NEMSIS V3 Suggested List – eSituation.09 Primary Symptom

Date

November 17, 2011 (FINAL)
December 05, 2011 (Updated-FINAL)
June 04, 2012 (Updated Pattern-FINAL)
May 09, 2013 (Updated List-FINAL)
June 5, 2013 (Updated table with explanation) – removed February 2016
March 5, 2014 (Three New values added: one R code and two Z codes)
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Introduction

The Primary Symptom suggested list has been updated to employ a two-tier choice hierarchy in an effort to make identifying and selecting an appropriate value easier for EMS personnel. The first tier represents a generic primary symptom type. The second tier represents a specific symptom within the generic primary symptom hierarchy. Thus, EMS software implementing this list may provide an interface that first allows EMS personnel to choose a generic primary symptom type, and then a group of more specific symptoms within that generic primary symptom type are provided to make the final value choice.

eSituation.09 - Primary Symptom

The overall code list associated with eSituation.09 (Primary Symptom) represents a range of values found in the 10th revision of the International Classification of Diseases – Clinical Modification (CD-10-CM). The process for gaining access to the ICD-10 CM code values is provided below.

Suggested List

The suggested list can be accessed from the NEMSIS TAC website on the Version 3 Resources page: https://www.nemsis.org/v3/resources.html. The suggested code range for eSituation.09 (Primary Symptom) is drawn from ICD-10-CM. Signs and Symptoms are contained throughout the ICD-10-CM list. The primary documentation for symptom should be based on the "general" list of R Codes.

The acceptable ICD-10-CM code ranges for Symptoms include:

- Symptoms, Signs and Ill-defined and Unknown Cause of Mortality (R00.0-R69, R73.9, and R99)
- A-Q, S, T, and Z.

The other ICD-10-CM R codes, not listed in the range above, will not be utilized in the NEMSIS Version 3 dataset as they do not pertain to EMS in the traditional pre-hospital (911) environment.

Licensed "Code Lists"

The U.S. National Library of Medicine provides access to the ICD-10 code values through the Unified Medical Language System (UMLS). An applicant must accept the terms of the UMLS Metathesaurus License and create a UMLS Terminology Services (UTS) account for access to UMLS datasets and terminology browsers. More information can be found at: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/databases/umls.html.

The NEMSIS TAC may only distribute suggested lists with specific value codes from the UMLS system to entities licensed through the UMLS system. Thus, each software developer must seek licensing and provide proof of licensing before gaining access to all of the pre-defined suggested lists available through the NEMSIS TAC.

Hierarchy Tier Graphic Example

EMS personnel may first choose "Pain" or "Respiratory" within the first tier of Primary Symptom to document the generic symptom type. Multiple second tier choices may appear to choose from. Within the generic "Pain" hierarchy, second tier value choices may include "Back", "Chest (Cardiac)", and "Chest, on breathing". For the "Respiratory" generic symptom, second tier value choices may include "Dyspnea", "Shortness of Breath", or "Wheezing".