

Frequently Asked Questions for Home Health PPS Grouper Software

FAQ Category BETA

FAQ Question:

How do I become a Beta Tester?

FAQ Response:

1. Send an email with intent to sign up using the Beta Grouper email: hhppsgrouperemail@mmm.com
2. Go to CMS.gov|Enterprise Portal to register.
3. Select "New User Registration".
4. Continue to Step #1 Choose Your Application.
5. Select the application from the dropdown: "ISV: Internet Server".
6. Agree to the terms and complete.

Useful Links

<https://portal.cms.gov/>

FAQ Category BETA

FAQ Question:

What are the timeframes for Beta Testing?

FAQ Response:

Beta Test periods occur twice a year, approximately 8 to 10 weeks prior to Final Release. Check the CMS website for the schedule.

Useful Links

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/HomeHealthPPS/HH-Grouper-Software-Beta-Testing>

FAQ Category BETA

FAQ Question:

How is Beta Software distributed?

FAQ Response:

Beta is distributed as a download from the CMS Tibco Site. Beta Testers will receive a notification and instructions from the "hhppsgrouperemail@mmm.com" mailbox for how to register at the CMS Tibco site. When the beta software is ready, you will receive a notification from the CMS Tibco site with a link to access the files for download.

Useful Links

hhppsgrouperemail@mmm.com

FAQ Category BETA

FAQ Question:

What if I have problems downloading the Beta Software?

FAQ Response:

1. Contact CMS IT Service Desk, telephone 410-786-2580 or 1-800-562-1963.
2. Send email to: [CMS IT SERVICE DESK@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:CMS_IT_SERVICE_DESK@cms.hhs.gov)

FAQ Category GENERAL Release

FAQ Question:

How is the Final Software distributed?

FAQ Response:

The Software is distributed as a download from the CMS Home Health PPS Software website under Downloads and Related Links.

Useful links

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/HomeHealthPPS/CaseMixGrouperSoftware>

FAQ Category Software Implementation

FAQ Question:

How do I install the Software?

FAQ Response:

1. You need to have Java 8 or higher installed on your computer.

2. The contents of the Downloaded zip file should be unzipped into a folder on your computer (e.g. 'C:\hhgs' folder) where the unzip process will put the software in a subfolder called 'HomeHealthGrouperSoftware'.

FAQ Category Software Implementation

FAQ Question:

Where can I find the documentation for the Software?

FAQ Response:

Supporting documentation is installed in the documentation folder when the software is installed e.g C:\hhgs\HomeHealthGrouperSoftware\documentation".

FAQ Category Software Implementation

FAQ Question:

How do I verify the Grouper installed correctly?

FAQ Response:

1. Go into the 'bin' folder in 'HomeHealthGrouperSoftware' and run the 'RunGrouperTest.bat' file to verify installation.
2. Look in the 'test' folder e.g C:\hhgs\HomeHealthGrouperSoftware\test' to see the file "TestDataVxxxx_TESTOUT.txt" was created.
3. Edit the file 'TestDataVxxxx_OUT.txt' to verify that grouping results appear. The 'Vxxx' represents the version of the Home Health Grouper.

FAQ Category Software Implementation

FAQ Question:

How do I process claims using my own file to generate test output?

FAQ Response:

1. Edit the 'runGrouperHPtest.bat' file.
2. Change row 6 to contain your own file name and location.
3. Run the .bat file

FAQ Category Software Implementation

FAQ Question:

Is each version a required update?

FAQ Response:

The update each October contains the annual ICD-10-CM code updates. This needs to be installed to ensure you have the most up to date codes.

The January update occurs when there is a change to OASIS that would impact the grouper and/or any logic changes. You should update all new versions in order to have access to new codes and logic changes.

Useful Links

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/medicare-fee-for-service-payment/homehealthpps/casemixgroupersoftware>

FAQ Category Software Implementation

FAQ Question:

Where can I find policy information?

FAQ Response:

Regulatory policies are described on the CMS website for Home Health Prospective Payment System Regulations and Notices.

Useful Links

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/HomeHealthPPS/Home-Health-Prospective-Payment-System-Regulations-and-Notices>

FAQ Category Software Implementation

FAQ Question:

What is the difference between the old HHPPS version and the new PDGM Model?

FAQ Response:

In the November 2019 Home Health Final Rule CMS announced the implementation of a new Patient-Driven Grouping Model (PDGM) methodology for the Home Health Prospective Payment System for periods of care starting on or after January 1, 2020. This new methodology replaced the previous Home Health PPS grouper.

Useful Links

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/HomeHealthPPS/HH-PDGM>

<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM11081.pdf>

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/HomeHealthPPS/CaseMixGrouperSoftware>

FAQ Category Grouper scoring

FAQ Question:

What makes up a HIPPS Code?

FAQ Response:

A HIPPS code is a 5 -position alpha-numeric code which represents a set of patient characteristics used for determining payment.

The first position is a numeric value representing the home health referral source and the period timing present on a home health claim.

The second position is an alphabetic character representing the clinical group assignment based on the principal diagnosis reported on a home health claim.

The third position is an alphabetic character representing a patient's functional impairment level score based on responses to certain items in the OASIS assessment record.

The fourth position is a numeric value representing an adjustment due to comorbid diagnoses submitted as secondary diagnoses on a home health claim.

The fifth position is a numeric place holder value for potential future use.

FAQ Category Grouper scoring

FAQ Question:

How does a HIPPS code get generated?

FAQ Response:

Detailed documentation describing how a HIPPS code is generated is in the Install and User Manual located in the documentation folder (e.g. C:\hhpps\HomeHealthGrouperSoftware\documentation).

FAQ Category OASIS Guides & Training

FAQ Question:

Where would I find additional information on OASIS?

FAQ Response:

The CMS QIES website for OASIS Coordinators contains information on OASIS.

Useful Links

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/OASIS-Coordinators>

FAQ Category Home Health Agency

FAQ Question:

Where would I find additional information on the Home Health Agency policies?

FAQ Response:

The CMS website for Home Health PPS website contains information and links to additional information regarding Home Health PPS policies.

Useful Links

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/HomeHealthPPS/index>