ICD 10 Coding Alert

General Surgery: Expand Options for Newborn Respiratory Distress Syndrome

Fourth digit adds detail.

No matter the details, you have just one code to describe newborn respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) under ICD-9 ☐ 769 (Respiratory distress syndrome in newborn).

That will change once ICD-10 goes into effect on Oct. 1 this year.

Look for Detail

Although ICD-9 lists several distinct diagnoses that code 769 includes, the existing diagnosis code set doesn't provide a way to distinguish the following "included" conditions:

- Cardiorespiratory distress syndrome of newborn

- Hyaline membrane disease (pulmonary)

- Idiopathic respiratory distress syndrome [IRDS or RDS] of newborn

- Pulmonary hypoperfusion syndrome.

In contrast, ICD-10 does provide different codes for some of these conditions. You'll choose one of the following codes under ICD-10:

- P22.0 ☐ Respiratory distress syndrome of newborn

- P22.1 ☐ Transient tachypnea of newborn

- P22.8 ☐ Other respiratory distress of newborn

- P22.9 ☐ Respiratory distress of newborn, unspecified.

Notice that 769 excludes transient tachypnea of newborn, because ICD-9 includes a different code for that condition ☐ 770.6 (transient tachypnea of newborn). In contrast, ICD-10 includes transient newborn tachypnea as a type of respiratory distress syndrome