Introduction to ICD-9-CM

Objectives

- Review the layout of the ICD-9-CM
- Understand conventions
- Master the code look-up process
- Discuss Official ICD-9-CM Coding Guidelines
Introduction to ICD-9-CM

- International Classification of Disease, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification
  - Modified for use in the United States
  - Describes in detail the patients’ condition
- Uses
  - Statistical aggregation within populations
  - Reporting medical necessity to insurers

Look at Your Code Book

- Find these features
  - Volume 1
  - Volume 2
  - Coding Guidelines
Medical Necessity

Rhinoplasty: nose job

—Repair an injury?
—Improve cosmetic appearance?

Was the service covered under the patient’s medical policy? Is the service medically necessary?

ICD-9-CM Coding Conventions

Rules to make lookup more efficient
Index: History (Personal)

History (personal) of
abuse
  emotional  V15.42
  neglect V15.42
  physical V15.41
  sexual V15.41
affective psychosis V11.1
alcoholism V11.3
  specified as drinking problem (see also abuse, drugs, nondependent) 305.0x

Index: History (Personal)

failed
  conscious sedation V15.80
  moderate sedation V15.80
falling V15.88
family
  allergy V19.6
  anemia V18.2
  arteriosclerosis V17.49
Index: History (Personal)

failed
  conscious sedation V15.80
  moderate sedation V15.80
falling V15.88
family
  allergy V19.6
  anemia V18.2
  arteriosclerosis V17.49

NEC vs. NOS

• NEC  Not elsewhere classifiable
  “We know what’s wrong, but there isn’t a specific code for it.”

• NOS  Not otherwise specified
  “We aren’t sure what’s wrong.”
Punctuation

[ ] Brackets: in tabular enclose synonyms or alternate wording

Example:

521.7 Intrinsic posteruptive color changes
   Staining [discoloration] of teeth

[ ] Slanted brackets: in index identifies manifestations and indicates sequence.

Example:

Diabetes
   gangrene 250.7x [785.4]

Punctuation

( ) Parentheses: enclose supplementary words that may be present in the description

Example:

Blindness (acquired)(congenital)(both eyes)
Additional Terms

232 Carcinoma in situ of skin
- Includes pigment cells
- Excludes melanoma in situ of skin (172.0-172.9)

232.5 Skin of trunk, except scrotum
- Anus, margin
- Axillary fold
- Perianal skin
- Skin of:
  - abdominal wall

“Use additional code”

**Diabetes**
- gangrene 250.7x [785.4]

250.7 Diabetes with peripheral circulatory disorders
- Use additional code to identify manifestation, as:
  - diabetic
    - gangrene (785.4)
    - peripheral angiopathy (443.81)
“Code first”

422.0 Acute myocarditis in diseases classified elsewhere

Code first underlying diseases, as:
myocarditis (acute):
  influenzal (487.8, 488.09, 488.19)
tuberculuous (017.9)

Use Additional Code

692.3 Contact dermatitis due to drugs and medicines in contact with skin

Use additional E code to identify drug
Use Additional Code, if Applicable

571.5 Cirrhosis of liver without mention of alcohol

Code first, if applicable, viral hepatitis (acute) (chronic) (070.0-070.9)

Combination Codes

Single codes:
780.52  Insomnia, unspecified
780.57  Unspecified sleep apnea

Combination code:
780.51  Insomnia with sleep apnea, unspecified
Steps to Look Up a Diagnosis Code

- Find the documented diagnosis
- Determine the main term
- Look up the main term in the Index to Diseases (Volume 2)
- Find the code in the Tabular List (Volume 1)
- Read all notes associated with the code

Main Term

- What is the:
  - disease?
  - illness?
  - symptom?
- Example:
  - Acute purulent viral bronchitis
  - Severe unremitting pain in the right leg
What’s the Main Term?

• Ruptured ovarian cyst
• Decubitus ulcer of the right heel
• Congenital absence of ear lobe
• Febrile convulsions
Code Lookup

- Locate term in index
- Note code associated with chosen index entry
- Lookup code in tabular section
- Tabular section
  - 17 chapters
  - Chapters have 3-digit categories
  - Categories have 4- or 5-digit subcategories

Specificity

123 M&Ms
1 Chocolate filled
2 Peanut filled
  1 Red
  2 Blue
  3 Yellow
  4 Green
  5 Brown
  9 Unspecified

123.2x M&M; Peanut filled
123.11 M&M; Chocolate filled; Red
123.23 M&M; Peanut filled; Yellow
Ankle fracture vs AIDS

824 Fracture of ankle
- 824.0 Medial malleolus, closed
- 824.1 Medial malleolus, open
- 824.2 Lateral malleolus, closed
- 824.3 Lateral malleolus, open
- 824.4 Bimalleolar, closed
- 824.5 Bimalleolar, open
- 824.6 Trimalleolar, closed
- 824.7 Trimalleolar, open
- 824.8 Unspecified, closed
- 824.9 Unspecified, open

