



for appendicitis. Discharges are assigned to the denominator based on the metropolitan area<sup>†</sup> or county of the patient residence, not the metropolitan area or county of the hospital where the discharge occurred.

**ICD-9-CM Appendicitis diagnosis codes:**

5400	AC APPEND W PERITONITIS	5409	ACUTE APPENDICITIS NOS
5401	ABSCESS OF APPENDIX	541	APPENDICITIS NOS

---

<sup>†</sup> The term “metropolitan area” (MA) was adopted by the U.S. Census in 1990 and referred collectively to metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), consolidated metropolitan statistical areas (CMSAs), and primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSAs). In addition, “area” could refer to either 1) FIPS county, 2) modified FIPS county, 3) 1999 OMB Metropolitan Statistical Area, or 4) 2003 OMB Metropolitan Statistical Area. Micropolitan Statistical Areas are not used in the QI software.