

## OASIS Alert

### M1024: Expert Sheds Some Light on Risk Adjustment Grey Area

#### Must you sacrifice risk adjustment to CMS's letter of the law?

At one time, there was an OASIS Q&A from the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** that permitted coders to list non-case mix diagnoses for risk adjustment in M1024 (Payment diagnoses). But that item, along with another that mentioned repeating case mix diagnoses in M1024, were removed in the September 2009 Q&A update, says **Sparkle Sparks, MPT, HCS-D, COS-C**, with Redmond, Wash.-based **OASIS Answers**.

"There is more to coding than reimbursement," says **Lisa Selman-Holman, JD, BSN, RN, HCS-D, COS-C**, consultant and principal of **Selman-Holman & Associates** and **CoDR -- Coding Done Right** in Denton, Texas. "There is painting an accurate picture of the patient's health to reflect the plan of care, and there is risk adjustment. But coders shouldn't worry about risk adjustment for non-case mix codes not placed in M1024."

Tip: M1024 is not the only data item that will provide risk adjustment for those conditions that may no longer exist (resolved conditions) and fractures, Selman-Holman says. These conditions would also possibly be placed in M1010 (Inpatient Diagnoses) and M1016 (Diagnoses Requiring Change in Treatment Regimen).