



Alternate Level of Care Diagnosis List: Clarification of Use (Effective April 1, 2016)

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Purpose of this job aid

The primary purpose of this job aid is to help coders assign the correct alternate level of care (ALC) Z-code to associate with ALC service 99 based on the ALC documentation available in the chart. Secondly, this document may be used by end users of ALC data to understand the various ALC reasons/circumstances included in each code.

Why is it important to get ALC data right?

Assigning an ALC Z-code to associate with ALC service 99, at a high level, assists data users with understanding the main reasons why patients remain in an acute care bed even though they are deemed to not require the intensity of resources and/or services provided in that care setting.

How was this developed?

In consultation with key stakeholders across Canada, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) has developed this clarification job aid to improve consistency and comparability of acute care ALC data reported in the Discharge Abstract Database (DAD).

What is included in this job aid?

Section 1 provides tables with the Z-codes allowable with ALC service 99, as outlined in the DAD manual. Within each table, examples are provided to demonstrate where possible circumstances related to an ALC reason are appropriately included. The following topics are included in the table:

- Problems related to housing and economic circumstances (Z59)
- Problems related to other psychosocial circumstances (Z65)
- Problems related to care-provider dependency (Z74)
- Problems related to medical facilities and other health care (Z75)
- Persons encountering health services in other circumstances (Z76)

Important: The examples provided in the tables must be reviewed and applied within the context of a patient who has been designated ALC. Please note that they are not all-encompassing.



Job Aid

Section 2 of the job aid provides the following examples of various abstracting scenarios to illustrate accurate capture of ALC data for reporting in the DAD:

- 2.1 Problems related to medical facilities and other health care (Z75)
- 2.2 Problems related to medical facilities and other health care (Z75)
- 2.3 Problems related to medical facilities and other health care (Z75)
- 2.4 Persons encountering health services in other circumstances (Z76)
- 2.5 Problems related to housing and economic circumstances (Z59)
- 2.6 Persons encountering health services in other circumstances (Z76)
- 2.7 Problems related to other psychosocial circumstances (Z65)
- 2.8 Problems related to housing and economic circumstances (Z59)
- 2.9 Persons encountering health services in other circumstances (Z76)



Section 1: ALC Z-codes allowable with service 99 (effective April 1, 2016)

Z59 Problems related to housing and economic circumstances

Z59.0 Homelessness

- I. Homeless: No available/suitable community option
- II. Homeless: Waiting for availability of community option (e.g., supportive housing, group home, boarding home, women's shelter, special housing/assisted living)

Note: There is potential for overlap with Z59.8 *Other problems related to housing and economic circumstances* (e.g., if the patient is homeless and doesn't have financial means to secure housing). When there is overlap, the facility/jurisdiction decides which code to associate with the ALC service transfer.

Z59.1 Inadequate housing (isolated, poor conditions, uninhabitable, lack of utilities)

- I. Housing/living conditions: Unsafe
- II. Housing: Waiting for safety equipment to be installed (e.g., ramp, grab bars)
- III. Housing: Waiting for home modifications/renovations to be finished to allow safe discharge home
- IV. Housing: Safety issue — lack of heating, restriction of space, technical defects in the home preventing adequate care, unsatisfactory surroundings

Z59.8 Other problems related to housing and economic circumstances

- I. Requires different housing: No available/suitable community option (excludes homeless without available/suitable community option; see Z59.0)
- II. Requires different housing: Waiting for availability of community option (e.g., supportive housing, group home, boarding home, women's shelter, special housing/assisted living) (excludes homeless and waiting for availability of community option; see Z59.0)
- III. Financial: No financial means to secure housing
- IV. Financial: Waiting for arrangements to fund outpatient medication or therapies
- V. Housing: Cannot return due to evacuation or infectious outbreak at place where patient lives (e.g., resident who cannot return to long-term care facility due to evacuation or infectious outbreak)

Note: The coder will likely assign Z59.8 when a patient has been designated ALC and the ALC reason is documented as a problem with housing or economic circumstances and the specific problem documented does not fit into Z59.0 or Z59.1.

