Healthgrades 2024 Methodology Updates

Every year, Healthgrades reviews its methodology to ensure that it is up-to-date both clinically and statistically. As the practice of medicine changes, we incorporate changes into our methodology. Reviewers include Healthgrades physicians, nurses, and statisticians, as well as our external physician clinical advisory board. Once our clinicians approve all proposed changes, we analyze all changes for statistical relevance in the model.

Below is a high-level list of changes made to the Mortality and Complications Outcomes 2024 Methodology.

Changes across all cohorts

- **COVID Exclusion Removal** – Starting with the 2022 data year, all COVID patients will now be included in the data. Patients with COVID in 2020 and 2021 will still be excluded. The change will not be applied to all three years of data for the 2024 model year.
- **Cystic Fibrosis** – Cystic Fibrosis has been added as a risk factor in all cohorts for 2024.
- **History of COVID/Post-COVID** – History of COVID code Z86.16 has been added as a risk factor in all cohorts for 2024. Post COVID U09.9 has also been added as a risk factor for 2024.
- **Metastatic Cancer Exclusion** – Yearly comprehensive review of universal exclusions found additional codes to include in the metastatic cancer exclusion code set. All metastatic cancer codes are intended as exclusions in all cohort models.
- **Sickle Cell Disorders** – Sickle Cell Disorders as a group have been checked and added where appropriate, to be comprehensively used as a risk factor in all cohorts for 2024.
- **Thalassemia** – Thalassemia as a separate group from above have been checked and added where appropriate, to be comprehensively used as a risk factor in all cohorts for 2024.

**Bariatric Surgery**

- **Atrophic Gastritis** – Atrophic gastritis without mention of hemorrhage (K2950) has been changed from an exclusion to a risk factor in the bariatric cohort.

**Cardiac Care**

- **Pacemaker and Defibrillator Procedures** – Added anoxic brain damage and cardiogenic shock as complications in both cohorts.
- **PCI Impeller Pump Risks** – Added two new risk factor groups in the PCI cohort:
  - Assistance with Cardiac Output using Impeller Pump, Intermittent
  - Assistance with Cardiac Output using Impeller Pump, Continuous

**Critical Care**

- **Insertion of Infusion Device into Upper Vein** – Adjusted the special logic requirements that referenced Insertion of Infusion Device into Upper Vein, Percutaneous Approach (05HY33Z). All complications previously identifying this diagnosis as a separate group for reporting, no longer call it out.

© Copyright 2023 Healthgrades Marketplace, LLC. All Rights Reserved.
Gastrointestinal Surgery

- **Morbid Obesity** – Due to increased prevalence and more standardized care around the patient class, Morbid Obesity has been changed from an exclusion to a risk factor in the Upper GI cohort.

Obstetrics & Gynecology

- **Gestational Diabetes in Labor & Delivery** – Gestational Diabetes classifications in complications have been removed, with any complications previously referencing it, now just being represented as the root complication. Gestational Diabetes has also been moved into its own risk-adjustment group in both labor and delivery cohorts.

Orthopedics

- **Urgent and Newborn Admit Exclusions** – Urgent Admits have been added as exclusions in the Knee Replacement and Hip Replacement cohorts for 2024.