSR categories: END003 (Diabetes mellitus with complication) and END004 (Diabetes mellitus, Type 1). The default is CCSR END003 (Diabetes mellitus with complication). To identify that the patient had Type I diabetes, you would need to consider all possible CCSR categories.

If the first-listed diagnosis is a symptom code in the range R00-R99 or a code for factors influencing health status in the range of Z00-Z99, there may be acute or chronic diagnoses reported as another diagnosis that provides helpful information for understanding the reason for the ED visit. Examples from the 2017 SEDD with the number of occurrences include the following:

- The first-listed diagnosis is R50.9, Fever, and a secondary diagnosis is B34.9, Unspecified viral infection (N=29,700 of 99.1M SEDD records)
- The first-listed diagnosis is R05, Cough and a secondary diagnosis is J06.9, Acute upper respiratory infection (N=5,500 of 99.1M SEDD records)
- The first-listed diagnosis is R07.9, Unspecified chest pain and a secondary diagnosis is I25.10, Chronic ischemic heart disease without angina pectoris (N=1,000 of 99.1M SEDD records).

Unfortunately, you cannot assume that any acute or chronic listed as a secondary diagnosis would take precedence over the first-listed symptom code. Examples from the 2017 SEDD include the following:

- The first-listed diagnosis is R07.9, Unspecified chest pain and a secondary diagnosis is E11.9, Type 2 diabetes mellitus without complications (N=2,900 of 99.1M SEDD records)
- The first-listed diagnosis is R19.7, Unspecified diarrhea and a secondary diagnosis is L22, Diaper dermatitis (N=4,400 of 99.1M SEDD records)
- The first-listed diagnosis is Z48.00, Encounter for change or removal of nonsurgical wound dressing and a secondary diagnosis is I10, Essential (primary) hypertension (N=800 of 99.1M SEDD records).

Ambulatory Surgery Data

The guidelines for outpatient surgery records include the following:

- When a patient presents for outpatient surgery (same day surgery), code the reason for the surgery as the first-listed diagnosis (reason for the encounter), even if the surgery is not performed due to a contraindication (Section IV.A.1).

The default CCSR assignment for the first-listed diagnosis for outpatient data can be used with ambulatory surgery data.

Codes Identified as an Unacceptable First-Listed Diagnosis

There are ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes that are not to be reported as a first-listed diagnosis according to ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines.[37] These codes have a CCSR default classification of XXX111. Included in this group are the following:

- External causes of morbidity codes (i.e., codes beginning with V00–Y99)
- Underdosing codes (i.e., codes beginning with T36–T50 with fifth or sixth character "6")
- Manifestation codes that include "in diseases classified elsewhere in the description (e.g., disorders of endocrine glands in diseases classified elsewhere)
- Diagnoses for anemia or genetic susceptibility to neoplasms (e.g., code D630 for anemia in neoplastic diseases and codes starting with Z15 for genetic susceptibility to malignant neoplasms)
- Codes specifying body mass index (BMI), coma scale, and National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS)
- Z codes for persons with potential health hazards related to socioeconomic and psychosocial circumstances (i.e., codes beginning with Z55–Z65).

[37] Please see ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2027 (https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2027-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf) for additional details.

APPENDIX E. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REPORTING ON DIAGNOSES USING THE AHRQ HCUP CCSR FOR ICD-10-CM

The Uniform Hospital Discharge Data Set (UHDDS) defines the principal diagnosis in inpatient data as the condition established after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning the admission of the patient to the hospital for care.[38] The ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines provides additional information about determining the principal diagnosis:[39]

- Codes for symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions are not to be used as principal diagnosis when a related definitive diagnosis has been established
- When there are two or more interrelated conditions (such as diseases in the same ICD-10-CM chapter or manifestations characteristically associated with a certain disease) potentially meeting the definition of principal diagnosis, either condition may be sequenced first, unless the circumstances of the admission, the therapy provided, the Tabular List, or the Alphabetic Index indicate otherwise.

The ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines also provides information about determining the first-listed diagnosis in outpatient data:[40]

- For ED treat-and-release visits: condition, symptom, or problem identified in the medical record to be chiefly responsible for the ED services provided. In cases where the first-listed diagnosis is a symptom or problem, a diagnosis has not been established (confirmed) by the provider.
- For ambulatory surgeries: reason for the surgery.

Reporting the Number of Hospitalizations Using the CCSR for ICD-10-CM

It is advisable to report on number of hospitalizations using the CCSR for ICD-10-CM instead of individual ICD-10-CM codes to facilitate reporting by clinical concepts relevant for inpatient care, with the following considerations:

- Use the count based on either the default CCSR for the principal/first-list diagnosis or the all-listed CCSR for ICD-10-CM based on your analytic purpose. It is important to understand that which you are reporting and be sure the interpretation reflects what is reported.
    - If reporting by the default principal/first-listed CCSR, the count reflects hospitalizations specifically treated for the condition.

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[38] Core Health Data Elements: Report of the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics. Core Data Elements. (https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/core-health-data-elements-report-national-committee-vital-health-statistics)

[39] https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2027-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf Section II

[40] https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2027-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf Section IV

- If reporting by the all-listed diagnosis CCSRs, the count reflects the burden on the hospital for treating patients with this type of condition.
    - When using the all-listed CCSR, it is important to de-duplicate the record counts (i.e., if two ICD-10-CM codes on the same inpatient record map to the same CCSR category, then the record only should be counted once).

Table E.1 provides an example of how the number of inpatient stays can vary by diagnosis position of the CCSR. Two example CCSR categories are listed – PNL001 (Liveborn) and CIR008 (Hypertension with complications and secondary hypertension).

Table E.1. Variation in the Number of Inpatient Stays in the U.S. by CCSR Category Position

Location of CCSR Category	**Liveborn (CCSR PNL001)**	**Hypertension with Complications and Secondary Hypertension (CCSR CIR008)**
Principal diagnosis (default CCSR)	3,612,999	159,505
Any-listed diagnosis	3,616,084	8,000,976
Percent of records captured by the principal diagnosis CCSR	99.9%	2.0%

Source: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), National Inpatient Sample (NIS), 2018

There can be a significant difference in the number of inpatient stays when counting discharges within a CCSR by principal diagnosis versus any-listed diagnosis:

- For liveborn almost 100 percent of discharges have the diagnosis reported as a principal diagnosis. That is to be expected given that this is the reason for inpatient admission on a delivery record.
- For hypertension with complications and secondary hypertension, only 2 percent of U.S. discharges have the CCSR reported as a principal diagnosis. This makes sense given that the diagnosis codes in this CCSR are often secondary to an underlying condition that is the reason for the inpatient admission.

Reporting Utilization Statistics and Outcomes Using the CCSR for ICD-10-CM

When reporting utilization statistics (e.g., length of stay, total hospital charges, total hospital costs) or outcomes (e.g., in-hospital mortality rates, or hospital readmissions) for inpatient data, it is advisable to report by the default principal CCSR category because that reflects the condition responsible for the patient's admission. For outpatient data, it is also advisable to report by the default first-listed CCSR category because it reflects condition the chiefly responsible for the ED services provided.

Table E.2 provides an example of how resources and other outcomes can vary by diagnosis position based on CCSR END003 (Diabetes mellitus with complications).

Table E.2. Inpatient Stays Related to Diabetes Mellitus with Complications in the U.S. by Diagnosis Position

Location of CCSR Category	Weighted Number of Inpatient Stays in the U.S.	Average Length of Stay	Average Total Cost	In-Hospital Mortality Rate per 100 Discharges
Principal diagnosis	678,575	4.8	11,600	0.6
Only listed as a secondary diagnosis	4,668,675	6.0	16,400	3.3
Any-listed diagnosis	5,347,259	5.9	15,800	3.0

Source: Source: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), National Inpatient Sample (NIS), 2018

When diabetes with complications is a principal diagnosis, the average length of stay is 4.8 days, the average total cost is $11,600, and the in-hospital mortality rate per 100 discharges is 0.6. When diabetes is reported only as a secondary diagnosis, the number of hospitalizations increases almost seven-fold, and the in-hospital mortality rate is more than five times higher at 3.3. The average length of stay and average total cost are also higher at 6.0 days and $16,400, respectively.