Note: When the documentation describes an ALC reason that cannot be classified to any of the more specific ALC codes within category Z59 or within another ALC category related to problems with legal circumstances (Z65.3), care-provider dependency (Z74.0, Z74.1, Z74.2, Z74.3, Z74.8) or facility or medical services (Z75.1, Z75.2, Z75.3, Z75.4, Z75.5, Z75.8), refer to Z76.4 *Other boarder in health-care facility*.



Z65 Problems related to other psychosocial circumstances

Z65.0 *Conviction in civil and criminal proceedings without imprisonment*

Court order: Patient not criminally responsible

Z65.3 *Problems related to other legal circumstances*

(prosecution, arrest, child custody support, litigation)

- I. Waiting for immigration hearing and otherwise no place to go until the issue is resolved
- II. Waiting: Decision-making capacity
 - Enduring power of attorney
 - Personal directives
 - Private guardianship
 - Private trusteeship
 - Public guardianship
 - Public trusteeship
 - Special decisions

Note: When the documentation describes an ALC reason that cannot be classified to this code or another ALC category related to problems with housing/economic circumstances (Z59.0, Z59.1, Z59.8), care-provider dependency (Z74.0, Z74.1, Z74.2, Z74.3, Z74.8) or facility or medical services (Z75.1, Z75.2, Z75.3, Z75.4, Z75.5, Z75.8), refer to Z76.4 *Other boarder in health-care facility*.

Note: The DAD manual says “A hard error will be generated when Z65.0 or Z65.3 is recorded as the MRDx when the Main Patient Service (Group 07 Field 01) is 99 (ALC).”



Z74 Problems related to care-provider dependency

Z74.0 *Need for assistance due to reduced mobility*

Note: There is a potential for overlap among these codes in category Z74. For example, the documentation for the ALC reason could say the patient needs assistance due to reduced mobility (Z74.0) and there is no other household member able to render care (Z74.2). When there is overlap, which code to associate with the ALC service transfer is a facility/jurisdictional decision.

Z74.1 *Need for assistance with personal care*

Note: Code title is self-explanatory. No example to provide.

Z74.2 *Need for assistance at home and no other household member able to render care*

- I. Provider/caregiver support required
- II. Family/caregiver away at time of discharge ready
- III. Person lives alone and cannot safely return home alone
- IV. Failure to cope (includes person living alone)

Z74.3 *Need for continuous supervision*

(excludes Z75.1 *Person awaiting admission to adequate facility elsewhere* or Z75.3 *Unavailability and inaccessibility of healthcare facilities*)

- I. 24-hour caregiver support required in the community or the home

Z74.8 *Other problems related to care-provider dependency*

- I. Family unable to provide support for safe discharge home
- II. Family/provider dependency problems
- III. Family discord

Note: The coder will likely assign Z74.8 when the documentation related to ALC is a problem with care-provider dependency *and* the specific problem documented does not fit into any of the other ALC codes in category Z74 on the ALC list. Z74.8 is the residual code for specific documentation around problems with care-provider dependency that cannot be classified to another ALC code in category Z74.

Note: When the documentation describes an ALC reason that cannot be classified to any of the more specific ALC codes within category Z74 or within other ALC categories related to problems with housing/economic circumstances (Z59.0, Z59.1, Z59.8), legal circumstances (Z65.3) or facility or medical services (Z75.1, Z75.2, Z75.3, Z75.4, Z75.5, Z75.8), refer to Z76.4 *Other boarder in health-care facility*.



