

The NursingDRG Project

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The actual nursing workload is not sufficiently reported in detail by the Swiss DRGs (Baumberger et al., 2014). In 2008, the Swiss Nurse Director's Association (SVPL) and the Swiss Professional Association for Nurses (SBK) initiated the project "SwissDRG and Nursing". This project, referred to as "NursingDRG" since 2014, was launched to depict the nursing workload in SwissDRGs in a reliable and performance-oriented manner (SBK, 2014; SVPL, 2014).

On behalf of NursingDRG, the Swiss Federal Statistical Office extended the classification of CHOP (Surgery, Intervention, Therapy) to «CHOP-Pflege-Komplexbehandlung/CHOP-Nursing-Complex Treatment» (code 99.C1) for 2014 (Baumberger & Portenier, 2013). Training programs and information events assisted the implementation of this initiative.

The analysis of the data collected in 2014 should indicate the reality of nursing workload, it would allow a performance-based compensation for acute somatic cases that require a particularly high degree of nursing care. The splitting of single DRGs would therefore allow a fair compensation that reflects the actual nursing workload without creating additional costs.

The NursingDRG project group is now confronted with the task to adjust the regulations and the underlying point system to the 99.C1 CHOP-code. Already gathered data is therefore analyzed, but an additional empirical study is needed as well. First results of the data evaluation from different hospitals show that at the moment only 1% of the cases trigger a 99.C1 CHOP-code. It is still early to tell if the "Nursing and Complex Treatment" code can reach its goal to report the nursing workload in a performance-oriented manner, since it heavily depends on the quality of the data collected. There is still a considerable amount of development work to be carried out, especially the elaboration of a common nursing data-set that can be efficiently obtained from the Electronic Health Record (EHR).

Literature

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