



# **DRG GROUPER (ICD) USER MANUAL**

Version 18.0

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Department Of Veterans Affairs  
**VISTA** Technical Services

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# Introduction

The DRG Grouper is a "black box" utility with standalone functionality and can be called by other **VISTA** applications. The DRG Grouper package contains two options:

- DRG Grouper - Used to compute and display the Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) for a patient based on that patient's diagnoses and any operations/procedures performed.
- ICD Code Inquiry - Allows the user to display information for a selected diagnosis or operation/procedure code.

This version of the DRG Grouper is based on the current Medicare Grouper requirements as defined by the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) contained in the annual update from 3M Health Information Systems. The same DRG Grouper is used by the Austin Automation Center (AAC).

## DRG Components

The DRGs are defined as a manageable, clinically coherent set of patient classes that relate a hospital case mix to the resource demands and associated costs experienced by the hospital. There are 511 DRGs associated with the DRG Grouper. Each represents a class of patients deemed medically comparable and requiring similar amounts of resources for care.

The DRGs may be calculated for both registered VA patients and non-VA patients. Except for Transfer DRGs, the system does not store the DRG compiled for each patient. DRGs are recalculated each time the DRG Grouper option is utilized.

If data entered is insufficient for the DRG Grouper to function, the DRG will not be computed and will be displayed as "UNGROUPABLE". A message such as "Grouper needs to know if patient died during this episode!" will appear to inform you what missing data is required.

## Classifying DRGs

The actual process of classifying the patients into one of the 511 DRGs is done by the DRG Grouper using the following information:

- Age
- Sex
- Diagnosis codes
- Operation/procedure codes
- Discharge status

The patient's age and any secondary diagnoses the patient had are used to determine whether the patient's stay had significant and contributing complications and/or comorbidities. The DRG Grouper accepts one primary diagnosis and unlimited secondary diagnoses and operations/procedures.

## **Related Manuals**

- DRG Grouper Technical Manual
- DRG Grouper Installation Guide
- DRG Grouper Release Notes
- PTF Section of the PIMS (formerly MAS) User Manual contains detailed information on DRGs and DRG calculation, especially in the following options:
  - DRG Information Report
  - DRG Calculation
  - DRG Reports Menu

# Orientation

## User Responses

All user responses in this manual are shown in **bold** type. The symbol <RET> is used to show when you are to press the RETURN or ENTER key as your response to the prompt. The symbol <^> is used when referring to the up-arrow (caret).

## Option Documentation

For each option, the Introduction portion of the documentation gives a description of the option and how it is used. It contains any special instructions related to the option. An example of what might appear on the screen when utilizing the option is provided in the Example portion of the option documentation. If the option produces an output, an example of the output is also provided.

# Using the Software

## Online Help

When the format of a response is specific, there usually is a Help message provided for that prompt. Help messages provide lists of acceptable responses or format requirements which provide instructions on how to respond.

A Help message can be requested by typing one or two question marks. The Help message will appear under the prompt, then the prompt will be repeated. For example, perhaps you see the prompt

```
Enter SECONDARY diagnosis:
```

and you need assistance answering. You enter ? and the Help message appears.

```
Enter SECONDARY diagnosis: ?  
ANSWER WITH ICD DIAGNOSIS CODE NUMBER, OR DESCRIPTION  
DO YOU WANT THE ENTIRE ICD DIAGNOSIS LIST?
```

For some prompts, the software will list the possible answers from which you may choose. Any time choices appear with numbers, the software will usually accept the number or the name.

## DRG Grouper

### Introduction

Use the DRG Grouper option to compute and display the Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) for a patient based on that patient's diagnoses and any operations/procedures performed. The DRG may be calculated for registered VA patients or non-VA patients. The system does not store the DRG compiled for each patient. It is recalculated each time the DRG Grouper option is utilized.

If data entered is insufficient for the DRG Grouper to function, the DRG will not be computed and will be displayed as "UNGROUPABLE". A message such as "Grouper needs to know if patient died during this episode!" will appear to inform you what missing data is required. For nonregistered patients, you will be asked for the patient's age and sex instead of the patient's name.

The following applies for registered patients:

- The age used for the grouper is based on the date/time that the grouper is run compared to the patient's date of birth.
- The "Did patient die during this episode?" prompt will only appear if a date of death has been previously entered/changed/deleted.
- The patient's age will be displayed.