Z75 Problems related to medical facilities and other health care

Z75.1 Person awaiting admission to adequate facility elsewhere

- I. Facility/bed: Patient has been approved and is wait-listed for a bed
- II. Approved and waiting for admission to private facility
- III. Approved and waiting for residential care admission/bed
- IV. Approved and waiting for placement in a facility elsewhere (e.g., personal care home, chronic care)
- V. Approved and waiting for admission to designated hospice facility for palliative care
- VI. Approved and waiting for admission to addictions program in a facility
- VII. Approved and waiting for a bed in complex continuing care (e.g., because patient is ventilator dependent)

Note: Z75.1 excludes appropriate facility unavailable for care needs (see Z75.3 *Unavailability and inaccessibility of health-care facilities*).

Note: Z75.1 excludes waiting for assessment to determine needs (see Z75.2 *Other waiting period for investigation and treatment*).

Note: Z75.1 excludes patients who cannot return to their home (which happens to be in a health care facility) due to evacuation or infectious outbreak (see Z59.8 *Other problems related to housing and economic circumstances*).

Z75.2 Other waiting period for investigation and treatment

(waiting for helping agency) (waiting for assessment to determine needs)

- I. Waiting for arrangements with helping agency/service (community program/support/services)
- II. Waiting for assessment to determine needs (e.g., waiting for assessment to establish whether or not the patient can return home with supports or whether the patient requires facility placement)
- III. Waiting for a RAI-HC assessment to be completed (or in progress) in hospital
- IV. Waiting for assessment of eligibility (for residential care)
- V. Waiting or undergoing assessment for hospice, assisted living, subsidized housing, respite, private pay facility or home support
- VI. Waiting approval for panel processing
- VII. Waiting for available community services to be arranged (e.g., home support, home care nursing, assisted living, community rehab, nutrition services, mental health community services, addiction community services) (excludes unavailable community helping agency/service; see Z75.4)
- VIII. Waiting for home-based palliative care service to be arranged (excludes community/home palliative care service unavailable; see Z75.4)
- IX. Waiting for arrangement of available home health services (e.g., occupational therapist [OT], physiotherapist [PT], dietitian, home intravenous, oxygen) (excludes home health services not available [e.g., OT, PT, dietitian, home intravenous, oxygen; see Z75.4])

Z75.3 Unavailability and inaccessibility of healthcare facilities

(excludes approved and waiting for a bed to be available in a facility; see Z75.1)

- I. No facility available/adequate facility to meet care needs, such as
 - 24/7 secure
 - Complex residential care
 - Forensic transition
 - Harm reduction
 - Pervasive developmental disorder/low IQ
 - Younger than 65 early aging
 - Bariatric needs
 - Peritoneal dialysis needs
- II. No facility placement available to meet care needs related to behaviour issues, such as
 - Addiction related
 - Forensic/legal history
 - History of and/or propensity to aggression
 - Illness-related behaviours
 - Impulse control concerns
 - Incontinent — requires assistance
 - Smoker
 - Smoking risk
- III. No outpatient clinic available



Z75.4 Unavailability and inaccessibility of other helping agencies

(excludes waiting for/wait-listed for available helping agencies; see Z75.2)

- I. No community programs/services to match client needs
- II. No home care (nursing or support) services available in community (excludes patient waiting for home care services that are available; see Z75.2)
- III. No community services (e.g., home support, home care nursing, assisted living, community rehab, nutrition services) available or services are inaccessible (excludes waiting for available community services/helping agency; see Z75.2)
- IV. No hospice care (home-based palliative care) available in community/home (excludes patient waiting for bed in hospice facility; see Z75.1) (excludes patient waiting for home-based palliative care service to be arranged; see Z75.2)
- V. No home health services available (e.g., OT, PT, dietitian, home intravenous, oxygen) (excludes waiting for available home health service; see Z75.2)

Z75.5 Holiday relief care

- I. Respite care
- II. Provision of health care facilities to a person normally cared for at home to enable relatives to take a vacation
- III. Caregiver burnout: Caregiver needs a break

Z75.8 Other problems related to medical facilities and other health care

Note: Z75.8 is the residual category for specific documentation around problems with medical facilities and other health care that cannot be classified to another ALC code in category Z75.

