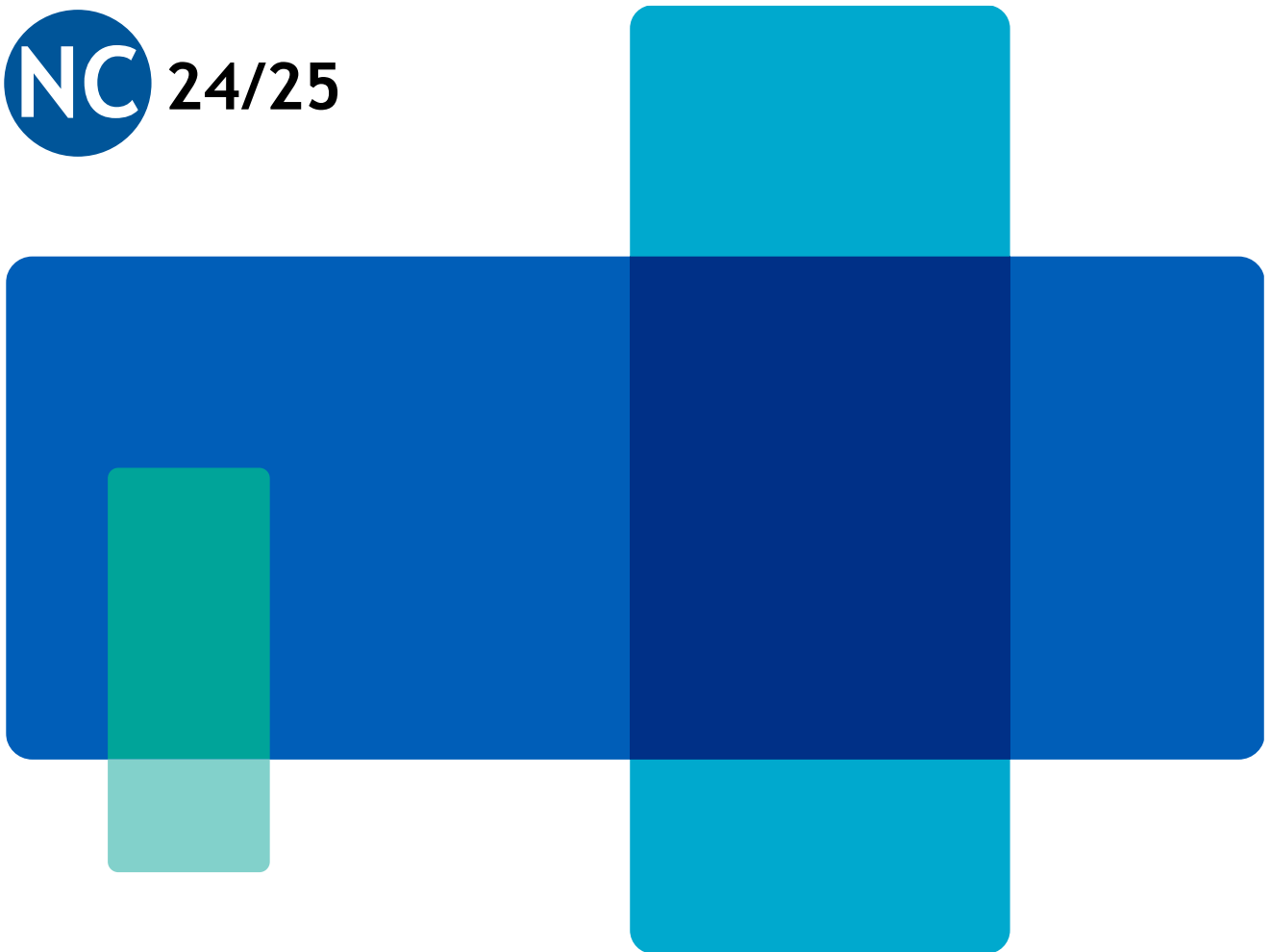


Summary of Changes

HRG4+ 2024/25 National Costs Grouping

NC 24/25



Published February 2025 v1.0



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Purpose

The purpose of this summary is to provide an overview of the main changes implemented between the HRG4+ 2023/24 National Costs Grouper and the HRG4+ 2024/25 National Costs Grouper.

Changes are broken down by:

- **Grouper Input Changes**
- **Grouper Output Changes**
- **Grouper Software Changes**
- **Grouper Algorithm Changes**
- **HRG Design Changes**

This document also includes a high-level description of design changes and HRG distribution by subchapter in **Table 1**.

This document is intended as a high-level summary to be used to form the basis of further analysis and investigation rather than as a comprehensive description of all differences between Grouper releases. Further HRG4+ supporting documentation is available from the National Casemix Office website: <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-casemix-office/downloads-groupers-and-tools>

Changes to the HRG4+ Grouper

The following changes have been implemented between the HRG4+ 2023/24 National Costs Grouper and the HRG4+ 2024/25 National Costs Grouper.

