

**Reference #:** 2013-15-OP

**From:** Craig Bryant  
**Sent:** Mon 6/24/2013 2:28 PM  
**To:** Hospital OQR initiative discussions  
**Subject:** IMPORTANT CORRECTION: ListServe Notification on May 31, 2013 - Hospital OQR 2013 Newsletter

**IMPORTANT CORRECTION:** The purpose of this e-mail is to provide a correction to the ListServe notification on May 31, 2013, regarding the Observation Status and ED records in the “Hot Topics from Our Q&A Tool” section of the Hospital OQR Summer 2013 Newsletter. Please note that the text below is replacing the 2<sup>nd</sup> question-and-answer pair in the “Observation Status” section on page 2 of the newsletter.

### **Observation Status**

**QUESTION:** Our ED doctors do not write observation orders, neither do they comment on whether a patient will be in observation or admitted. The order for observation is written by the hospitalist or other admitting doctor; therefore, the order is not part of the ED record. Under the current observation guidelines, we are not able to use anything other than the ED record for the question regarding observation. Should we answer “yes” to the question if the order is written while the patient is in the ED?

**ANSWER:** The point is not where the patient is when the order is written; the point is where the order resides – it must be in the ED record. If there is an order for observation available in the ED record, answer “Yes” to observation. If there is **not** an order for observation in the ED record, answer “**No**” to observation.

Regarding ED Throughput, if you are unable to answer “Yes” to observation, there should be an ED departure time documented in the ED record, i.e., when the patient left the ED. Your ED Throughput time, therefore, should not be affected by answering “No” to observation.

The corrected version of the newsletter will be posted on QualityNet.

**Please do not respond directly to this email.** For further assistance regarding the information contained in this message, please contact the Hospital OQR Program SC. Thank you.

### **Hospital OQR Program SC Team**

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