Note: When the documentation describes an ALC reason that cannot be classified to any of the more specific ALC codes within category Z75 or within other ALC categories related to problems with housing/economic circumstances (Z59.0, Z59.1, Z59.8), legal circumstances (Z65.3) or care-provider dependency (Z74.0, Z74.1, Z74.2, Z74.3, Z74.8), refer to Z76.4 *Other boarder in health-care facility*.



Z76 Persons encountering health services in other circumstances

Z76.2 *Health supervision and care of other healthy infant and child*

- I. Healthy infant receiving care (excludes healthy infant accompanying sick mom; see Z76.3)
- II. Medical or nursing care or supervision of healthy infant under circumstances such as
 - Adverse socio-economic conditions at home
 - Awaiting foster or adoptive placement
 - Maternal illness
 - Number of children at home preventing or interfering with normal care

Z76.3 *Healthy person accompanying sick person*

- I. Healthy adult accompanying sick baby
- II. Healthy infant accompanying sick mother

Z76.4 *Other boarder in health-care facility*

(excludes homelessness [see Z59.0])

- I. Patient/family refusing proposed discharge plan
- II. Patient/family refusing proposed placement option
- III. Waiting for transportation home for more than 24 hours
(e.g., by ambulance, by stretcher van, by car)
- IV. Training/education (e.g., breastfeeding, insulin teaching)

Note: When the documentation describes an ALC reason that cannot be classified to any of the more specific ALC codes within category Z76 or within other ALC categories related to problems with housing/economic circumstances (Z59.0, Z59.1, Z59.8), legal circumstances (Z65.3), care-provider dependency (Z74.0, Z74.1, Z74.2, Z74.3, Z74.8) or facility or medical services (Z75.1, Z75.2, Z75.3, Z75.4, Z75.5, Z75.8), assign Z76.4 *Other boarder in health-care facility*.



Section 2: ALC abstracting scenarios

2.1 Problems related to medical facilities and other health care (Z75)

A patient is admitted to the reporting facility's acute care ward for respite care because the patient's care provider is taking a vacation. The patient is designated ALC on the day of admission. The total length of stay is 14 days, all of which are associated with the patient service ALC.

Group/field	Data element name	Answer
02/02	Length of Stay (derived)	14
07/01	Main Patient Service	99 (ALC)
08/01	Service Transfer Section	Blank
08/03	Service Transfer Days	Blank
09/01	Provider Type	M (Most Responsible Provider)
09/02	Provider Number	As assigned by the facility
09/03	Provider Service	CIHI Provider Service number
10/02	Diagnosis Code	Z75.5 Holiday relief care
10/04	Diagnosis Type	M (Most Responsible Diagnosis)

Rationale for ALC Z-code selection: The ALC reason “care provider taking a vacation” is classified to *Z75.5 Holiday relief care*, which includes respite care.



2.2 Problems related to medical facilities and other health care (Z75)

An 82-year-old woman who lives alone and is known to have Alzheimer’s disease is admitted as an inpatient to the orthopedics service. The patient is transferred to the reporting facility after having undergone amputation of 3 toes at another facility. The reason for transfer is documented as “repatriation.” The patient is having difficulty ambulating. 1 day after admission, the patient is designated ALC by the physician, and the reason is documented as “waiting for placement for complex continuing care/slow-paced rehabilitation.” While the patient waits for a rehabilitation bed, she receives occupational and physiotherapy services to assist her with rehabilitation. The patient remains in the acute care inpatient bed for 7 days before transferring to the rehabilitation unit. The total length of stay is 8 days, with 7 days associated with patient service ALC.

