Catch the Fever for ICD-10

Do you want your quality profile data collected by Medicare and other publicly reported databases to reflect how sick your patients really are? Hamilton Medical Center's Clinical Documentation team wants to help you validate this through your documentation in the medical record. Your words really do matter! Any documentation queries that you receive are intended to ensure accurate coding and reflect the true clinical picture of your patient.

As a part of Hamilton's ongoing efforts to improve documentation, and to help you prepare for ICD-10, queries left for physicians going forward will begin to reflect the new specificity requirements for ICD-10. In addition, each physician newsletter will provide key documentation points related to specific diseases or disease categories, beginning in this issue with infectious diseases.

Infectious Disease Chapter (A00-B99)

- The Infectious Disease chapter includes diseases generally recognized as communicable or transmissible.
- There are codes to identify resistance to antimicrobial drugs (Z16).
- When coding AIDS, only confirmed cases are coded. In this context, "confirmation" does not require documentation of positive serology or culture for HIV. The provider's diagnostic statement that the patient is HIV positive or has an HIV-related illness is sufficient.
- Link sequela resulting from the infectious or parasitic disease to the underlying cause (A sequela is the residual effect after the acute phase of an illness or injury. The residual may be apparent early, such as in cerebral infarction, or it may occur months or years later, such as that due to previous injury.)
- When dealing with bacterial and viral infectious agents, the infectious agent must be linked to the condition, if known or suspected.
- For a diagnosis of sepsis, designate the underlying systemic infection or causal organism. Negative or inconclusive blood cultures do not preclude a diagnosis of sepsis in patients with clinical evidence of the condition. Relate any organ dysfunction/failure, if due to sepsis.
- With documentation of a causal relationship, sepsis can be classified as due to a post-op infection or due to a noninfectious condition, such as burn or serious injury.
- The term "urosepsis" is a nonspecific term that is no longer recognized as a medical term in ICD-10. This term should never be used.

Please visit www.cms.gov/ICD10 for the latest news and resources to help you prepare. Or contact Fran Andrews at 706.272.6000, extension 1541 or fandrews@hhcs.org or Julie Bell at 706.272.6000, extension 1523 or jbell@hhcs.org.