

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

### READER QUESTIONS :Don't Assume With Hypertension

Question: When a hypertension diagnosis does not specify benign or malignant, should we list it as unspecified (401.9) or default to the benign code?

-- Nebraska Subscriber

Answer: Although most hypertension is benign, the official coding guidelines instruct you to list fourth digit "9" for unspecified if the physician does not specify benign or malignant hypertension.