



PROVIDER QUICK TIPS

#79

ICD-9 Codes E849.0 – E849.9 (Place of Occurrence)

Medical Assistance Bulletin (MAB) 01-07-11 outlines the Preventable Serious Adverse Events (PSAE) initiative. This bulletin includes a list of events potentially identifiable by “E Codes”. External causes of injury and poisoning are coded using “E codes”. This set of codes classifies environmental events, circumstances and other conditions as the cause of injury and other adverse effects.

The Bureau of Fee-for-Service (BFFS) examines charts coded with one of the “E codes” that appear on our bulletin. There is a specific field to enter an “E code” on the claim which does not require a Present on Admission (POA) indicator. Without the POA there is no way of determining if the injury occurred in the hospital during the stay, or if it occurred outside the hospital prior to admission.

Consider the following codes:

E919.0 – Accident caused by a farm machine

E876.0 – Transfusion of mismatched blood during surgical or medical care

E884.3 – Falling from a wheelchair

It could be assumed that the first event occurred outside the hospital. The second event almost certainly occurred in a medical facility. The third event is unclear – it cannot be determined whether the fall from the wheelchair occurred in the hospital or “prior to admission.” MA does not determine that.

The use of code E849 would help alleviate this problem. It codes for “place of occurrence”. For example, if E884.3 – Falling from a wheelchair is accompanied by E849.0 – Home, then we know the fall did not occur during the hospital stay. Therefore, we would not request the chart for review. Without the use of the “place of occurrence” code we would have had the hospital send us the chart needlessly.

In summary, the use of codes E849.0 – E849.9 appropriately will help ensure appropriate charts are requested for PSAE review. The use of these codes will save time, money and effort for all concerned.

You can also review MAB 31-09-05 by clicking the link below:

<http://dhs.pa.gov/publications/bulletinsearch/index.htm>

**Thank you for your service to our Medical Assistance recipients. We value your participation.
Check the Department of Human Services’ Web site often: www.dhs.pa.gov**