Group/field	Occurrence number	Data element name	Answer
02/02		Length of Stay (derived)	8
07/01		Main Patient Service	34 (Orthopaedic Surgery)
08/01		Service Transfer Section	99 (ALC)
08/03		Service Transfer Days	7
09/01	1 (first line)	Provider Type	M (Most Responsible Provider)
09/02	1 (first line)	Provider Number	As assigned by the facility
09/03	1 (first line)	Provider Service	CIHI Provider Service number
09/01	2 (second line)	Provider Type	W (First Transfer Provider)
09/02	2 (second line)	Provider Number	As assigned by the facility
09/03	2 (second line)	Provider Service	CIHI Provider Service number
10/02	1 (first line)	Diagnosis Code	Z54.0 Convalescence following surgery
10/04	1 (first line)	Diagnosis Type	M (Most Responsible Diagnosis)
10/02	2 (second line)	Diagnosis Code	Z75.1 Person awaiting admission to adequate facility elsewhere
10/04	2 (second line)	Diagnosis Type	W (First Service Transfer Diagnosis)
10/02	3 (third line)	Diagnosis Code	Z50.9 Care involving use of rehabilitation procedure, unspecified
10/04	3 (third line)	Diagnosis Type	1 (Pre-admit Comorbidity)

Rationale for ALC Z-code selection: The ALC reason of “waiting for placement for complex continuing care/slow-paced rehabilitation” is classified to *Z75.1 Person awaiting admission to adequate facility elsewhere*. The most responsible diagnosis is *Z54.0 Convalescence following surgery*, which is associated with a 1-day length of stay. While the patient was waiting for a bed, she continued to receive **multiple** rehabilitation services; therefore, **Z50.9 Care involving use of rehabilitation procedure, unspecified** meets the definition of Diagnosis Type 1.



2.3 Problems related to medical facilities and other health care (Z75)

The patient is admitted to the acute care facility from the COPD clinic. He has end-stage chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and is in need of oxygen 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The patient is designated ALC on the day of admission while he waits for oxygen to be set up in his home. The patient remains stable while in hospital. The patient is sent home on a 24-hour pass once home oxygen is in place. The patient does well while out on the pass and is therefore discharged. The discharge date is the date the facility receives notification that the patient is not returning to the reporting facility. The total length of stay is 6 days, all of which are associated with the patient service ALC.

Group/field	Data element name	Answer
02/02	Length of Stay (derived)	6
07/01	Main Patient Service	99 (ALC)
09/01	Provider Type	M (Most Responsible Provider)
08/01	Service Transfer Section	Blank
08/03	Service Transfer Days	Blank
09/02	Provider Number	As assigned by the facility
09/03	Provider Service	CIHI Provider Service number
10/02	Diagnosis Code	Z75.2 Other waiting period for investigation and treatment
10/04	Diagnosis Type	M (Most Responsible Diagnosis)

Rationale for ALC Z-code selection: The ALC reason of “waiting for home oxygen to be set up” is classified to *Z75.2 Other waiting period for investigation and treatment*.



2.4 Persons encountering health services in other circumstances (Z76)

A healthy female baby is admitted for 5 days because her mother is admitted with a viral infection. The baby is designated ALC on the day of admission as a boarder baby. The total length of stay is 5 days, all of which are associated with the patient service ALC.

Group/field	Data element name	Answer
02/02	Length of Stay (derived)	5
07/01	Main Patient Service	99 (ALC)
08/01	Service Transfer Section	Blank
08/03	Service Transfer Days	Blank
09/01	Provider Type	M (Most Responsible Provider)
09/02	Provider Number	As assigned by the facility
09/03	Provider Service	CIHI Provider Service number
10/02	Diagnosis Code	Z76.3 Healthy person accompanying sick person
10/04	Diagnosis Type	M (Most Responsible Diagnosis)

Rationale for ALC Z-code selection: The ALC reason of “healthy baby accompanying a sick mom” is classified to *Z76.3 Healthy person accompanying sick person*.



