

## MDS Alert

### Reader Questions: Do You Have Enough Information To Code All These Diagnoses?

Question: How should I code for a patient with the following diagnoses: peripheral vascular disease, GERD and ambulatory dysfunction?

Answer: Assign codes 443.9 (Peripheral vascular disease, unspecified) and 530.81 (Esophageal reflux) for the PVD and GERD.

But you'll need to check with the physician to determine what "ambulatory dysfunction" means and obtain appropriate documentation before you can assign an ICD-9 code for this diagnosis.

Source: **Charlotte Lefert, RHIA**, an independent health information management consultant based in Madison, WI, and coding strategy facilitator of the **LTC Community of Practice** for the **American Health Information Management Association** (AHIMA).