042 AIDS
Scientific Classification

Chapter: Signs and Symptoms

788 Symptoms involving urinary system
- 788.3 Urinary incontinence
  - 788.32 Stress incontinence, male

Complicated Open Wound of Nasal Sinus

Chapter: Injury and poisoning

873 Other open wound of head
- 873.3 Nose, complicated
  - 873.33 Nasal sinus
Acute Arthritis

**Arthritis, arthritic (acute) (chronic) (subacute) 716.9**

meaning Osteoarthritis – see Osteoarthrosis

Note: Use the following fifth digit subclassifications with categories 711-712, 715-716

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>site unspecified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>shoulder region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>upper arm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>forearm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>pelvic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>lower leg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>ankle and foot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>other specified sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>multiple sites</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Acute Arthritis**

5th **716.9**  

**Arthropathy, unspecified**

[0-9] Arthritis (acute) (chronic) (subacute)  
Arthropathy (acute) (chronic) (subacute)  
Articular rheumatism (chronic)  
Inflammation of joint NOS
Acute Arthritis

The following fifth-digit subclassification is for use with category 716; valid digits are in [brackets] under each code. See the list at beginning of chapter for definitions.

<table>
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<td>4</td>
<td>hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>pelvis region and thigh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>lower leg</td>
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</table>

ICD-9-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting

- Section 1
  - A: Coding conventions
  - B: Coding guidelines
  - C: Chapter-specific guidelines

- Sections 2 & 3
  - Inpatient Only

- Section 4
  - UHDDS guidelines for first listed conditions for outpatient and office visits
ICD-9-CM Guidelines
Hierarchy of Rules

1. Always follow instructions within ICD-9-CM that are specific to the code.

2. Follow chapter or section instructions when they do not conflict with the individual code instructions.

3. Follow guidelines when they do not conflict with the chapter, section, or individual code instructions.

ICD-9-CM Guidelines

• Inpatient hospital
  – “Hospitality:” nursing care, bed, OR, tests, meds
    • Payment for level of “hospitality” required

• Outpatient physician
  – Surgical procedures and office visits
    • Payment for services rendered
General Coding Guidelines:  
Section I. B.

1. Use of Both Alphabetic Index and Tabular List
2. Locate each term in the Alphabetic Index and Tabular List
3. Level of Detail in Coding
4. Code or codes from 001.0 through V91.99
5. Selection of codes 001.0 through 999.9

6. Signs and symptoms
7. Conditions that are an integral part of the disease process
8. Conditions that are not an integral part of the disease process
9. Multiple coding for a single condition
10. Acute and Chronic conditions
   - Acute Bronchitis 466.0
   - Chronic Bronchitis 491.9
   - Code both, acute first, then chronic 466.0, 491.9

11. Combination code
   - Right bundle branch block 426.4
   - Left bundle branch block 426.3
   - Other bilateral bundle branch block 426.53
   - Code only the bilateral bundle branch block 426.53

12. Late Effects
   - Code first the residual condition of the late effect
   - Code second the cause for the late effect (905.0-909.9)

13. Impending or threatened conditions
14. Reporting same diagnosis more than once
   - Right kidney infection 590.9
   - Left kidney infection 590.9
   - Report code only once as 590.9
General Coding Guidelines: Section I. B.

15. Admissions/encounters for rehabilitation
   – V57.1 Other physical therapy
   – 729.2 Neuralgia, neuritis, and radiculitis

16. Documentation of BMI (Body Mass Index) and pressure ulcer stages

17. Syndromes

Section IV: Diagnostic Coding and Reporting Guidelines for Outpatient Services

A. Selection of first-listed condition
   1. Outpatient surgery
   2. Observation stay

   Exception: Admit for surgery, develops complication, sent to observation:
   – Reason for surgery is coded first
   – Complication for observation is coded second
Section IV: Diagnostic Coding and Reporting Guidelines for Outpatient Services

B. Codes from 001.0 through V91.99

C. Accurate reporting of ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes

D. Selection of codes 001.0 through 999.9

E. Codes that describe symptoms and signs

Section IV: Diagnostic Coding and Reporting Guidelines for Outpatient Services

F. Encounters for circumstances other than a disease or injury

G. Encounters for circumstances other than a disease or injury

Level of detail in coding

\[4^{\text{th}} \quad 5^{\text{th}}\]
Section IV: Diagnostic Coding and Reporting Guidelines for Outpatient Services

H. ICD-9-CM code for the diagnosis, condition, problem, or other reason for encounter/visit
I. Uncertain diagnosis
J. Chronic diseases
K. Code all documented conditions that co-exist

L. Patients receiving diagnostic services only
M. Patients receiving therapeutic services only
   – Exception: primary reason for visit is chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or rehabilitation
N. Patients receiving preoperative evaluations only
Section IV: Diagnostic Coding and Reporting Guidelines for Outpatient Services

O. Ambulatory Surgery

P. Routine outpatient prenatal visits

The End