You can enter only one primary diagnosis. The secondary diagnosis and operation/procedure prompts will repeat until a <RET> is entered. Enter either the ICD code number or a key word from the code description. Entering question marks <?> at these prompts will provide you with a list of the ICD code numbers and descriptions.

## DRG Grouper

### Example

Example 1 - Calculates the DRG for a patient in the PATIENT file (#2)

Select Menu Option: **DRG** Grouper

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Effective Date: Today// **<RET>** (MAY 20, 2003)  
 DRGs for Registered PATIENTS (Y/N)? YES// **<RET>**  
 Select PATIENT NAME: **ONE,TEST PATIENT** 03-05-60 123456789 NSC VETERAN  
 Was patient transferred to an acute care facility? **Y** YES  
 Was patient discharged against medical advice? **N** NO AGE: 37  
 Enter Primary diagnosis: **571.41** 571.41 CHR PERSISTENT HEPATITIS  
 ...OK? Yes// **<RET>** (Yes)  
 Enter SECONDARY diagnosis: **130.5** 130.5 TOXOPLASMA HEPATITIS  
 COMPLICATION/COMORBIDITY  
 ...OK? Yes// **<RET>** (Yes)  
 Enter SECONDARY diagnosis: **<RET>**

Enter Operation/Procedure:

Effective Date:	MAY 20, 2003		
Diagnosis Related Group:	205	Avg len of stay:	7.6
Weight:	0.76	Local Breakeven:	
Low day(s):	1	Local low day(s):	
High days:	23	Local High days:	

DRG: 205- DISORDERS OF LIVER EXCEPT MALIG, CIRRH, ALC HEPATITIS W CC

**DRG Grouper**

Example 2 - Calculates the DRG for a nonregistered patient

Select Menu Option: **DRG** Grouper

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```

Effective Date: Today// <RET> (MAY 20, 2003)
DRGs for Registered PATIENTS (Y/N)? YES// N NO
Patient's age: 55
Did patient die during this episode? N NO
Was patient transferred to an acute care facility? NO
Was patient discharged against medical advice? NO
Patient's Sex: (M/F): MALE
Enter Primary diagnosis: 571.1 571.1 AC ALCOHOLIC HEPATITIS
...OK? Yes// (Yes)
Enter SECONDARY diagnosis: 571.41 571.41 CHR PERSISTENT HEPATITIS
...OK? Yes// <RET> (Yes)
Enter SECONDARY diagnosis: <RET>

Enter Operation/Procedure: <RET>

Effective Date: MAY 20, 2003
Diagnosis Related Group: 202 Avg len of stay: 8.6
Weight: 0.91 Local Breakeven:
Low day(s): 1 Local low day(s):
High days: 24 Local High days:

DRG: 202- CIRRHOSIS & ALCOHOLIC HEPATITIS

```

## ICD Code Inquiry

### Introduction

Use the ICD Code Inquiry option to display the description for a selected diagnosis or operation/procedure code. It also tells you if the specified code is inactive. You will first be asked to choose between diagnosis code or operation/procedure code. You will then be asked to enter the desired code.

### Example

Select Menu Option: **ICD** Code Inquiry

Select one of the following:

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1 | ICD DIAGNOSIS CODE           |
| 2 | ICD OPERATION/PROCEDURE CODE |

Enter response: **1** ICD DIAGNOSIS CODE

Select ICD DIAGNOSIS: **305.10** 305.10 TOBACCO USE DISORDER UNSPECIFI

...OK? Yes// **<RET>** (Yes)

305.10 TOBACCO USE DISORDER UNSPECIFI  
 TOBACCO USE DISORDER UNSPECIFIED  
 \*\*CODE INACTIVE AS OF OCT 01, 1994 \*\*

# Glossary

Complication/comorbidity	A condition whose presence in conjunction with a specific primary diagnosis would cause an increase in length of stay by at least one day in 75% of the patients.
DRG	Diagnosis Related Group. A manageable, clinically coherent set of patient classes that relate a hospital case mix to the resource demands and associated costs experienced by the hospital
Primary diagnosis	Diagnosis that is chiefly responsible for causing the patient's admission to the hospital.
PTF	Patient Treatment File
Registered VA patient	Patient contained in the PATIENT file (#2).
Ungroupable	Where sufficient data has not been entered for the DRG Grouper to function, the DRG will not be computed and will be displayed as UNGROUPABLE.

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