

INTERPRETATION OF USAGE OF THE FUNCTIONAL GROUPS

REQUEST:

The Health Care Steering Work group (TG2 WG11) requests an interpretation of the usage of the functional groups. At present, the only reference to the possibility of a transaction not having a specific functional group assigned to it, is found in the introduction to the transaction set tables, which is not standard. All the transactions show the functional group identifier in both the workbooks and the release documents.

Two questions need to be answered by this interpretation:

- A) Is it correct to design a transaction without a specific association to a functional group, or to remove the specific association from an existing transaction?
- B) Is it correct to have the same transaction listed under more than one of the codes of DE #479, or to create new codes in DE #479 without listing the specific transactions that are grouped under each code?

RESPONSE:

It is acceptable to design a transaction without a specific association to a functional group. An existing example is TS 980. It is also acceptable to change or remove a specific association from an existing transaction. The standard does not preclude additional transactions, which have no specific group association.

It is acceptable to have the same transaction listed under more than one of the codes of DE479. The standard does not preclude such definition, though no such instances currently exist. It is recommended that all transactions explicitly list the group or set of groups in which the transaction may be included. A work request will be submitted asking that an explicit list of groups be added to TS 980.

Having reviewed all of the material submitted with this request for interpretation, this additional recommendation addresses implementation issues:

Existing translator implementations may not currently support the inclusion of a transaction in any of an explicit set of functional groups. It is recommended that the Insurance Subcommittee draft a set of implementation rules governing the association of a specific instance of a transaction with an appropriate functional group instance.