

# What is a condition onset flag?

A condition onset flag is a means of differentiating those conditions which arise during an episode of care, from those arising before. Having this information can provide an insight into the kinds of conditions patients already have when entering hospital and those conditions that arise during the episode of admitted patient care.

For further information about condition onset flag assignment see Australian Coding Standard (ACS) 0048 *Condition onset flag*.

(Source: Australian Coding Standards, Eleventh Edition, Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, 2019).

A condition onset flag (COF) is assigned for all ICD-10-AM diagnosis codes collected as part of the Queensland Hospital Admitted Patient Data Collection (QHAPDC).

<p><b>Condition onset flag values can be assigned for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ICD-10-AM diagnosis codes (principal and additional diagnoses)</li> <li>- neoplastic morphology codes (M8000/0 – M9999/9)</li> <li>- external cause, activity or place of occurrence codes (U50-U73, U90, V00-Y98)</li> <li>- supplementary code for chronic condition (U78-U88).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Condition onset flag values <i>cannot</i> be:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- assigned for ACHI procedure codes</li> <li>- used as an indication of resource intensity.</li> </ul>
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**Notes:**  
Queensland captures condition onset flag (COF) permissible values in reverse of the national [condition onset flag](#) data element permissible values.

COF Permissible Value	COF (Queensland)	Relationship to the COF (National)
1	Condition present on admission to the episode of care	COF – value 2 Condition not noted as arising during the episode of care
2	Condition arose during the episode of care	COF – value 1 Condition with onset during the episode of care

Data definitions and further information can be found in the [Queensland Health Data Dictionary](#) and the [QHAPDC Manual](#).

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