



# APR DRG

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### 1. What is APR-DRG?

It is a prospective payment system that classifies hospital discharges based on diagnosis, procedures performed, severity of illness, and risk of mortality.

### 2. Why is it being implemented in Puerto Rico?

**PRHIA** (ASES) aims to align the hospital payment system with federal standards and improve efficiency, transparency, and equity.

### 3. How is the payment calculated?

The payment per hospital discharge is calculated as follows:

**DRG Base Payment = Hospital Base Rate × DRG Relative Weight**

### 4. What benefits does it offer?

- More objective compensation based on resources used.
- Reduction of unnecessary hospital stays.
- Easier integration of quality indicators such as readmissions and complications.

### 5. What tools will be used?

APR-DRG grouping software developed by Solventum.

### 6. What data is used to classify a patient into an APR-DRG?

The assignment is based on multiple factors from the hospital discharge, including the principal diagnosis, secondary diagnoses, procedures, age, sex, and discharge status of the patient.

### 7. Can secondary diagnoses affect the APR-DRG?

Yes, secondary diagnoses and chronic conditions can influence the severity level and risk of mortality, which in turn may change the APR-DRG category.

**Reference:** <https://www.ases.pr.gov/drg>

