ICD-10 Reference Guide: General Surgery

ICD-10 General Overview

ICD-10-CM

- **Acute, Subacute, and Chronic**
  - ICD-10-CM can accommodate more specificity when describing acute, subacute, and chronic conditions
  - Some conditions may meet both acute and chronic criteria and should be documented as such

Anatomic Site/Location

- More detail in terms of location of injury/condition
- Document precisely where injury/condition occurs
- Read through ICD-10-CM descriptions to understand the type of clinical detail that is required

Laterality

- **Left**
- **Right**
- **Bilateral**
- **Multiple Locations (if applicable)**

Signs/Symptoms

- Documentation of signs/symptoms continue to be acceptable when there is no definitive diagnosis identified by physician
- Document to highest degree of specificity (e.g. severity, acute vs chronic)

Type of Encounter (Episode of Care)

- Initial encounter
  - Actively receiving treatment
- Subsequent encounter
  - Active phase of treatment/receiving routine care during period of healing/recovery
    - Healing – routine vs delayed
    - Complications – nonunion or malunion
- Sequela
  - Complications or conditions that arise as direct result of an injury

ICD-10-PCS

Access

- How did you gain access to the procedure site?
  - Incision
  - Open
  - Natural Orifice/Artificial Opening
    - Mouth, Vagina, Ostomy, Urethra, etc.
  - Scope
  - Needle
  - Directly on the Skin

Anatomic Site/Location

- Specify exact site of procedure to ensure accurate coding
- Some procedure codes cannot be identified (by coding staff) without the exact site/location being documented

Intent

- Be clear in documentation as to what procedure(s) are performed

Other Helpful Hints

- Insufficiencies vs Failure
  - Insufficiency adds no severity of illness
  - State Failure when appropriate
- Post-Operative Complications
  - Reserve “Post-Op” verbiage to reflect a true complication of the procedure
- Links:
  - Symptoms to etiology
  - Home Meds to Applicable Diagnosis
  - Manifestations to etiology
- History & Physical (Current, updated, signed copy)
- Present on Admission
  - Documentation should reflect the onset
- Abnormal Lab Values
- Document disease process

Clinical Scenario

46 year old with PMH significant for HTN, presented to the office for evaluation of a painful bulge in the right groin. The pain is intermittent without radiation. The bulge reduces on its own. Patient states the bulge and pain first appeared after lifting a 100 pound box at work. He denies the bulge or pain being present prior to this event. Patient was found to have a reducible right inguinal hernia on exam. He was taken to the operating room and underwent an open repair of a direct, right inguinal hernia with mesh. Procedure completed without complication.

**CODING – DX**

- K40.90  Unilateral inguinal hernia, without obstruction or gangrene, not specified as recurrent
- I10  Essential (primary) hypertension

**CODING – PCS**

- 0YU03J  Supplement Right Inguinal Region with Synthetic Substitute, Open Approach
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ICD-10-CM: GENERAL SURGERY

The following items should be documented (as appropriate) to allow complete coding under ICD-10-CM

**Infections**
- Link infective organism & disease process

**Injuries (Cause)**
- Mechanism
  - How it happened (e.g. struck by a basketball)
- Place of Occurrence
  - Where it happened (e.g. high school)
- Activity
  - What patient was doing (e.g. playing basketball)
- External Cause Status
  - Military, civilian, work-related, leisure (e.g. leisure)

**Injuries (General)**
- Type (Contusion, Laceration, Sprain/Strain, etc.)
- Episode of Care (Initial, Subsequent, Sequela)
- Detailed Location/Site
  - Brain, Ankle, Forearm, etc.
  - Head, Shaft, Proximal, Distal, individual body part, etc.
  - Tendon (flexor or extensor)
- Laterality (where applicable)
- Foreign Body (when present)

**Status of Disease**
- Acute, Chronic, Intermittent, Recurrent, Transient
- Primary versus Secondary

### Specialty Links

**General ICD-10**
- World Health Organization - ICD-10 Interactive Self Learning Tool

**General Surgery**
- FACS - Advocacy (Practice Management) ICD-10
- ISMANET ICD-10 Education
Anemia
- Etiology/Type
  - Vitamin/Iron Deficiency, Due to Chronic Disease, Pernicious, Sickle Cell
  - Symptomatic Related To …
  - Due to Chronic Disease (name disease)
    - Autoimmune, Cancer, CKD, Liver Cirrhosis, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis
  - Acquired vs hereditary hemolytic anemia
  - Cause of aplastic anemia

Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)
- Specify:
  - Acute vs Chronic vs Both
  - Systolic and/or Diastolic Dysfunction
- For Acute, state “due to …”
  - Non-compliance, Afib with RVR, Ischemia (USA, AMI), Hypertensive Crisis, Other (name it)
- For Chronic, state “due to …”
  - CAD (ischemic cardiomyopathy), HTN (hypertensive heart disease), Specify other cause of cardiomyopathy
  - A document EF is not a diagnosis of heart failure, need verbage in medical record to support

Diabetes Mellitus (DM)
- Type
  - Type 1, Type 2, Secondary (specify drug or chemical induced), Due to other condition (specify underlying disease)
- Link Manifestations/Complications with “due to …”
  - Neuropathy, Ophthalmic, Pregnancy, CKD
  - Long Term Use of Insulin
  - Presence of Insulin Pump

Benign Prostatic Hypertrophy (BPH)
- Link Symptoms to Syndrome (Weak Urine Stream, Difficulty Starting Urination, Unable to Empty Bladder)

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)
- Stage 1-5
- ESRD
- Etiology (Hypertension, Diabetes)

Cerebral Vascular Accident (CVA)
- Current vs Old
- Artery Impacted
  - Laterality (where applicable)
- Occlusion vs Stenosis
- Post-procedural
- Specify Additional Symptoms “Due To” Drugs
  - Tremors, Tics, etc.
- Traumatic Injury
  - Episode of Care (Initial, Subsequent, Sequela)

Nutritional
- Deficiencies (Specify substance)
- Overweight vs Obesity vs Morbid Obesity (BMI value)
- Malnutrition
  - With or without complications
  - Mild, moderate or severe

Pneumonia
- Type (Aspiration, Bacterial, Virus)
- Identify causative organism

Seizure
- Seizure disorder = Epilepsy
- Seizure = single even to yet-to-be diagnosed

Urinary Tract Infections (UTI)
- Location
  - Bladder, Kidney, Urethra
- Identify Infectious Agent
- Complicating Pregnancy
  - Specify Trimester Where Condition Began