Addenda

Clarification Note to An Algorithm for the Use of Medicare Claims Data to Identify Women with Incident Breast Cancer

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In the description of the algorithm, under the heading *Algorithm Development* (pp. 1737–1740), the following clearer statements may assist those who wish to implement the algorithm that generated the results presented in the tables of the article.

1. In Step 1, the “screen” on page 1737, the time window for the diagnosis codes is January 1 – December 31 of the incident year, whereas the window for the procedure codes includes the incident year and extends to March 31 of the following year.
2. In Step 4 on page 1740, the reference to Step 1 should be modified to use a more stringent version of the screen. In particular, the requirement is “any diagnosis and a *surgery* code” (as opposed to a procedure code) during the period mentioned. Surgery codes are defined in the footnote to Table 1.

REFERENCES

- Nattinger, A. B., P. W. Laud, R. Bajorunaite, R. A. Sparapani, and J. L. Freeman. “An Algorithm for the Use of Medicare Claims Data to Identify Women with Incident Breast Cancer.” *Health Services Research* 39 (6, Part I): 1733–50.