Home Health ICD-9/ICD-10 Alert

Reader Questions: Let Cause Of Injury Dictate Code Choice

Question: Our new patient recently returned home from the hospital following an accidental fall. The patient needs continuing wound care, pain medication and therapy for a neck injury suffered in the fall. How should we code for him?

-- Texas Subscriber

Answer: If the wound is a trauma wound suffered in the fall, code the trauma wound first. If it is a surgical wound, then you should code aftercare first, provided the wound isn't complicated. You should also code the actual injury to the neck. If the patient has unusual post-operative pain or post-traumatic pain, you can add a code from the 338.x (Pain) category. There is no need for a V57.x (Care involving use of rehabilitation procedures) code.