Grouper Input Changes

There are no changes to the inputs of the Grouper in this release.

Grouper Output Changes

There are no changes to the outputs of the Grouper in this release.

Grouper Software Changes

The Visual Studio Runtime component that is included in the installation wrapper has been updated to version 14.42.34433.

This update has been made to ensure that the latest Microsoft Visual C++ Redistributable package is installed, ensuring compatibility with security and adding stability fixes that Microsoft have put into the runtime libraries. This package installs Microsoft C and C++ runtime libraries, which the tool requires.

For further information around Microsoft Visual C++ Redistributable please see the link below:

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/cpp/windows/latest-supported-vc-redist?view=msvc-170>

Grouper Algorithm Changes

There are no changes to the algorithm of the Grouper in this release.

HRG Design Changes

Update of base design

The design base for the HRG4+ 2024/25 National Costs Grouper is the HRG4+ 2023/24 National Costs Grouper. However, the HRG4+ 2024/25 National Costs Grouper has been updated to include the following:

- The combination code grouping-derivation order for OPCS-4 code **A70.2** ***Maintenance of peripheral nerve neurostimulator*** has been changed to ensure the appropriate HRG from various subchapters is derived for renewal of sacral nerve stimulator
- The **XB Paediatric Critical Care** HRG design has been updated to ensure that children receiving Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) or that are dependent on a Ventricular Assist Device (VAD) or aortic balloon pump are assigned to the most appropriate HRG based on the complexity of other care recorded, rather than always generating **XB01Z Paediatric Critical Care, Advanced Critical Care 5**

Change to the number of HRGs

The total number of HRGs has not changed from the 2,900 in the HRG4+ 2023/24 National Costs Grouper.

Change to the HRG Labels

The HRG label description for **XB09Z** has been updated from **Paediatric Critical Care, Enhanced Care** to **Paediatric Critical Care, General Care**. The move away from using “Enhanced Care” to “General Care” is intended to avoid confusion with Enhanced Care in Adult Critical Care. It also reflects that in many hospitals, patients requiring this level of care will be cared for on a general ward.

Update to OPCS-4 and ICD-10 Coding Standards

Although no changes have been made to the HRG design, it is important to note that the Clinical Classifications Service updates the OPCS-4 and ICD-10 National Clinical Coding Standards annually. Changes to coding standards will affect clinical coding, which may have an impact on HRG derivation.

Table 1: HRG Distribution by Subchapter

The following table includes a high-level description of design changes and HRG distribution by subchapter in the HRG4+ 2024/25 National Costs Grouper compared to the HRG4+ 2023/24 National Costs Grouper. For further details of all changes to HRG subchapters, please see the supporting documentation for the HRG4+ 2024/25 National Costs Grouper, including the Code to Group Excel workbook and the Chapter Summaries document, available on the National Casemix Office website at <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-casemix-office/downloads-groupers-and-tools>

Changes made to the design of an HRG subchapter may have a significant impact on HRG grouping within other subchapters. This is especially true where changes have been made to procedure hierarchy values. Likewise, global design changes may impact HRG grouping within a subchapter even where no changes have been made to the subchapter itself.

Subchapter	NC24/25	NC23/24	Comment
AA Nervous System Procedures and Disorders	101	101	No change to HRG number or labels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Derivation order for A70.2 Maintenance of peripheral nerve neurostimulator combination codes amended to ensure renewal of sacral nerve stimulator maps to the appropriate HRG within this subchapter, AB Pain Management, FF Digestive System Open and Laparoscopic Procedures or LB Urological and Male Reproductive System Procedures and Disorders, depending on primary diagnosis recorded, or for pain management, treatment function code
AB Pain Management	16	16	No change to HRG number or labels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Derivation order for A70.2 Maintenance of peripheral nerve neurostimulator combination codes amended to ensure renewal of sacral nerve stimulator maps to the appropriate HRG within this subchapter, AA Nervous System Procedures and Disorders, FF Digestive System Open and Laparoscopic Procedures or LB Urological and Male Reproductive System Procedures and Disorders, depending on primary diagnosis recorded, or for pain management, treatment function code
BZ Eyes and Periorbita Procedures and Disorders	95	95	No change to HRG number or labels
CA Ear, Nose, Mouth, Throat, Head and Neck Procedures	122	122	No change to HRG number or labels
CB Ear, Nose, Mouth, Throat, Head and Neck Disorders	12	12	No change to HRG number or labels
CD Dental and Orthodontic Procedures	23	23	No change to HRG number or labels

