



Employee Spotlight



Terence W., CCS, CCS-P
HIM Consultant

The first time I applied a code, it was on a claim as a billing clerk in a doctor's office in 1987.

Since that time, coding has been my passion.

Fast forward a few years to 1998, I was fortunate to have an employer who was also a mentor. He recognized the need for me to pursue certification, and in his foresight, he placed me in as many different coding environments as were available – from Trauma ERs to Pediatrics, Vascular Surgery, and Interventional Radiology. He also purchased a subscription to the *Coding Clinic* for me.

Within a year's time, I sat for the CCS-P (grateful that I was ready)

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Fall/Winter Energy Saving Tips

Published by: NSTAR.com

The following tips will help you save energy and help your budget as the weather cools down.

- Set your thermostat no higher than 68 degrees when you are home and lower the temperature when you go to bed or when you are not at home. This will ensure optimal home heating and save energy.
- For every degree you lower your thermostat you save about two percent off your heating bill.
- Cut annual heating bills by as much as 10 percent a year by turning your thermostat back 10 to 15 percent for eight hours a day.

• Weatherize your home by caulking and weather-stripping all doors and windows. Also use locks on your windows to make them tighter and draft resistant.

• Insulate or increase the amount of insulation in your attic, basement and outside walls. Also cover through-the-wall air conditioners to prevent cold air from leaking into your home.

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Ask The Expert

How would you code the following situation using ICD-10?

A 60-year-old man wakes up early in the morning and starts his day by taking his regimen of medications that includes vitamins, an anti-hypertensive, and other prescribed medications. Shortly thereafter, he falls back to sleep. He then wakes up two hours later and "starts" his day again with his usual habit of taking his morning regimen of medications. After expressing feelings of being "light-headed" and presyncopal, his family brings him to the ER. After learning about what had occurred that morning, the physician gives the following diagnosis: Hypotension due to Lopressor Overdose.

Was this an adverse effect? Was the patient taking his medication as prescribed and merely experienced a reaction or sensitivity?

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Wishing you and yours a very Happy New Year!

From all of us at On Assignment HIM.



Ask The Expert *(Continued from page 1)*

Having taken two doses within a few hours clearly rules this out.

Labeling this an “overdose” seems extreme, as it carries a stigma of intentional self-harm. Was this the case? No, this patient didn’t even realize the mistake he was making. However, it is indeed a poisoning, although unintentional. If a patient takes more than the prescribed amount of medication—or proper dosage with alcohol—you’ll need to refer to one of the ‘poisoning’ code options.

New to ICD-10:

There’s a new member of the Drug and Chemical Table family called *underdosing*. This option will be used for situations where patients are symptomatic or an exacerbation of their condition occurs due to noncompliance of taking the medication as prescribed. Remember, this is not always a willful noncompliance, financial constraints could be a factor in getting the prescription filled in a timely manner. If that’s the case, remember to add the appropriate Z codes to identify those circumstances.

Employee Spotlight *(Continued from page 1)*

and then for the CCS two years later. Mentors are invaluable.

I then began as a traveling consultant. It was an incredible career move. The sights I’ve seen, the people, the places, the cultures, but most importantly the professional contacts, could never be replicated in another capacity.

I am grateful for On Assignment HIM (my new family), and for the confidence they have in me and my abilities.

Employee Of The Month



Amanda Turner

Associate Account Executive

My name is Amanda Turner and I started as an Associate Account Executive at On Assignment HIM in May 2013. I grew up in Los Angeles; Munich, Germany; Washington, DC; and Santa Barbara. My father was a colonel in the Air Force, which allowed us to travel the world! I graduated from California State University, Fullerton in 2008 and majored in Business Administration with a minor in Accounting. I graduated with honors and am a member of Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society.

Since then, I have done residential and commercial real estate as well as marketing and medical sales. I spent a few years in Las Vegas, Nevada, and moved to beautiful San Diego a year ago. I love all that this city has to offer, especially the water sports! When I’m not working, I enjoy sky diving, hot yoga, riding and training my horses, singing, and snowboarding. I absolutely love traveling and spent two weeks in Spain last year.

I am very happy to be part of such a fun and successful team and am excited to see us grow!



Main Article (Continued from page 1)

- Reducing air leaks could cut 10 percent from an average household's monthly energy bill. The most common places where air escapes homes are: floors, walls, ceilings, ducts, fireplaces, plumbing penetrations, doors, windows, fans, vents, and electrical outlets.
- Keep shades and curtains open during the day on the south side of your home to allow solar heating. Close them at night to retain heat.
- Don't block your radiators or heating vents with furniture or draperies. Keep your radiators, registers and baseboard heaters dirt and dust free. Close vents and doors in unused rooms.
- Have your heating system serviced once a year and regularly replace furnace filters. During the heating season, change or clean furnace filters once a month.
- Close the fireplace damper when not in use.
- Turn your water heater down to 120 degrees Fahrenheit to save money on your energy bill. If you have children in the house, this is also a safety measure.
- Install water-flow restrictors in showerheads and faucets.
- Place a sheet of aluminum foil between the radiator and the wall to reflect heat back into the room.

Read more: http://www.nstar.com/residential/energy_efficiency/fall_winter.asp

Who Knows?

Stemming from the 'reward center' of the brain, levels of this chemical rise during eating, thrill seeking pursuits, abuse of stimulant drugs, and sexual activities. Its effects are evident in the vascular system (vasodilator), the kidney, the pancreas, and the immune system. Imbalance of the chemical or its production is linked to disorders such as ADHD, Parkinson's Disease, RLS, and schizophrenia.

**November 2013 WHO KNOWS?
And the winner is ...
Gayla S.!**

Answer: Oil of Oregano

Send your answers to:

kristin.walsh@onassignment.com

All correct answers will be put into a raffle for a chance to win a \$25 gift card from On Assignment HIM!

