

## Load Guide: Downloading and Applying the Utilization Flags for ICD-10-PCS Tool

### Overview of HCUP ICD-10-CM/PCS Tools

ICD-10-CM/PCS Tools can be used with data containing hospital discharges beginning October 1, 2015. HCUP Tools are updated periodically to accommodate new or revised ICD-10-CM/PCS codes and to add corrections or modifications based on new guidance for the use of ICD-10-CM/PCS codes. You are advised to apply the most recent version of the HCUP Tools for your data throughout your research process.

The information included in this document is specific to the Utilization Flags for the ICD-10-PCS. The “HCUP Tools Loading Tutorial”, part of the [HCUP On-line Tutorial Series](#), provides steps to apply the Clinical Classifications Software (CCS) to administrative data that are generally applicable to all HCUP Tools, including the Utilization Flags. Specific guidance documents for each HCUP Tool are available on the HCUP-US Web site:<sup>1</sup>

- Clinical Classifications Software (CCS): [www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/ccs10/ccs10.jsp](http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/ccs10/ccs10.jsp)
- Chronic Condition Indicator (CCI): [www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/chronic\\_icd10/chronic\\_icd10.jsp](http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/chronic_icd10/chronic_icd10.jsp)
- Elixhauser Comorbidity Software: [www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/comorbidityicd10/comorbidity\\_icd10.jsp](http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/comorbidityicd10/comorbidity_icd10.jsp)
- Procedure Classes: [www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/procedureicd10/procedure\\_icd10.jsp](http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/procedureicd10/procedure_icd10.jsp)
- Utilization Flags: [www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/utilflagsicd10/utilflag\\_icd10.jsp](http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/utilflagsicd10/utilflag_icd10.jsp).

### Timing and Versioning of Software Tool Releases

New or revised ICD-10-CM/PCS codes are released annually and valid for a Federal fiscal year, which runs from October 1 to September 30. Fiscal years are identified by the year the codes end. For example, FY2018 codes are valid from October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018.

HCUP Tools are updated annually and released in October; however, the HCUP Tools are occasionally re-released during a Federal fiscal year to apply changes to the Tools’ assignments of specific ICD-10-CM/PCS codes. Thus, the HCUP ICD-10-CM/PCS Tools incorporate a versioning system that acknowledge both the Federal fiscal year and an incremented release number.

Version 2018.1 of the Utilization Flags for ICD-10-PCS was released in October 2017. The codes contained in version 2018.1 are valid for use with data containing discharges from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2018.

### Downloading and Installing Utilization Flags for ICD-10-PCS

The instructions below are specific to downloading and installing the Utilization Flags for ICD-10-PCS.

*If you are downloading the Tool for the first time:*

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<sup>1</sup> The Surgery Flags software tool is currently available for use only with the ICD-9-CM and CPT codes through 2015. See [www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/surgflags/surgeryflags.jsp](http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/surgflags/surgeryflags.jsp).

1. Navigate to [“Downloading Information”](#) on the [Beta Utilization Flags for ICD-10-PCS](#) Web page.
2. Click on the file name of the most current version of the Tool to automatically download the ZIP file. Alternately, click on the file name with the right mouse button and select "Save Link As" (Google Chrome) or "Save Target As" (Internet Explorer) to download the ZIP file to your computer.
3. After downloading the file, extract the ZIP file contents to a location on your computer where you can access it in the future. You will need to specify this location in the SAS Load Program.<sup>2</sup> The ZIP file for the Utilization Flags for ICD-10-PCS contains three files:
  - Translation file in text (ASCII) format that can be used with SAS, SPSS, Stata, or other analytic software. It is a Comma Separated Value (.csv) text file.
  - SAS Load Program.
  - This Load Guide.
4. Utilization flag definitions rely, in part, on Clinical Classifications Software (CCS) categories. If your input data does not already contain CCS categories, you will need to assign CCS categories to your ICD-10-PCS codes. Please refer to the “CCS Load Guide” on the [CCS for ICD-10-CM/PCS](#) Web page for instructions on this process.
5. Modify and/or adapt the SAS Load Program depending on your statistical software program.
  - a. If using SAS, modify the SAS Load program as indicated in the file. This includes specifying the full paths for all input and output files, including the location of your database or directly inputting your dataset, under the program header (i.e., ‘FILENAME INRAW1’, ‘LIBNAME IN1’, ‘LIBNAME OUT1’), the SAS data file name (i.e., ‘CORE’), and the number and names of variables in your dataset. Your input file(s) should include ICD-10-PCS, CCS category (see step 4), and UB-04 revenue codes. The SAS Load Program contains instructions on how to input the data if your ICD-10-PCS codes and revenue codes are in one file or are in separate files.
  - b. If using an alternate statistical program, adapt the SAS files as appropriate to work with the formatting requirements of that program.
    - i. For SPSS: Use the SPSS Value Labels statement to apply the Utilization Flags labels. If you have questions on how to apply the labels, contact SPSS directly for technical assistance.
    - ii. For Stata: Use the dictionary command to apply the Utilization Flags labels. If you have questions on how to apply the labels, use the Stata “help” function for more instructions or contact Stata directly for technical assistance.
6. Run the SAS (or other) Load Program to import the raw data files and apply the Utilization Flags Tool to the discharge records in your dataset.
  - Load the translation .csv file into SAS so that it becomes a SAS dataset.
  - Convert the SAS dataset into a SAS format.
7. Verify that the Tool was loaded properly.

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<sup>2</sup> The load program was developed using SAS statistical software; however, the program can be easily adapted for use with other analytic statistical software, such as SPSS or Stata.

- Perform a random spot check on your dataset to confirm that the correct utilization flags were assigned for the correct ICD-10-PCS codes, CCS categories, or revenue codes.

*If you have already downloaded the Tool and need to check for version updates:*

1. Check if your existing Software version is the most recent version of the Tool by navigating to [“Downloading Information”](#) on the [Beta Utilization Flags for ICD-10-PCS](#) Web page.
2. The current version of the Utilization Flags Tool is displayed on the Web page as “Version YYYY.N”. Because the Utilization Flags for ICD-10-PCS Tool is valid for all ICD-10-PCS codes, it is recommended that the most up-to-date version always be applied to your data. Note that older (archived) versions are retained on this page for informational purposes only.
3. If you have not applied the most current version of the Tool, follow the steps in *“If you are downloading the Tool for the first time”* to download and apply the latest version to your data and ensure that the Tool was loaded properly.

### **Additional Information and Technical Support**

For more information about the Utilization Flags for ICD-10-PCS and other HCUP Tools, visit the Tools section of the HCUP-US Web site: [www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/tools\\_software.jsp](http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/tools_software.jsp).

If you have questions about using the HCUP databases, software tools, supplemental files, and other products, or about data use restrictions and publishing with the data, please contact HCUP User Support:

- E-mail: [hcup@ahrq.gov](mailto:hcup@ahrq.gov)
- Phone: 866-290-HCUP (4287) (toll free)
- International users, please contact HCUP User Support by e-mail.