

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

### READER QUESTIONS: Diagnosis Codes Aren't Interchangeable

**Question:** We admitted a patient with a pseudomonas urinary tract infection and hematuria. He is also diabetic and has a necrotic area that is being treated with a peripheral IV line to administer aztreonam every eight hours. When I tried to use 99.21 to code for the antibiotics, I was unable to figure out what class of antibiotics this was, and then the computer wouldn't let me enter 99.21. It said I needed to have a number from 0 to 9 as the third digit. What am I doing wrong?

**Answer:** You may have been attempting to enter a procedure code in the place reserved for diagnosis codes. Diagnosis codes that are acceptable in M0230 and M0240 have at least three digits prior to the decimal point (E codes have four digits prior to the decimal point and may be placed only in M0240). The correct code for infusion of antibiotics is 99.21, but it can only be placed in Item 12 of the plan of care. Item 12 is not an OASIS data item.