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Subchapter	NC24/25	NC23/24	Comment
DX COVID-19 Infection	6	6	No change to HRG number or labels
DZ Thoracic Procedures and Disorders	176	176	No change to HRG number or labels
EB Cardiac Disorders	48	48	No change to HRG number or labels
EC Open and Interventional Procedures for Congenital Heart Disease	21	21	No change to HRG number or labels
ED Open Cardiac Procedures for Acquired Conditions	50	50	No change to HRG number or labels
EY Interventional Cardiology for Acquired Conditions	73	73	No change to HRG number or labels
FD Digestive System Disorders	54	54	No change to HRG number or labels
FE Digestive System Endoscopic Procedures	41	41	No change to HRG number or labels
FF Digestive System Open and Laparoscopic Procedures	115	115	No change to HRG number or labels ➤ Derivation order for A70.2 Maintenance of peripheral nerve neurostimulator combination codes amended to ensure renewal of sacral nerve stimulator maps to the appropriate HRG within this subchapter, AA Nervous System Procedures and Disorders , AB Pain Management or LB Urological and Male Reproductive System Procedures and Disorders , depending on primary diagnosis recorded, or for pain management, treatment function code
GA Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic System Open and Laparoscopic Procedures	27	27	No change to HRG number or labels
GB Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic System Endoscopic and Percutaneous Procedures	14	14	No change to HRG number or labels
GC Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic System Disorders	24	24	No change to HRG number or labels
HC Spinal Surgery and Disorders	74	74	No change to HRG number or labels

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Subchapter	NC24/25	NC23/24	Comment
HD Musculoskeletal Disorders	35	35	No change to HRG number or labels
HE Orthopaedic Disorders	84	84	No change to HRG number or labels
HN Orthopaedic Non-Trauma Procedures	111	111	No change to HRG number or labels
HT Orthopaedic Trauma Procedures	87	87	No change to HRG number or labels
JA Breast Procedures and Disorders	35	35	No change to HRG number or labels
JB Burns Procedures and Disorders	38	38	No change to HRG number or labels
JC Skin Surgery	11	11	No change to HRG number or labels
JD Skin Disorders	10	10	No change to HRG number or labels
KA Endocrine System Procedures and Disorders	18	18	No change to HRG number or labels
KB Diabetic Medicine	12	12	No change to HRG number or labels
KC Metabolic Disorders	9	9	No change to HRG number or labels
LA Renal Procedures and Disorders	48	48	No change to HRG number or labels
LB Urological and Male Reproductive System Procedures and Disorders	149	149	No change to HRG number or labels ➤ Derivation order for A70.2 Maintenance of peripheral nerve neurostimulator combination codes amended to ensure renewal of sacral nerve stimulator maps to the appropriate HRG within this subchapter, AA Nervous System Procedures and Disorders , AB Pain Management or FF Digestive System Open and Laparoscopic Procedures , depending on primary diagnosis recorded, or for pain management, treatment function code
LD Renal Dialysis for Chronic Kidney Disease	26	26	No change to HRG number or labels
LE Renal Dialysis for Acute Kidney Injury	4	4	No change to HRG number or labels

HRG4+ 2024/25 National Costs Grouper Summary of Changes

Subchapter	NC24/25	NC23/24	Comment
MA Female Reproductive System Procedures	60	60	No change to HRG number or labels
MB Female Reproductive System Disorders	17	17	No change to HRG number or labels
MC Assisted Reproduction Medicine	11	11	No change to HRG number or labels
NZ Obstetric Medicine	55	55	No change to HRG number or labels
PB Neonatal Disorders	20	20	No change to HRG number or labels
PC Paediatric Ear, Nose, Mouth and Throat Disorders	4	4	No change to HRG number or labels
PD Paediatric Respiratory Disorders	24	24	No change to HRG number or labels
PE Paediatric Cardiology Disorders	12	12	No change to HRG number or labels
PF Paediatric Gastroenterology Disorders	17	17	No change to HRG number or labels
PG Paediatric Hepatobiliary Disorders	3	3	No change to HRG number or labels
PH Paediatric Rheumatology Disorders	4	4	No change to HRG number or labels
PJ Paediatric Dermatology Disorders	7	7	No change to HRG number or labels
PK Paediatric Diabetology, Endocrinology and Metabolic Disorders	11	11	No change to HRG number or labels
PL Paediatric Renal Disorders	10	10	No change to HRG number or labels
PM Paediatric Haematological-Oncology Disorders	14	14	No change to HRG number or labels

