

Home Health ICD-9/ICD-10 Alert

READER QUESTIONS : Get Ready for OASIS C

Question: It seems like OASIS C will have a big impact on our agency's assessment practices. I know the final instructions aren't due until later this summer, but I'd like to get an idea of what's in store. What should we as coders know to be prepared for OASIS C?

-- Vermont Subscriber

Answer: The successors of M0190 and M0210 have six spaces for codes to allow for more risk adjustment. The successors to M0230/M0240/M0246 are essentially the same except the severity index is renamed "degree of symptom control" to differentiate between the severity index and the seriousness of the patient's condition.

The biggest change is the addition of an OASIS data item to collect inpatient surgical procedure codes. This change is the most troublesome and burdensome because surgical procedure codes are commonly difficult to find, and the home health agency usually doesn't receive enough information for the detail required.