Introducing the CMG Overlay Table

With the Case Mix Group+ (CMG+) 2020 client table product, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) is introducing the **CMG overlay table**. This table associates each CMG with 4 higher-level reporting variables:

1. **High-level CMG**

   This variable collapses the 528 CMGs into 91 separate high-level cells to further roll up case types by clinical relevance.

2. **Provider program**

   This variable identifies which provider type is most often associated with the CMG (based on the most responsible provider).

3. **Program type**

   Each CMG is further assigned to 1 of 6 different program types. This is very similar to the provider program variable, but it collapses together clinical specialists and surgical providers.

4. **Level of care**

   This variable assigns each CMG to 1 of 3 levels of care: acute tertiary, acute secondary and acute primary.

To ensure comparability between inpatients, it is still recommended that you use CMGs to understand expected length of stay (ELOS) and Resource Intensity Weights (RIWs). CIHI developed these new variables in response to client requests for more aggregated information to help address small-volume issues often encountered in comparative reporting and analysis — particularly for health system planners outside of larger metropolitan areas.

Product development included internal, clinical and expert external reviews. During 2020, CIHI will be pilot testing these new variables, with full implementation planned for the 2021 CMG+ release. If you would like more information about the methodology, or if you are interested in participating in the pilot, please email casemix@cihi.ca.

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