The stays captured by using only a secondary diagnosis are very different than those captured by the principal diagnosis. When END003 (Diabetes mellitus with complications) is only a secondary diagnosis, the top five principal diagnosis CCSRs in the U.S. are:

- Septicemia (INF002)
- Heart failure (CIR019)
- Acute and unspecified renal failure (GEN002)
- Acute myocardial infarction (CIR009)
- Pneumonia (RSP002).

These cases are not representative of a typical stay in which a patient has come to the hospital for treatment of their diabetes; instead, the diabetes is a comorbidity.

APPENDIX F: CROSS-REFERENCING THE CDC INJURY AND EXTERNAL CAUSE MATRICES TO THE AHRQ HCUP CCSR FOR ICD-10-CM DIAGNOSES

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes frameworks designed to organize International Classification of Diseases (ICD) coded injury data into meaningful groupings. The matrices are developed specifically to facilitate national and international comparability in the presentation of injury statistics. Injuries are described in two ways:

- The Injury Mortality Diagnosis Matrix classifies ICD injury codes by the nature of injury (e.g., fracture, laceration) and the body region (e.g., head, torso).
- External Cause of Morbidity Matrix classifies ICD injury codes by mechanism (e.g., motor vehicle, fall, firearm, or poisoning) and intent (e.g., unintentional, homicide/assault, suicide/self–harm, or undetermined).

This section discusses the alignment of the CCSR injury (INJ) categories and external cause (EXT) categories with the CDC frameworks.

CDC Injury Mortality Diagnosis Matrix and the Corresponding CCSR Injury Categories

The CDC released a preliminary framework for classifying injuries with ICD-10-CM in 2016 and finalized the framework in 2020:

- Hedegaard H, Johnson RL, Warner M, et al. Proposed framework for presenting injury data using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification diagnosis codes. National health statistics reports; no 89. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2016. (https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr089.pdf)
- Hedegaard H, Johnson RL, Garnett MF, Thomas KE. The 2020 International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification injury diagnosis framework for categorizing injuries by body region and nature of injury. National Health Statistics Reports; no 150. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2020. (https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr150-508.pdf)

The injury (INJ) categories in the CCSR for ICD-10-CM were aligned with the CDC proposed framework starting with v2020.2 of the software tool. Initial and subsequent injuries are classified into CCSR categories by the nature of the injury (Table F.1). All codes indicating a sequela injury are classified into the CCSR category of INJ073 (Injury, sequela) regardless of the nature of injury.

The injury coding in the finalized CDC framework was incorporated starting with v2021.2 of the CCSR for ICD-10-CM. For the FY 2027 codes added in v2027.1 of the CCSR, the expected changes to the framework were implemented. The FY2027 code additions should be documented on the CDC website under Tools for Categorizing Injuries using ICD Codes in the near future.

Table F.1. CDC Nature of Injury by CCSR Category

CDC Nature of Injury	CCSR Category	CCSR Category Description
Amputation	INJ014	Amputation of a limb, initial encounter
	INJ015	Amputation of other body parts, initial encounter
	INJ051	Amputation of a limb, subsequent encounter
	INJ052	Amputation of other body parts, subsequent encounter
	INJ073	Injury, sequela
Blood vessel	INJ016	Injury to blood vessels, initial encounter
	INJ053	Injury to blood vessels, subsequent encounter
	INJ073	Injury, sequela
Burns	INJ019	Burn and corrosion, initial encounter
	INJ056	Burns and corrosion, subsequent encounter
	INJ073	Injury, sequela
Corrosions	INJ019	Burn and corrosion, initial encounter
	INJ056	Burns and corrosion, subsequent encounter
	INJ073	Injury, sequela
Crushing	INJ018	Crushing injury, initial encounter
	INJ055	Crushing injury, subsequent encounter
	INJ073	Injury, sequela
Dislocation	INJ007	Dislocations, initial encounter
	INJ044	Dislocations, subsequent encounter
	INJ073	Injury, sequela
Effect of foreign body entering orifice	INJ020	Effect of foreign body entering opening, initial encounter
	INJ057	Effect of foreign body entering opening, subsequent encounter
	INJ073	Injury, sequela