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Subchapter	NC24/25	NC23/24	Comment
PN Paediatric Non-Malignant Haematological Disorders	9	9	No change to HRG number or labels
PP Paediatric Ophthalmic Disorders	2	2	No change to HRG number or labels
PQ Paediatric Immune System Disorders	2	2	No change to HRG number or labels
PR Paediatric Nervous System Disorders	22	22	No change to HRG number or labels
PT Paediatric Mental Health Disorders	4	4	No change to HRG number or labels
PV Paediatric Trauma Medicine	7	7	No change to HRG number or labels
PW Paediatric Infectious Diseases	15	15	No change to HRG number or labels
PX Paediatric Medicine	46	46	No change to HRG number or labels
RD Diagnostic Imaging Procedures	49	49	No change to HRG number or labels
RN Nuclear Medicine Procedures	69	69	No change to HRG number or labels
SA Haematological Procedures and Disorders	104	104	No change to HRG number or labels
SB Chemotherapy	18	18	No change to HRG number or labels
SC Radiotherapy	30	30	No change to HRG number or labels
SD Specialist Palliative Care	10	10	No change to HRG number or labels
UZ Undefined Groups	1	1	No change to HRG number or labels
VA Multiple Trauma	24	24	No change to HRG number or labels
VB Emergency Medicine	12	12	No change to HRG number or labels
VC Rehabilitation	23	23	No change to HRG number or labels

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Subchapter	NC24/25	NC23/24	Comment
WD Treatment of Mental Health Patients by Non-Mental Health Service Providers	9	9	No change to HRG number or labels
WF Non-admitted Consultations	8	8	No change to HRG number or labels
WH Poisoning, Toxic Effects, Special Examinations, Screening and Other Healthcare Contacts	68	68	No change to HRG number or labels
WJ Infectious Diseases and Immune System Disorders	38	38	No change to HRG number or labels
XA Neonatal Critical Care	6	6	No change to HRG number or labels
XB Paediatric Critical Care	9	9	<p>No change to HRG number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Logic updated to ensure children receiving Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) or dependent on Ventricular Assist Device (VAD) or aortic balloon pump are assigned to the most appropriate HRG based on complexity of other care recorded, rather than always generating XB01Z Paediatric Critical Care, Advanced Critical Care 5 ➤ HRG label for XB09Z updated from Paediatric Critical Care, Enhanced Care to Paediatric Critical Care, General Care. The move away from “Enhanced Care” to “General Care” is intended to avoid confusion with Enhanced Care in Adult Critical Care, and reflects that in many hospitals, these patients will be cared for on a general ward
XC Adult Critical Care	7	7	No change to HRG number or labels
XD High Cost Drugs	58	58	No change to HRG number or labels
YA Neurological Imaging Interventions	11	11	No change to HRG number or labels
YC Head and Neck Imaging Interventions	3	3	No change to HRG number or labels
YD Thoracic Imaging Interventions	5	5	No change to HRG number or labels
YF Gastrointestinal Imaging Interventions	9	9	No change to HRG number or labels

HRG4+ 2024/25 National Costs Grouper Summary of Changes

Subchapter	NC24/25	NC23/24	Comment
YG Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Imaging Interventions	16	16	No change to HRG number or labels
YH Musculoskeletal Imaging Interventions	11	11	No change to HRG number or labels
YJ Breast Imaging Interventions	9	9	No change to HRG number or labels
YL Urological Imaging Interventions	9	9	No change to HRG number or labels
YQ Vascular Open Procedures and Disorders	64	64	No change to HRG number or labels
YR Vascular Imaging Interventions	75	75	No change to HRG number or labels

The Documentation Suite

Below is a list of the various documents which are available to download from the National Casemix Office website: <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-casemix-office/downloads-groupers-and-tools>

This documentation suite provides a comprehensive resource intended to help users understand HRG design concepts and logic, as well as use the Grouper.

- The **Summary of Changes** document provides an overview of the main differences between the current Grouper design and its relevant predecessor
- The **Grouper User Manual** provides instructions on how to prepare and group data using the Grouper software application. Sample data with expected results is provided. This document is updated with each Grouper release
- The **Chapter Summaries** document provides an overview of the scope, composition, and relevant grouping logic of individual HRG subchapters, and it highlights significant changes made in the latest HRG design
- The **Code to Group Workbook** is an Excel workbook that embodies the Casemix design. It provides details of the constituent elements that contribute to HRG grouping, and it contains reference data such as the ICD-10 and OPCS-4 codes utilised in the design, the procedure and diagnosis hierarchies pertinent to a specific design, and the Complication and Comorbidities (CC) lists for HRG subchapters. The workbook also includes information on Programme Budgeting Category (PBC) mapping as well as a comprehensive list of HRG codes and labels

Additional documentation can be found on [The why, what and how of Casemix](#) on our website, which provides further background information relating to the work of the National Casemix Office. This section now contains **The Casemix Companion**, which is a starting point and general reference guide for anyone interested in learning about the Casemix classification system used by the NHS in England. This document provides an introduction to HRGs, Groupers, HRG4+ design concepts and grouping logic, and contains links to additional resources.