

SNAP - New COVID-19 Impairment Codes available for Rehabilitation Episodes starting 1 July 2023

Summary This information bulletin advises of new COVID-19 codes added to the impairment code list resource used as part of the Subacute and Non-Acute Patient (SNAP) Data Collection. The new codes will be available for rehabilitation care type episodes that commence on or after 1 July 2023.

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Distributed to Ministry of Health, Public Health System, Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres

Audience Administration;Performance Units;Clinical and Allied Health Staff

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PURPOSE

This Information Bulletin advises of new COVID-19 codes added to the impairment code list resource used as part of the Subacute and Non-Acute Patient (SNAP) Data Collection.

The new codes will be available for rehabilitation care type episodes that commence on or after 1 July 2023.

KEY INFORMATION

Reporting of all admitted SNAP episodes of care in scope of the SNAP Data Collection is mandated by the NSW Health Policy Directive *NSW Sub-Acute and Non-Acute Patient (SNAP) Data Collection - Reporting and Submission Requirements* ([PD2018_007](#)).

The Australasian Rehabilitation Outcomes Centre (AROC) Impairment Code list is the mandated resource used for reporting impairment codes for rehabilitation episodes for both the NSW Health SNAP Data Collection and the Australasian Rehabilitation Outcomes Centre (AROC) data collection.

Following consultation with local health districts (districts) and specialty health networks (networks) through the NSW Sub and Non-Acute Activity Based Management (ABM) Working Group (clinical group) and the SNAP Data Collection Coordinators Group, collection and reporting of the codes was endorsed by the SNAP Data Collection Data Custodian.

Implementation

The 3 new impairment codes are available for reporting for rehabilitation care type episodes that commence on or after 1 July 2023.

The new codes have been added to the Synaptix information system to enable recording and reporting as required.

Note: Where private facilities providing contracted services have already implemented the new COVID-19 impairment codes for episodes that started prior to 1 July 2023, these should be entered into Synaptix with the default impairment code 13.9 – *(Other disabling impairments that cannot be classified into a specific group)*.

The statewide paper-based collection forms for rehabilitation data are being updated to include the new codes and new stocks of the forms will enable the recording of the new codes.

Statewide supporting documentation/ data dictionary will be updated as part of the next documentation review cycle.

Districts and Networks will need to ensure:

- All local electronic and paper-based resources (forms, policies, procedures) used to support the collection of the SNAP dataset are updated as appropriate.
- All appropriate clinicians are advised of the change to ensure they understand the rules for the use and collection of the new codes.

Supporting documentation is available on the [AROC website](#).

Additional Information

The Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA) have agreed to update the national specifications and grouper to accommodate the new impairment codes from 1 July 2024.

The NSW Ministry of Health will map the new impairment codes to the approved default code 13.9 – *(Other disabling impairments that cannot be classified into a specific group)* until the national grouper update is complete. This will enable grouping and the national weighted activity unit (NWAU) allocation to continue.

In addition to the new impairment codes added to the AROC impairment code list, there are also new COVID-19 codes added to the comorbidity and complication fields required in the AROC Data Collection.

AROC have implemented all new codes into the AROC data collection effective from July 2022.

Note: Subscription to and participation with AROC is on a voluntary basis by facilities or districts and networks.

Further Information

Information on the NSW Health SNAP Data Collection is available on the [Subacute and Non-Acute Patient \(SNAP\) Data Collection](#) intranet site.

Further information and requests for clarification on SNAP data and reporting should be directed to your local SNAP Coordinator in the first instance. Additional support can be directed to the Data Integrity and Governance Team within the System Information and Analytics Branch, NSW Ministry of Health.

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