



In September 2017, AHRQ identified an error in the assignment of the data element for discharge month (DMONTH) in the HCUP Central Distributor 2010–2012 Nationwide Readmissions Database (NRD). This error led to incorrect values for some but not all records. DMONTH is mainly used for identifying index events (rather than readmissions). Therefore, an incorrect value of this data element may result in misclassification of a record as (or not as) an index event.

If you obtained a copy of the 2010–2012 NRD prior to September 15, 2017, we recommend you suspend any analysis until you have replaced your data files with the revised files. The corrected Version 2 has been provided to all purchasers of the original version. Please note that this error only affects the 2010–2012 data files; the 2013–2014 NRD are unaffected.

Incorrect Assignment of Discharge Month

The percentage of records in each NRD with DMONTH incorrectly assigned is as follows:

- 14.0 percent of records in the 2012 NRD
- 14.6 percent of records in the 2011 NRD
- 23.1 percent of records in the 2010 NRD

DMONTH is included on the NRD to allow the identification of an appropriate time frame for qualifying index events. For example, if you are interested in doing a 30-day readmission analysis, you would look for index events discharged from January to November, allowing December for the 30-day follow-up. You would then use the NRD-specific data element for timing between admissions (NRD_DaysToEvent) to determine if there was a readmission within 30 days of the index event.

We estimate that 1–2 percent of the records in the 2010–2012 NRD are incorrectly identified as being an index event from January to November (i.e., the record is identified as being discharged from January to November, but was actually discharged in December). Exact percentages are provided by data year:

- 1.0 percent in 2012
- 1.1 percent in 2011
- 1.9 percent in 2010.

In addition, a similar percentage of records were actually discharged in January to November, but would not be identified as an index event because of the incorrect coding of DMONTH.

Updated Data Available as of October 4, 2017

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused your organization. A complimentary copy of the updated version of the NRD files was provided to those who had purchased the original version. If you have any questions, please contact the HCUP Central Distributor (866-556-4287 toll-free or HCUPDistributor@AHRQ.gov).

Sincerely,
The HCUP Central Distributor Team