CDC Nature of Injury	CCSR Category	CCSR Category Description
Fracture	INJ001	Fracture of head and neck, initial encounter
	INJ002	Fracture of the spine and back, initial encounter
	INJ003	Fracture of torso, initial encounter
	INJ004	Fracture of the upper limb, initial encounter
	INJ005	Fracture of the lower limb (except hip), initial encounter
	INJ006	Fracture of the neck of the femur (hip), initial encounter
	INJ038	Fracture of head and neck, subsequent encounter
	INJ039	Fracture of the spine and back, subsequent encounter
	INJ040	Fracture of torso, subsequent encounter
	INJ041	Fracture of the upper limb, subsequent encounter
	INJ042	Fracture of lower limb (except hip), subsequent encounter
	INJ043	Fracture of the neck of the femur (hip), subsequent encounter
	INJ073	Injury, sequela
Internal organ injury	INJ008	Traumatic brain injury (TBI); concussion, initial encounter
	INJ009	Spinal cord injury (SCI), initial encounter
	INJ010	Internal organ injury, initial encounter
	INJ045	Traumatic brain injury (TBI); concussion, subsequent encounter
	INJ046	Spinal cord injury (SCI), subsequent encounter
	INJ047	Internal organ injury, subsequent encounter
	INJ073	Injury, sequela
Muscles and tendons	INJ025	Injury to nerves, muscles and tendons, initial encounter
	INJ062	Injury to nerves, muscles and tendons, subsequent encounter
	INJ073	Injury, sequela
Nerves	INJ025	Injury to nerves, muscles and tendons, initial encounter
	INJ062	Injury to nerves, muscles and tendons, subsequent encounter
	INJ073	Injury, sequela

CDC Nature of Injury	CCSR Category	CCSR Category Description
Open wound	INJ011	Open wounds of head and neck, initial encounter
	INJ012	Open wounds to limbs, initial encounter
	INJ013	Open wounds of trunk, initial encounter
	INJ048	Open wounds of head and neck, subsequent encounter
	INJ049	Open wounds to limbs, subsequent encounter
	INJ050	Open wounds of trunk, subsequent encounter
	INJ073	Injury, sequela
Other effects of external causes	INJ021	Effect of other external causes, initial encounter
	INJ058	Effect of other external causes, subsequent encounter
	INJ074	Effect of other external causes, sequela
	INJ032	Maltreatment/abuse, initial encounter (The categorization of maltreatment/abuse (initial and subsequent) is created for the CCSR to facilitate public reporting)
	INJ068	Maltreatment/abuse, subsequent encounter (The categorization of maltreatment/abuse (initial and subsequent) is created for the CCSR to facilitate public reporting)
Other injury	INJ026	Other specified injury, initial encounter
	INJ063	Other specified injury, subsequent encounter
	INJ073	Injury, sequela
Poisoning	INJ022	Poisoning by drugs, initial encounter
	INJ059	Poisoning by drugs, subsequent encounter
	INJ075	Poisoning/toxic effect/adverse effects/underdosing,
Sprains and strains	INJ024	Sprains and strains, initial encounter
	INJ061	Sprains and strains, subsequent encounter
	INJ073	Injury, sequela
Superficial and contusion	INJ017	Superficial injury; contusion, initial encounter
	INJ054	Superficial injury; contusion, subsequent encounter
	INJ073	Injury, sequela

CDC Nature of Injury	CCSR Category	CCSR Category Description
Toxic effects	INJ023	Toxic effects, initial encounter
	INJ060	Toxic effects, subsequent encounter
	INJ075	Poisoning/toxic effect/adverse effects/underdosing, sequela
Unspecified injury	INJ027	Other unspecified injury, initial encounters
	INJ064	Other unspecified injuries, subsequent encounter
	INJ073	Injury, sequela

Abbreviations: CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; CCSR, Clinical Classifications Software Refined.

