



Episode Playbook



What is the EQIP Episode Playbook?

The [EQIP Episode Playbook](#) provides an overview of each EQIP Episode. A playbook for each Performance Year will be created to provide participants with Episode definitions and construction codes.



Episode Quality Improvement Program Episode Playbook

PACES Episode Definition Summaries

Version 5

Updated: July 2025

DISCLAIMER: These episode summaries are provided to illustrate episode construction and help EQIP participants understand what is included in episode costs. Direct recreation of episodes will not be possible from these summaries. The codes included in each episode are independently developed and verified by the [PACES Center](#)



Key Components

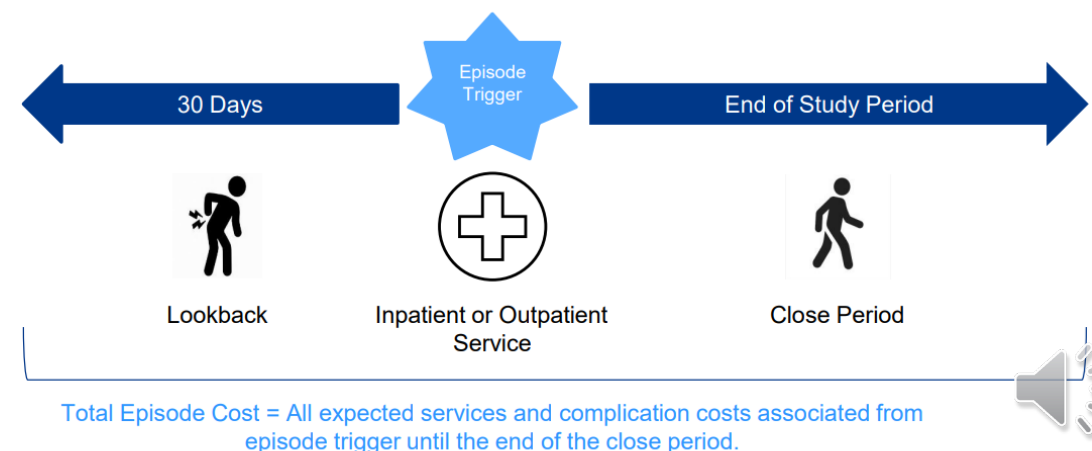
• Episode Triggers

- An index hospital stay or procedure during which the initial care was performed.
- Defined by a Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) or Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code for procedural episodes or International Classification of Diseases-Tenth Revision-Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) diagnosis code for acute episodes.

PACES Episode	Code Type	Code							
Low Back Pain	ICD10	M5485	M4985	M5441	M47818	M456	M488X6	M435X5	M4648
		M5487	M4986	M5440	M47816	M457	M488X5	M435X9	M4645
		M5486	S338XXA	M5432	M47817	M461	M488X8	M435X8	M4655
		M5493	M5385	M5431	M4328	M545	M488X7	M435X7	M4656
		M5490	M4817	M5430	M4327	M549	S339XXA	M435X6	M4658
		M5497	M4818	M5457	M4325	S335XXA	M9904	M081	M4657
		M5496	M4815	M5456	M4326	M2578	M9903	M4607	M4686
		M5495	M4816	M5455	M47898	S3992XA	S39012A	M4608	M4687
		M62830	M5416	M5459	M47896	M4728	M5137	M4605	M4685
		M4988	M5417	M5458	M47897	M4726	M5136	M4606	M4688
		M4987	M5415	M5451	M455	M4727	M5146	M4647	M4695
		M4989	M5442	M5450	M458	M4716	M5147	M4646	M4698

• Episode Length

- Lookback period: The time period prior to the trigger in which all costs related to the trigger will be considered.
- Close period: The time period following the triggering event, during which all costs related to the trigger will be considered.



Lookback Window	Close Period Window
30 Days	End of Study Period

Want to Learn More?

Visit the full [EQIP Curriculum](#) to explore comprehensive learning modules and deepen your understanding of Maryland's Episode Quality Improvement Program (EQIP).

