ICD-10 Coding Tip

Seven Steps to Learning ICD-10-PCS

In an effort to aid Health Information Management Coding Professionals for ICD-10, the following is provided with an educational intent.

**TIP:** In ICD-10-PCS, a step-by-step approach to code assignment is helpful when trying to understand the complexity of ICD-10-PCS.

**Step 1:** Determine the first character, which denotes the “section” of the procedure (medicine/surgery, obstetrics, imaging).

**Step 2:** Determine the second character, which denotes the specific “body system,” or where the procedure is performed (nervous system).

**Step 3:** Determine the third character, which denotes the “root operation,” or the objective of the procedure (excision, resection, detachment, destruction, extraction) (31 root operations).

**Step 4:** Determine the fourth character, which denotes the “body part,” or the specific anatomical site (descending colon, duodenum).

**Step 5:** Determine the fifth character, which denotes the “approach,” or technique used to reach the site of the procedure (open, percutaneous).

**Step 6:** Determine the sixth character, which denotes the “device” that remains in or on the body after the procedure is completed, if any (skin grafts, joint prosthesis, IUD, radioactive implant, cardiac defibrillator).

**Step 7:** Determine the seventh character, which denotes the “qualifier,” or attributes of procedure, if any (type of transplant, second bypass site).

**ICD-Trivia:** What health care setting(s) will use ICD-10-PCS?

**ICD-Trivia Answer:** ICD-10-PCS codes are only applicable for reporting inpatient facilities services.

*Coding Clinic* is the official resource and authority for ICD-10 coding rules and conventions.

This coding tip sheet was developed by the CHIA Coding and Data Quality Committee as an educational resource 2012.