

Identifying Episodes Video

Narrator:

To identify the episodes that were included in your target price calculation, you will need to go to the EPI file. The EPI file is located in the BENE folder.

The first column of this file will contain the episode ID which is used to identify episodes and ties all of the claims data back to the episodes in this summary file. Columns E and F contain the DRG and fracture combination for the episode. The Anchor dates for the each episode can be found in the Anchor beginning date and Anchor ending date columns. Total standardized episode costs can be found in the EPI Total column. The variables to the right of this contain episode costs by claim type.

The EPI Exclusion file has a similar layout but less information. This file lists episodes that were excluded from the historical claims used to calculate your target prices. To see why an episode was excluded look at the DROPREASON variable, which is the last column of this data set. To understand the value that is in this cell you need to go back to the file layout of the beneficiary file. This will contain the DROPREASON codes. In this example the episode has a drop reason code of number 15 which means the episode was dropped because of a subsequent CJR Readmission within 90 days.

As you work with these files, you may notice that Excel (or another program) is not reading all of the values as numbers. To correct this you can try to remove the spaces that might appear after the numbers, or use the features of Excel or another program to properly format the numbers. For example, say we are trying to add the different claims types: Acute, Part B, IRF, SNF, Home Health, and Other to see if they sum to the EPI_TOTAL. When we select these cells, we can see the sum in the bottom right hand corner. As you can see, this doesn't match the EPI_TOTAL. When we format these cells as currency, we see that the value in the EPI_OTHER cell is formatted differently than the other cells. By removing the spaces that appeared after the number, we can get the cell in the same format as the other cells. Now when we highlight these cells, we can see that sum in the bottom right hand corner, matches the sum in the EPI_TOTAL.