

## Home Health ICD-9/ICD-10 Alert

### CLIP AND Save: See How Staph Aureus Coding Will Change Come October

#### Look for more steps with MRSA.

Once the new ICD-9 codes go into effect Oct. 1, you'll need to identify whether your patient has a methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus infection (MRSA) or methicillin susceptible Staphylococcus aureus infection (MSSA).

For patients with MRSA infections, use the following steps, says **Jun Mapili, PT, MAEd**, rehabilitation therapies supervisor with **Global Home Care** in Troy, MI:

**Step 1:** Identify the infection and select the appropriate code such as 998.59 (Other postoperative infection).

**Step 2:** Code the causative organism --Staphylococcus aureus -- using one of the methicillin resistant codes such as 041.12 (Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus).

**Step 3:** Determine whether you will be providing antibiotics via a vascular catheter. If so, list V58.81 (Fitting and adjustment of vascular catheter).

**Step 4:** List V58.62 (Long-term [current] use of antibiotics) if applicable.

For patients with MSSA infections, he suggests:

**Step 1:** Code the underlying infection, for example, 996.62 (Infection and inflammatory reaction due to other vascular device, implant, and graft).

**Step 2:** Code the organism -- Staphylococcus aureus -- with the appropriate methicillin susceptible code such as 041.11 (Methicillin susceptible Staphylococcus aureus).

**Watch for:** The fifth digit for MSSA codes is always "1", while MRSA codes end with "2" regardless of whether it's a combination code, Mapili says.