



Clinical Documentation Tips

Tips, Hints & Pointers...

Issue: 2 / June 2015

Reminder:

Encounter for supervision of **normal pregnancy** has an expanded code set for ICD-10

Provider documentation will need to reflect **Gravida and Trimester** to support the specificity of these ICD-10 Diagnosis codes.



Documentation and Coding for Wound Debridement:

Documentation requirements to support “Excisional” debridement billing are **stringent**. Therefore, excisional **debridement claims are targeted** not only by recovery audit contractor (RAC) audits, but also by the **Office of Inspector General** (OIG) and the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS).

In order for an *Excisional Debridement* to be coded (and reimbursed), **five key elements are required** in the documentation/Procedure Note:

- 1) A description of the **procedure as “excisional”**
- 2) A description of the **instrument(s) used** to cut or excise the tissue (e.g., scissors, scalpel, and curette)
- 3) A description of the **tissue removed** (e.g., necrotic, devitalized or non-viable)
- 4) The **appearance and size** of the wound (e.g., down to fresh bleeding tissue, 7 cm x 10 cm, etc.)
- 5) The **depth** of the debridement (e.g., to skin, fascia, subcutaneous tissue, muscle, or bone)

THINGS YOU SHOULD

KNOW:

1. **The ICD-10 Transition date is *October 1, 2015***
2. **You don’t have to use 68,000 codes:** You don’t use all 13,000 Dx codes from ICD-9, and you will not need to utilize 68,000 codes from ICD-10!
3. **The process for looking up ICD-10 codes is the same as ICD-9** (and you are already using it).
4. **Outpatient and office procedure codes aren’t changing.** The transition to ICD-10 for diagnosis coding and inpatient procedure coding does not affect the use of CPT for outpatient and office coding. Your practice will continue to use CPT.



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DOCUMENTATION TIP:

The ISSUE The diagnosis of Congestive Heart Failure (CHF).

Acute or Acute on Chronic, Diastolic/Systolic or Combined CHF is considered a Major Comorbidity. Chronic Diastolic/Systolic or Combined CHF is considered a Comorbidity.

- When patients are actively being treated for CHF (systolic, diastolic or combined) but the type of CHF is **NOT** specified, the acuity of the patient is not captured and the physician is **NOT** credited with the care needed and provided.
- It cannot be assumed that “CHF” is the same thing as “Acute CHF” or “Acute on Chronic CHF”

The SOLUTION: To capture the acuity of patient care for a CHF exacerbation, please document the following when appropriate:

“Acute (Systolic/Diastolic OR Combined) CHF” OR

“Acute on Chronic (Systolic/Diastolic OR Combined) CHF”.

Stable, chronic CHF should be documented as:

“Chronic (Systolic/Diastolic OR Combined) CHF”.

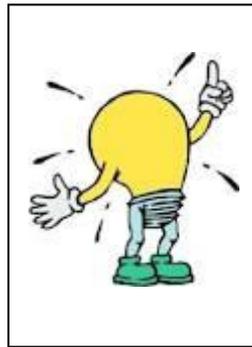
Please note: When you respond to clarifications, please exercise your independent professional judgment. A query does not imply that any particular response is desired or expected.

REMINDER

DETAILS MATTER:
Mortality Risk etc.

CHF—acute or chronic, Diastolic or Systolic

PLEASE CLARIFY ALL PATIENT CONDITIONS



DOCUMENTATION TIP:

If a patient is admitted to the hospital with a symptom,

The Provider **MUST**

By the end of the admission document, (if known) The cause, and link the symptom to the cause.

- ***Link admitting presentation to known or suspected diagnoses***
Chest pain due to CAD or unstable angina
- ***Link signs and symptoms to known or suspected diagnoses***
Syncope due to cardiac arrhythmia
- ***Link Emergency Department findings to admit note and/or H&P; Link Symptoms to Cause***
Altered mental status due to encephalopathy
- ***Abdominal pain, nausea or vomiting due to C.Diff***
- ***Acute hypoxic respiratory failure improved rather than in no acute distress***

Saint John's CDS's (Marilyn, Terri, Joan)