CDC External Cause of Morbidity Mortality Diagnosis Matrix and the Corresponding CCSR External Cause Categories

The CDC released the framework for classifying external cause of morbidity codes in 2019 and updated the framework in October 2020:

- Hedegaard H, Johnson RL, Garnett MF, Thomas KE. The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD–10–CM) external cause-of-injury framework for categorizing mechanism and intent of injury. National Health Statistics Reports; no 136. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2019. (https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/injury/nhsr136-508.pdf)
- For October 2020 update is documented on the CDC website under Tools for Categorizing Injuries using ICD Codes. The page with the downloadable materials is https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/injury/tools/

The external cause (EXT) categories in the CCSR for ICD-10-CM were aligned with the CDC 2019 framework starting with v2020.2 of the software tool. Table F.2 lists the CCSR categories for intent and Table F.3 lists the CCSR categories for the mechanism of the injury. External cause of injury codes for the initial encounter are classified into separate CCSR categories. Regardless of the mechanism and intent, external cause codes for subsequent injuries are grouped into EXT029 (External cause codes: subsequent encounter) and external cause codes for sequela injuries are grouped into EXT030 (External cause codes: sequela).

The coding in the October 2020 update to the CDC framework was incorporated starting with v2021.2 of the CCSR for ICD-10-CM. For the FY2027 codes added in v2027.1 of the CCSR, the expected changes to the framework were implemented. The FY2027 code additions should be documented on the CDC website under Tools for Categorizing Injuries using ICD Codes in the near future.

Table F.2. CDC Injury Intent by CCSR Category

CDC Intent of Injury	CCSR Category	CCSR Category Description
Unintentional	EXT020	External cause codes: intent of injury, accidental/unintentional
Intentional self-harm	EXT021	External cause codes: intent of injury, self-harm
Assault	EXT022	External cause codes: intent of injury, assault
Undetermined	EXT023	External cause codes: intent of injury, undetermined
Legal intervention/ war operations	EXT024	External cause codes: intent of injury, legal intervention/war

Abbreviations: CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; CCSR, Clinical Classifications Software Refined.

Table F.3. CDC Injury Mechanism by CCSR Category

CDC Mechanism of Injury	CCSR Category	CCSR Category Description
Cut/pierce	EXT001	External cause codes: cut/pierce; initial encounter
Drowning/submersion	EXT002	External cause codes: drowning/submersion; initial encounter
Fall	EXT003	External cause codes: fall; initial encounter
Fire/burn, including fire/flame and hot object/substance	EXT004	External cause codes: fire/burn; initial encounter
Firearm	EXT005	External cause codes: firearm; initial encounter
Machinery	EXT006	External cause codes: machinery; initial encounter
Motor vehicle traffic, including occupant, motorcyclist, pedal cyclist, pedestrian, other, unspecified	EXT007	External cause codes: motor vehicle traffic (MVT); initial encounter
Nontraffic motor vehicle, pedal cyclist	EXT008	External cause codes: pedal cyclist; not MVT; initial encounter
Nontraffic motor vehicle, pedestrian	EXT009	External cause codes: pedestrian; not MVT; initial encounter
Nontraffic motor vehicle, including other land transport, and other transport	EXT010	External cause codes: transport; not MVT; initial encounter
Natural/environment, excluding bites	EXT011	External cause codes: natural/environment; initial encounter

CDC Mechanism of Injury	CCSR Category	CCSR Category Description
Natural/environment, including venomous and nonvenomous bites	EXT012	External cause codes: bites; initial encounter
Overexertion	EXT013	External cause codes: overexertion; initial encounter
Poisoning by drugs	EXT014	External cause codes: poisoning by drug
Poisoning by non-drug	EXT015	External cause codes: poisoning by non-drug
Struck by/against	EXT016	External cause codes: struck by; against; initial encounter
Suffocation	EXT017	External cause codes: suffocation/inhalation; initial encounter
Other specified, including child/adult abuse, foreign body, and not elsewhere classifiable	EXT018	External cause codes: other specified, classifiable and NEC; initial encounter
Unspecified	EXT019	External cause codes: unspecified mechanism

Abbreviations: CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; CCSR, Clinical Classifications Software Refined; MVT, motor vehicle traffic; NEC, not elsewhere classified.