Information Sheet

Case mix categorizes patients into statistically and clinically homogeneous groups based on the collection of clinical and administrative data. Being able to adjust for patients of different levels of acuity forms the basis for comparisons by health care organization and resource utilization.

Over the years, these grouping methodologies and their accompanying indicators have been used by health care facilities to effectively plan, monitor and manage the services they provide.

Who We Are

Established in 1994, CIHI is an independent, not-for-profit corporation that provides essential information on Canada's health system and the health of Canadians. Funded by federal, provincial and territorial governments, we are guided by a Board of Directors made up of health leaders across the country.

Our Vision

To help improve Canada's health system and the well-being of Canadians by being a leading source of unbiased, credible and comparable information that will enable health leaders to make better-informed decisions.

Case Mix

RPG Grouping Methodology and Rehabilitation Cost Weights

What Is RPG?

The Rehabilitation Patient Group (RPG) grouping methodology is used to categorize client data submitted by participating organizations to CIHI's National Rehabilitation Reporting System (NRS) database. Based on a client's primary reason for receiving inpatient rehabilitation services, and using client age at admission and motor and cognitive functional status, client episodes are assigned to one of 83 RPGs. Upon client discharge, episodes are then weighted based on the client's length of stay, RPG and associated Rehabilitation Cost Weights (RCWs). The RPG methodology was developed by the Rehabilitation Technical Working Group of Ontario's Joint Policy and Planning Committee, a joint partnership of the Ontario Hospital Association and the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, using Ontario NRS data.

Types of Client Groupings in the NRS

Client groups in the NRS are defined in the following manner:

- A client's **Rehabilitation Client Group (RCG)** reflects the health condition that best describes the primary reason for admission to inpatient rehabilitation.
- The RCG is used, along with admission age and admission motor and cognitive function scores, to assign client episodes to one of 21 **Rehabilitation Groups (RGs)** and one of 83 RPGs, for the purposes of assessing resource utilization. The RGs and associated RPGs are outlined below.

RPG Reports

NRS-weighted episodes are used to produce RPG resource utilization reports. These reports are produced quarterly by CIHI to summarize clinical and resource characteristics of individuals and facilities. A variety of audiences may use weighted RPG reports, including financial and decision-support analysts, facility administrators and management teams within health regions and ministries of health.

Resource Utilization Weighting Variables

There are three types of rehabilitation episodes determined by RPG length of stay (LOS):

1. Typical stay
2. Short stay
3. Long stay

Depending on the type of episode, a slightly different weighting approach is used.

The following variables are used in the NRS episode weighting methodology.

Variable	Description
RCW Rehabilitation Cost Weight	• Represents the average relative resource utilization for inpatients in a given RPG • Used to weight NRS **Typical Stay** and **Long-Stay** episodes
$Trim_{SS}$ Short-Stay Trim Point	• Number of days below which an episode is considered a Short Stay for a given RPG • Lengths of stay less than or equal to this trim value will be considered Short-Stay episodes
$PDRCW_{SS}$ Short-Stay per Diem Rehabilitation Cost Weight	• Used to weight each patient day for NRS **Short-Stay** episodes
$Trim_{LS}$ Long-Stay Trim Point	• Number of days beyond which an episode is considered a Long Stay for a particular RPG • Lengths of stay greater than this trim value will be considered Long-Stay episodes
$PDRCW_{LS}$ Long-Stay per Diem Rehabilitation Cost Weight	• Used to weight patient days that go beyond the long-stay trim point for NRS **Long-Stay** episodes
RPG LOS RPG Length of Stay	• The length of a rehabilitation episode • Calculated as the number of days from admission to discharge

Additional Resources

CIHI's website: www.cihi.ca/casemix

- Rehabilitation Patient Group (RPG) Grouping Methodology and Weights

CIHI's Learning Centre: https://learning.cihi.ca

- Introduction to RPG for NRS

Questions or Feedback?

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