

Home Health ICD-9/ICD-10 Alert

CODING QUIZ: INTERPRET YOUR DIAGNOSES NOTES WITH MORE CODING SAVVY

Stick with UTI, drop diabetes code.

Be careful that your sepsis and Charcot foot knowledge doesn't leak into your diagnostic code choice, or you could end up with an unsupported code. Test to see if you're assuming too much with this quick ICD-9 quiz.

Urosepsis = UTI

Question 1: Among your new admission's documented diagnoses is "urosepsis." The patient is still on antibiotics. Should you code 038.9 (Unspecified septicemia) for urosepsis?

Answer: No, said **Sandy Nicholson, MA, RHIA, CCS-P**, in "Establishing Medical Decision Making Level (MDM): Expert Secrets Revealed" at The Coding Institute's National Coding and Reimbursement Conference in Orlando.

038.9 is not the code to use for "urosepsis." That term means a urinary tract infection (UTI).

You instead have to use 599.0 (Urinary tract infection, site not specified) for "urosepsis." Look up this term in the ICD-9 manual and you'll find 599.0.

Action: When you see "urosepsis," go back and ask the physician if he is treating a simple UTI or sepsis due to UTI, Nicholson advises. If all he says is "urosepsis," then code the UTI.

Without DM Cause Note Code Condition

Question: An elderly woman requires treatment for a documented diagnosis of "Charcot foot." You know the main cause of the condition in the United States is uncontrolled type II diabetes. Can you code 250.60 (Diabetes with neurological manifestations; type II or unspecified type, not stated as uncontrolled) and 713.5 (Arthropathy associated with neurological disorders)?

Answer: Unless the documentation specifies "Charcot foot due to diabetes," you have to code the general reason for Charcot foot, which is tertiary syphilis (094.X), Nicholson said.

Coders have no choice but to assign syphilis when documentation indicates only "Charcot foot." Coders are supposed to go by the rules and definitions that ICD-9 sets out, Nicholson stressed.