

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

### Reader Questions: Hire Coders With Home Health Background

Question: In a previous issue, you mentioned that many agencies hire professional coders. What is the required training or educational standard for a professional coder?

-- Montana Subscriber

**Answer:** There are several different certifications as well as degreed professional coders. Those with some certifications have shown their expertise and competency in coding in general. Others have specialized in physician or hospital coding. There is one certification for home care coders available. Even though all coders use the same code set, the ICD-9-CM, home care coders also have to deal with OASIS and home health PPS. So it is important that you choose a competent coder who also has a demonstrated knowledge of home health.