Effective with discharges on or after January 1, 2019, the “ZIP code,” a unique code assigned to a specific geographic area by the U.S. Postal Service, for the patient’s usual residence shall be reported for each patient discharge. If the patient has a 9-digit ZIP code, only the first five digits shall be reported.

(1) If the City of Residence is known, but not the street address, report the first three digits of the ZIP code, and the last two digits as zeros.

(2) Unknown ZIP Codes shall be reported as “XXXXX.”

(3) ZIP Codes for persons who do not reside in the U.S. shall be reported as “YYYYY.”

(4) ZIP codes for persons who are “homeless” (patients who at admission lack a residence) shall be reported as “ZZZZZ.”

DISCUSSION

Reporting Requirements:

- The ZIP code of the usual residence of the patient must be reported.
- Report visitors from a foreign country as YYYYY.
- Report an unknown residence as XXXXX.
- Report homeless persons as ZZZZZ.
- Do not report the ZIP code of the hospital, third party payer, or billing address if it is different from the usual residence of the patient.
- ZIP codes may be verified by calling 1-800-ASK-USPS (1-800-275-8777).
- The web address for the United States Postal Service is www.USPS.com.