New CPT Codes for 2011  Debridement (11042-11047)

Debridement codes for partial and full thickness skin have been deleted. Other codes have been revised. These codes now clarify the size and depth of tissue debrided beyond the skin, including all superficial layers above. Debridement of the skin alone, ie. epidermis and/or dermis only, is reported with active wound care management codes in the medicine chapter, CPT 97597, 97598.

ICD-10 CM AND OCTOBER 1, 2013

October 1, 2013 is the Compliance date for implementation of ICD10-CM diagnosis. This is coming fast and preparations are necessary for this to be a smooth transition. Claims for services provided on or after this date must use ICD-10 codes for medical diagnosis.

The United States is one of the last countries to adopt ICD10 and the codes will be used in all settings. We learn from other countries that productivity slows down, sometimes as high as 25%, taking 6-12 months to return to normal.

Diagnosis coding under ICD-10 CM uses 3-7 digits instead of the 3 to 5 digits used with ICD9-CM, but the format of the code sets is similar. There are approximately 70,000 ICD-10-CM codes compared to approximately 14,000 ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes. ICD-10 codes are longer and use more alpha characters which enable the claim to provide greater clinical detail and specificity in describing diagnosis.

CMS has described the Benefits of the ICD-10-Coding system in providing better data to:

- Measure the quality, safety, and efficacy of care
- Reduce the need for attachments to explain the patient's condition
- Design payment systems and process claims for reimbursement
- Conduct research, epidemiological studies, and clinical trials
- Set health policy
- Support operational and strategic planning
- Design health care delivery systems
- Monitor resource utilization
- Improve clinical, financial, and administrative performance
- Prevent and detect health care fraud and abuse
- Track public health and risks

Each ICD-10-CM is 3-7 characters, the first being an alpha character. All letters are used except U. The second character is numeric and characters 3-7 are either alpha or numeric with a decimal after the third character.
The provider will be required to provide more specificity, especially documenting location, associated symptoms and manifestations.

In the next couple of newsletters, we will be printing additional examples of the new coding. Examples below are some of the changes in ICD-10-CM

- A78 - Q fever
- A69.21 - Meningitis due to Lyme disease
- O9A.311 - Physical abuse complicating pregnancy, first trimester
- S52.121A - Displaced fracture of neck of right radius, initial encounter for closed fracture

Additionally, the ICD-10-CM coding system has the following new features

1) Laterality (left, right, bilateral)
- C50.511 - Malignant neoplasm of lower-outer quadrant of right female breast
- H16.013 - Central corneal ulcer, bilateral
- L89.022 - Pressure ulcer of left elbow, stage II

2) Combination codes for certain conditions and common associated symptoms and manifestations
   For example:
   - K57.21 - Diverticulitis of large intestine with perforation and abscess with bleeding
   - E11.341 - Type 2 diabetes mellitus with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema
   - I25.110 - Atherosclerotic heart disease of native coronary artery with unstable angina pectoris

3) Combination codes for poisonings and their associated external cause
   For example:
   - T423x2s - Poisoning by barbiturates, intentional self-harm, sequela

4) Obstetric codes identify trimester instead of episode of care
   For example:
   - 026.02 - Excessive weight gain in pregnancy, second trimester