InfoCode

The more you know, the better you code

Dynamic. Demanding. Challenging. Rewarding. These are all adjectives I'd use to describe the medical coding profession during the COVID-19 pandemic—a time when coded data matters more than it ever did before.

Medical coders submit codes that help public health officials make informed decisions to improve population health. The work they do enables providers to get paid. Finally, coded data drives what patients may owe. A wrong code can lead to an incorrect or surprise medical bill.

Medical coders have a lot of responsibility, and with that responsibility comes a duty to stay abreast of updated guidelines and regulations. With that said, if you're a medical coder, give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done. If you're considering joining the profession, now is a great time to do it.

Meanwhile, also put these five newsworthy stories on your radar, and think about ways to improve coding compliance as well as strengthen documentation integrity within your own organization. As always, we're here if you need us. Email us at info@qualcodeinc.com.

IN THIS ISSUE

Congratulations to our EduCode students on passing the CPC exam!

New & Revised ICD-10-CM Codes, Guidelines for FY2022

Surprise medical billing is no longer allowed. How will your organization ensure compliance?

CMS released its CY 2022 Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule.

Traditional care management is on the OIG's radar

Looking for a career change during COVID-19? Learn why medical coding might be a good option

CONGRATULATIONS!

We wanted to shout out our latest round of EduCode students for ALL passing the Certified Professional Coder examination - on their very first try!

Hard work, dedication, and persistence have brought them to this level of success. We wish them continued success in their new and exciting career!

Please join us in congratulating the following students on their great accomplishment:

- Sharita Mouzon
- Denise Paul
- Laura Higgins
- Jorge Bustillo
- Stephanie Bois

New and revised ICD-10-CM codes, guidelines for FY 2022 are out.
Have you taken a look?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) FY 2022 ICD-10-CM official coding guidelines include a whole host of new information, including instructions for assigning new code U09.9, Post COVID-19 condition (found under section I.C.1/g.1.m), updates that allow coders to capture codes based on documentation from clinicians other than the patient's provider, and much more. Pay attention to narrative changes listed in bold font. Also, pay attention to new and revised ICD-10-CM codes. There are 159 new codes, many of which pertain to injuries and poisonings, diseases of the musculoskeletal system, and factors influencing health status. Educate staff about new requirements that go into effect on October 1, 2021. Remember: QualCode can help!

Surprise medical billing is no longer allowed. How will your organization ensure compliance?

Surprise medical billing will be a thing of the past thanks to an interim final rule that restricts excessive out-of-pocket costs to consumers from surprise billing and balance billing. In particular, the rule bans high out-of-network cost-sharing for emergency and non-emergency services, out-of-network charges for ancillary care at an in-network facility, and other out-of-network charges without advance notice. The goal? Provide patients with financial peace of mind while seeking emergency care. What will your healthcare organization do to ensure compliance, and what role will coders play specifically?

CMS released its CY 2022 Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule.
Do you know what's in store?

This year's proposed rule is filled with lots of changes—bigger penalties for noncompliance with price transparency, changes to split/shared evaluation and management visits, expanded coverage for mental and behavioral health, and more. Our best advice? Read the rule (or summaries of it), comment on it, and talk about how these changes could impact revenue and operations. Oh, and reach out to QualCode if you need help along the way.

Transitional care management is on the OIG's radar. Is it on yours, too?

If you bill transitional care management (TCM), beware. The Office of Inspector General discovered almost $1.7 million in overpayments associated with 13,577 claims for TCM services rendered during calendar years 2015 and 2016. Now is the time to review TCM coding requirements and coordinate care with other providers so you know who is billing TCM. QualCode can audit your TCM claims and help you navigate requirements to ensure revenue integrity.

Looking for a career change during COVID-19? Learn why medical coding might be a good option.

It doesn't take much effort to find a whole slew of articles online showcasing the benefits of a career in medical coding. The option to work remotely, competitive pay, and job security are just a few. If you're considering a career change or an opportunity to augment your existing income, medical coding could be a solution. Contact QualCode to learn more.

Natalie Williams
President & CEO

About QualCode, Inc.

QualCode is a comprehensive revenue cycle management company, specializing in revenue integrity and compliance. As our name suggests, Quality is in our DNA. It's also what drives everything we do at QualCode. Our seasoned staff make quality and revenue integrity a priority regardless of whether we're helping clients streamline billing, eliminate coding backlogs, reduce unpaid claims, or decrease Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) and other third-party denials.

When you need superior medical coders, auditors, or consultants, QualCode is your partner, making sure you get paid for every claim you submit and retain every dollar you earn. To learn more, visit https://www.qualcodeinc.com/.

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