17th July 2025

VASS Check 50614 Inconsistent Discharge Method vs Discharge Destination (APC) amended

The VASS check **Inconsistent Discharge Method vs Discharge Destination (50614)**, ensures that Discharge Method and Discharge Destination codes are logically coherent.

- If the Discharge Method is 4 (Patient died) or 5 (stillbirth), the Discharge Destination should be 79 (Not Applicable - Patient died or stillbirth).
- If the Discharge Destination is 79 (Not Applicable - Patient died or stillbirth), the Discharge Method should be 4 (Patient died) or 5 (stillbirth).
- If the Discharge Method is 8 (Not applicable - hospital provider spell not yet finished), the Discharge Destination should be 98 (Not applicable - hospital provider spell not finished at episode end), and vice versa.

The logic behind this VASS check includes only valid Discharge Destination codes. However, all Discharge Method codes - valid and invalid - were included in the check. As a result, the check was incorrectly flagging valid Discharge Destination code 98 when submitted with a blank Discharge Method code, as inconsistent. These records were already being identified by the Invalid Discharge Method check, leading to a duplication of errors.
To resolve this issue, the VASS check has been updated so that only records with valid Discharge Method codes, i.e., those that have passed the retrospective validity check, are included in this consistency check.

Additionally, the original logic correctly enforced that if the Discharge Method is 4 (Patient died) or 5 (Stillbirth), then the Discharge Destination must be 79 (Not Applicable – Patient died or stillbirth). However, it did not validate the reverse: if the Discharge Destination is 79, then the Discharge Method should be either 4 or 5.
This has now been addressed, and the VASS check has been updated to include this validation rule.

These changes have been incorporated in the APC September 2025 Data Consistency report.