**Tool: Checklist for Common Mortality Risk Variables**

Hospital finance leaders should look for a few key risk factors to more fully describe expected mortality. While this is not an exhaustive list, it can serve as a starting point.

* Age
* Admit status—Emergency
* Admit Source
  + Transfer from another acute hospital
  + Transfer from a skilled nursing facility
  + Transfer from a long-term care facility
* AIDS
* Alcohol abuse
* Chronic pulmonary disease
* Congestive heart failure
* Depression
* Diabetes (complicated and uncomplicated)
* Drug abuse
* Hypertension
* Obesity
* Protein calorie malnutrition
* Pulmonary circulation disorders
* Psychoses
* Renal failure
* Sepsis
* Weight loss

**See related article**: [How Accurate Mortality Risk Measurement Improves Quality and Value](http://www.hfma.org/Content.aspx?id=40723)

*Source:* “Reducing Value-Based Purchasing Penalties by Improving Clinical Documentation,” a webinar presented by Brett Senor, MD, and Mark Dominesey, RN, BSN, CCDS, CDIP, CHTS-DP, director of quality documentation for Premier, Inc. Some material is also from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.