



## **ICD-10 Diagnosis Documentation Tips – Orthopedic Surgery**

### Infections:

- State first location and type (osteomyelitis right femur)
- Indicate organism if known

### Arthropathies:

- Describe type / manifestation / location / laterality / specifics
- Example: chronic gout, lead induced, right foot, with tophus

### Meniscal Tears:

- Type: cystic meniscus, old tear or injury, other meniscus derangement
- Anatomic location:
  - Medial: anterior horn, posterior horn
  - Lateral: anterior horn, posterior horn
- Laterality

### Fractures:

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

### Acute Injuries: If known, please 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 – Orthopedic Surgery**

### Characters:

- Section – almost always medical/surgical
- Body system – should be self evident from your description
- Root operation – describes the intent of the 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 – renders 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
  - Joint replacement – metal on poly, ceramic on poly, etc.
- Qualifier - Used typically to add anatomic specificity
  - Example: (partial 3<sup>rd</sup> ray resection)

### Examples of complete documentation:

- Arthroscopic partial medial meniscectomy, R knee [excision]
- Lumbar interbody fusion, posterior approach, L2-3, L3-4, BAK fusion device [note specificity of device]
- Femoral hemiarthroplasty R hip with synthetic metal implant, cemented [or simply document the specifics of the implant used]
- Amputation, 1<sup>st</sup> ray right foot, partial [detachment]
- Carpal tunnel release, right