



AAAM Establishes AIS 2015 Licensing Program for Trauma Registries

CHICAGO, IL – July 3, 2019 - AAAM announces an extension of its AIS trauma registry vendor licensing program to support AIS 2015. AIS 2015 reflects the latest advancements and the progression of the AIS injury scoring system and incorporates the needs of its users and the current status of traumatic injury diagnosis and documentation. This new revision improves brain injury coding, spinal cord impairment coding and enhances many code definitions by incorporating current and appropriate medical terminology. Clearer and expanded coding rules encourage improved interrater reliability to support an improved tool for both medical coders and researchers.

Like the AIS 2005 licensing program, AAAM requires a license fee for the use of AIS 2015 in a trauma registry, however that fee will now be a perpetual **annual fee** to allow AAAM to make ongoing revisions to AIS 2015 in a fixed fee model. The licensing program will be administered by each trauma registry vendor for their clients, who will collect the fees established for AIS 2015 licensing by AAAM.

2019 is anticipated as the “technical implementation year” for AIS 2015, as vendors are now receiving the technical information for AIS 2015 that they need to design their products. By the start of 2020, AIS 2015 is expected to be available for implementations from the vendor community for clients that wish to obtain use of the coding scale, along with any optional software modules offered by their vendors such as dual coding solutions. Each vendor will require their own technical implementation timelines and technical solutions, and as of today, AAAM will be providing each vendor with a consistent set of technical resources that will allow each to begin the process of implementing AIS 2015 in their systems. There are no state, national, or regional systems that will require exclusive use of AIS 2015 as of this time, allowing time for all of the technical, planning, and administrative work that is required by vendors and registry leadership groups across the country.

AIS 2015 training programs are currently being offered by AAAM to familiarize users with the new version. Please visit the AAAM website for more information.

By collaborating with the vendor community, AAAM is ensuring not only the availability of the latest version of AIS injury coding scales, but also a technical strategy to “operationalize” AIS within a given vendor product of choice. The establishment of this vendor licensing program is an important first step to help promote the reasonable adoption of AIS 2015 as an option within all commercial trauma registry systems.

For a trauma center to adopt AIS 2015 in a commercial product, they will need to: (i) acquire a license for use of AIS 2015 from their vendor through this licensing program; (ii) procure the necessary technical implementation from their software vendor; and (iii) discuss the system integration considerations that could be relevant for their compliance requirements.

“AIS 2015 is the next major milestone in the continual evolution of traumatic injury classification and scaling” says Patrick Gillich (Board Member) from AAAM. “AIS 2015 incorporates many significant changes to several body region chapters. More than 140 completely new AIS codes were created for AIS 2015. Many of the new codes were generated to improve the classification of high-energy military type blast and penetrating injury. Nearly 400 codes underwent definition updates, severity levels were updated on more than 40 codes and approximately 140 AIS 2005 / Update 2008 codes were deleted for AIS 2015. It also includes a comprehensive mapping to and from AIS 2005 Update 2008 codes that will standardize the integration of AIS 2015 with previous database versions.”

About AAAM – The Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine (AAAM) is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of physicians, engineers, and other researchers dedicated to reducing the toll of crash-related deaths and injuries from motor vehicles. For nearly 40 years, AAAM has been refining and updating our Abbreviated Injury Scale (AIS) that is now used worldwide to describe the location, aspect, and severity of a full range of injuries. The AIS is available to hospitals, trauma centers, and research organizations through a licensing procedure that includes a copyright on AAAM’s intellectual property.