

Summary of Changes

HRG4+ 2025/26 Local Payment Grouping



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+ 2024/25 Local Payment Grouper and the HRG4+ 2025/26 Local Payment 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-grouper-and-tools>

Changes to the HRG4+ Grouper

The following changes have been implemented between the HRG4+ 2024/25 Local Payment Grouper and the HRG4+ 2025/26 Local Payment 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+ 2025/26 Local Payment Grouper is the HRG4+ 2024/25 Local Payment Grouper. However, the HRG4+ 2025/26 Local Payment 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+ 2024/25 Local Payment 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.

Of particular note, the **Appendix 1 Comorbidities list** related to ICD-10 Coding Standard **DGCS.3: Comorbidities** has been updated, effective April 2025. The update of this mandatory comorbidities list may impact the recording of certain secondary diagnoses, which may impact HRG grouping.

There is no link between this mandatory comorbidities list, which is a list of secondary diagnoses that have been determined to always be clinically relevant, and the Complications and Comorbidities (CC) lists used within the HRG design. The CC lists employed within the HRG design include only comorbidities and complications that are expected to result in additional resource usage for patient care the lists are relevant to.

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+ 2025/26 Local Payment Grouper compared to the HRG4+ 2024/25 Local Payment Grouper. For further details of all changes to HRG subchapters, please see the supporting documentation for the HRG4+ 2025/26 Local Payment 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 | LP25/26 | LP24/25 | Comment |
|---|---------|---------|--|
| AA Nervous System Procedures and Disorders | 101 | 101 | 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, 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 ➤ 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 | LP25/26 | LP24/25 | 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 | LP25/26 | LP24/25 | 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 |

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| Subchapter | LP25/26 | LP24/25 | 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 |

HRG4+ 2025/26 Local Payment Grouper Summary of Changes

| Subchapter | LP25/26 | LP24/25 | 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 | LP25/26 | LP24/25 | 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 |

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| Subchapter | LP25/26 | LP24/25 | 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.