ICD-10 Diagnosis Documentation Tips – Orthopedic Hand Surgery

Infections:
- State first location and type (osteomyelitis right 5th metacarpal)
- Indicate organism if known

Arthopathies:
- Describe type / manifestation / location / laterality / specifics
- Example: chronic gout, idiopathic, right wrist, with tophus

Hand specificity:
- Osteoarthrosis of hand ICD-9 one code
- Osteoarthritis of 1st CMC joint ICD-10 12 codes
  - Bilateral or unilateral
  - Etiology
    - Primary osteoarthritis
    - Post-traumatic osteoarthritis
    - Other secondary osteoarthritis
  - For all unilateral types - LATERALITY
    - Right, left or unspecified

Fractures:
- Anatomic specificity / displacement / open or closed
- Episode of care:
  - Initial [open/closed]
  - Subsequent [routine healing, delayed, malunion, nonunion]
  - Sequela

Acute Injuries: If known, document the following:
- Nature of injury [example: MVA - car vs. pedestrian]
- Place [example: interstate highway]
- Activity [example: talking on cellphone]
- Status [example: while engaged in work activity]
ICD-10 [INPATIENT] Procedural Coding Tips – Ortho Hand Surgery

Characters:
- Section – almost always medical/surgical
- Body system – should be self evident from your description
- Root operation – describes the intent of your procedure
  - Replacement – total or partial joint
  - Detachment – amputation
  - Resection – removal of all of a body part
  - Excision – removal of a portion of a body part
  - Fusion – render joint immobile
  - Release – same context as carpal tunnel
- Body part – describe with anatomic specificity
- Approach – open, percutaneous, percutaneous endoscopic, external [closed reduction]
- Device - describe as specifically as possible any device left in the patient
- Qualifier - Used typically to add anatomic specificity
  - Example: (partial 3rd ray resection)

Examples of complete documentation:
- ORIF distal phalanx right index finger with K wire
- Endoscopic carpal tunnel release, left [specificity re: approach]
- Swanson arthroplasty R index, middle, ring, and small MCP joints
  - Generates 4 procedure codes, one for each MCP
  - NOTE: always document each component procedure
- Luno-capitate Fusion Right with Bone Graft from Ipsilateral Distal Radius
  - Generates 2 codes [fusion and excising bone graft]
- Extensor indicus proprius to extensor pollicis longus transfer, right