2.5 Problems related to housing and economic circumstances (Z59)

A nursing home patient is admitted to an acute care facility for treatment of pneumonia. 3 days later, the physician deems the patient to be medically stable and able to be transferred back to the nursing home. However, while the patient is away from the nursing home, there is a gastrointestinal flu outbreak, and the nursing home will not accept the transfer until the outbreak is cleared. The patient is designated ALC while waiting to return to the nursing home. The total length of stay is 17 days, 14 of which are associated with the patient service ALC.

Group/field	Occurrence number	Data element name	Answer
02/02		Length of Stay (derived)	17
07/01		Main Patient Service	10 (General Medicine)
08/01		Service Transfer Section	99 (ALC)
08/03		Service Transfer Days	14
09/01	1 (first line)	Provider Type	M (Most Responsible Provider)
09/02	1 (first line)	Provider Number	As assigned by the facility
09/03	1 (first line)	Provider Service	CIHI Provider Service number
09/01	2 (second line)	Provider Type	W (First Transfer Provider)
09/02	2 (second line)	Provider Number	As assigned by the facility
09/03	2 (second line)	Provider Service	CIHI Provider Service number
10/02	1 (first line)	Diagnosis Code	J18.9 Pneumonia, unspecified
10/04	1 (first line)	Diagnosis Type	M (Most Responsible Diagnosis)
10/02	2 (second line)	Diagnosis Code	Z59.8 Other problems related to housing and economic circumstances
10/04	2 (second line)	Diagnosis Type	W (First Service Transfer Diagnosis)

Rationale for ALC Z-code selection: The ALC reason of “cannot return to place of residence due to GI outbreak” is classified to *Z59.8 Other problems related to housing and economic circumstances*.



2.6 Persons encountering health services in other circumstances (Z76)

The patient delivers a healthy term baby via a spontaneous vaginal delivery. The mother plans to breastfeed. 2 days postpartum, the mother is designated ALC. She requires some additional breastfeeding training from the breastfeeding team. The patient and her baby are discharged 2 days later. The total length of stay is 4 days, 2 of which are associated with patient service ALC.

Group/field	Occurrence number	Data element name	Answer
02/02		Length of Stay (derived)	4
07/01		Main Patient Service	51 (Obstetrics Delivered)
08/01		Service Transfer Section	99 (ALC)
08/03		Service Transfer Days	2
09/01	1 (first line)	Provider Type	M (Most Responsible Provider)
09/02	1 (first line)	Provider Number	As assigned by the facility
09/03	1 (first line)	Provider Service	CIHI Provider Service number
09/01	2 (second line)	Provider Type	W (First Transfer Provider)
09/02	2 (second line)	Provider Number	As assigned by the facility
09/03	2 (second line)	Provider Service	CIHI Provider Service number
10/02	1 (first line)	Diagnosis Code	Z37.000 Single live birth, pregnancy resulting from both spontaneous ovulation and conception
10/04	1 (first line)	Diagnosis Type	M (Most Responsible Diagnosis)
10/02	2 (second line)	Diagnosis Code	Z76.4 Other boarder in health-care facility
10/04	2 (second line)	Diagnosis Type	W (First Service Transfer Diagnosis)
10/02	3 (third line)	Diagnosis Code	Z39.1 Care and examination of lactating mother
10/04	3 (third line)	Diagnosis Type	1 (Pre-admit Comorbidity)

Rationale for ALC Z-code selection: The ALC reason of “breastfeeding training” is classified to *Z76.4 Other boarder in health-care facility*.



2.7 Problems related to other psychosocial circumstances (Z65)

A 32-year-old woman is admitted to an acute care facility for treatment of pneumonia. 4 days later, the physician deems the patient to be medically stable and she is designated ALC. She is transferred to the forensic unit of the facility because she had broken her probation: she is under the federal review board’s jurisdiction and failed to comply with its orders; thus she remains in the acute care bed until another hearing with the review board is scheduled. The total length of stay is 10 days, 6 of which are associated with patient service ALC.

