

September 21, 2010

Maggie Anderson, Director of Medical Service
ND DEPT OF HUMAN SERVICES
600 E BOULEVARD AVE DEPT 325
BISMARCK ND 58505

RE: Grouper update

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you regarding my concerns with the ND Department of Human Services (Medicaid) continued use of CMS Grouper Version 24.0.

As you are aware, CMS Version 24.0 has not been valid for other payers for dates of service after 9/30/2007. Currently all DRG payers except Medicaid are using Version 27.0 with Version 28.0 soon becoming valid with dates of discharge on or after 10/1/10. The continued use of Grouper Version 24.0 by your department is causing administrative difficulties for my facility.

At this time, when an inpatient Medicaid claim is submitted, a coding professional must first crosswalk current codes to codes that were valid in FY 2006. The coder then enters the old codes and old dates of service into the grouper to obtain a DRG that was valid in FY 2006 or Version 24.0. Since your department requires new codes but outdated DRGs this becomes quite a cumbersome, manual process.

I am asking you to consider updating to CMS Grouper Version 28.0 effective 10/1/2010 to be consistent with other payers. If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact me. I am very interested in hearing from your department.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,