

## 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.