Group/field	Occurrence number	Data element name	Answer
02/02		Length of Stay (derived)	10
07/01		Main Patient Service	10 (General Medicine)
08/01		Service Transfer Section	99
08/03		Service Transfer Days	6
09/01	1 (first line)	Provider Type	M (Most Responsible Provider)
09/02	1 (first line)	Provider Number	As assigned by the facility
09/03	1 (first line)	Provider Service	CIHI Provider Service number
10/02	1 (first line)	Diagnosis Code	J18.9 Pneumonia, unspecified
10/04	1 (first line)	Diagnosis Type	M (Most Responsible Diagnosis)
10/02	2 (second line)	Diagnosis Code	Z65.0 Conviction in civil and criminal proceedings without imprisonment
10/04	2 (second line)	Diagnosis Type	W (First Service Transfer Diagnosis)

Rationale for ALC Z-code selection: The ALC reason of “being held due to court order” is classified to Z65.0 *Conviction in civil and criminal proceedings without imprisonment*.



2.8 Problems related to housing and economic circumstances (Z59)

A paraplegic man is admitted to an inpatient bed from the emergency department. He is not ill, nor is he in need of acute medical care. He is a paraplegic who is living in substandard housing, and the building is scheduled for demolition. He has been able to find alternate living arrangements; however, a ramp to access the home and grab bars in the bathroom have to be installed. He is designated ALC on the day of admission while his home is prepared to accommodate his needs. The total length of stay is 9 days, all of which are associated with the patient service ALC.

Group/field	Occurrence number	Data element name	Answer
02/02		Length of Stay (derived)	9
07/01		Main Patient Service	99 (ALC)
08/01		Service Transfer Section	Blank
08/03		Service Transfer Days	Blank
09/01	1 (first line)	Provider Type	M (Most Responsible Provider)
09/02	1 (first line)	Provider Number	As assigned by the facility
09/03	1 (first line)	Provider Service	CIHI Provider Service number
10/02	1 (first line)	Diagnosis Code	Z59.1 Inadequate housing
10/04	1 (first line)	Diagnosis Type	M (Most Responsible Diagnosis)

Rationale for ALC Z-code selection: The ALC reason of “waiting for home to be prepared to accommodate needs” is classified to Z59.1 *Inadequate housing*, which includes technical defects in the home preventing adequate care.



2.9 Persons encountering health services in other circumstances (Z76)

A woman is brought to the emergency department with chest pain. She is admitted to the cardiology service and treated for unstable angina. 3 days later, the attending physician discharges the patient from a medical perspective; however, a rainstorm has washed out the road to the patient’s community, so she cannot go home. The patient is designated ALC while she waits for the road to be repaired. She is discharged 3 days later. The total length of stay is 6 days, 3 of which are associated with the patient service ALC.

Group/field	Occurrence number	Data element name	Answer
02/02		Length of Stay (derived)	6
07/01		Main Patient Service	12 (Cardiology)
08/01		Service Transfer Section	99 (ALC)
08/03		Service Transfer Days	3
09/01	1 (first line)	Provider Type	M (Most Responsible Provider)
09/02	1 (first line)	Provider Number	As assigned by the facility
09/03	1 (first line)	Provider Service	CIHI Provider Service number
09/01	2 (second line)	Provider Type	W (First Transfer Provider)
09/02	2 (second line)	Provider Number	As assigned by the facility
09/03	2 (second line)	Provider Service	CIHI Provider Service number
10/02	1 (first line)	Diagnosis Code	I20.0 Unstable angina
10/04	1 (first line)	Diagnosis Type	M (Most Responsible Diagnosis)
10/02	2 (second line)	Diagnosis Code	Z76.4 Other boarder in health-care facility
10/04	2 (second line)	Diagnosis Type	W (First Service Transfer Diagnosis)

Rationale for ALC Z-code selection: The ALC reason of “cannot return home due to road washed out” is classified to *Z76.4 Other boarder in health-care facility*.