

OASIS Alert

Reader Question: Brush Up On Diagnosis Coding Choices

In some ways, coding may be simpler than you think.

Question: When we are choosing diagnosis codes for M0230 and M0240 on the OASIS Assessment and also for the 485, should we use M codes if the patient has a condition such as transitional cell neoplasm of the bladder?

Answer: You cannot use M codes on either the OASIS or the 485, says San Francisco-based coding consultant **Sparkle Sparks** with **OASIS Answers**. Instead, you would choose from the neoplasm table in the Alpha Index of Diseases in your coding manual and then verify your choice using the tabular list, she tells **Eli**.

M codes are morphology codes that are usually used in the inpatient setting to indicate the pathology involved in the patient's illness, adds Sparks.

Note: For in-depth home care coding information, order Eli's Home Health ICD-9 Alert at www.elihealthcare.com or by calling 1-800-874-9180. In some ways, coding may be simpler than you think.