Set the Record Straight with OnAssignment

Health Information Management

OA Employee Spotlight

Cindy F.

CCS-P, AHIMA-approved ICD-10-CM/PCS Trainer

I have been in the healthcare industry for more than 20 years, specializing in coding and reimbursement with previous experience that includes ICD-9/DRG validation, CPT/HCPCS coding audits, and RAC reviews. I have spent the last five years assisting healthcare organizations in transitioning to ICD-10-CM/PCS and beyond.

Recently, I had the opportunity to work in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. It was the most wonderful experience working with international HIM professionals to develop quality assurance and educational programs.

Currently, I am working with a Health Plan to convert their ICD-9-CM data to ICD-10-CM/PCS and vice versa. I am also examining the impact the transition to ICD-10 will have on their current reimbursements. The mapping process consists of individually comparing and mapping every ICD-9 code used by the Health Plan with its ICD-10 counterpart, and independently examining each ICD-10 code to remove inherent mapping flaws; clarifying code clusters as well as unspecified ICD-9 codes. Although the process is very tedious and detailed, it is also very rewarding.

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Beware of cold viruses, even during the summertime

By Bradford Schwarz
Published: July 21, 2013

Is it just me or do summer colds seem much worse than winter colds? And why do we get colds during the summer anyway?

The sun is out, windows are open, and almost everyone is outside and active. It just doesn't seem like we should be getting a "cold" when it is hot.

So let's set the facts straight concerning summer colds. Although not as common during the summer months, colds are caused by viruses and can occur any time of year. This year alone there will be more than 1 billion colds in the United States. Adults acquire an average of two to four colds per year, and young children will suffer from an average of six to eight colds per year. That's a lot of downtime suffering from cold symptoms.

There are a variety of cold-producing viruses such as the rhino-, corona- and parainfluenza that cause upper respiratory infections primarily during the winter months. However, a new virus is introduced during the summer months.

The pesky enterovirus, which can often lead to complex and prolonged symptoms, spreads by coughing and sneezing, and by the fecal-to-oral route often meaning that a proper hand-washing technique has not been followed. The enterovirus can demonstrate the usual cold symptoms of runny nose, hacking cough, headache, low-grade fever, and watery eyes. However, additional symptoms of diarrhea, along with sore throats and rashes may appear with the enterovirus.

So what do you need to know concerning a summer verses winter cold?

Winter cold viruses tend to make you feel really sick, and then after feeling miserable for five to seven days, it's pretty much over, whereas, summer colds just seem to go on and on.

ASK THE EXPERT!

What is Asemia?

Asemia is the neurological condition (caused by damage to the areas of the brain that process communication) of being unable to understand or express signs, symbols, thoughts or ideas through writing, speech, or gestures. While damage can occasionally occur from a physical source of trauma, it is most often due to stroke and occasionally tumors.

Did you know ?

Lemons are first-rate insect repellants due to the organic citrus compound azadirachtin,
a potent natural insect repellent that is secreted by the skin of the lemon.

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OA Employee of the Month

Brianda Hernandez

Associate Recruiter

I am overjoyed to be featured in this month's *Set the Record Straight* newsletter. This is a pleasant surprise for a new employee in On Assignment's HIM contract division.

I was born and raised in beautiful, sunny San Diego. I come from a big, happy, and loving family and I am one of five girls – yes, you read it correctly, FIVE girls. Although San Diego is a great place to be, and it was hard to leave my family behind, I had a great opportunity to move up north and attend Saint Mary's College of California with a scholarship that was too good to turn down. I now have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

When I graduated, I was hired by a local San Jose staffing agency as a recruiter for local start-up companies and various healthcare facilities. Although it was a learning experience and I enjoyed what I was doing, in January I decided to move back to San Diego to be closer to my family. I was offered a great opportunity with On Assignment HIM and I ecstatically accepted the opportunity to work with a company whose motto is "*People First."* This company not only helps me learn from senior recruiters, but it allows me to help people find the job of their dreams.

Every day working with On Assignment HIM is a new and exciting opportunity to talk to innovative people and help various individuals find their ideal job. I am excited to continue to accomplish new recruitment records and find new opportunities for coders and HIM managers. I am happy to be part of the On Assignment HIM contract division team and I look forward to many more years to come with them.

Send your ?Who Knows? 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!

? WHO KNOWS ?

What is a form of aphasia (often observed in neurological disorders with lesions on various areas of the cerebral hemispheres, and often an early sign of dementia) that is characterized by the inability to perform mathematical calculations?

June 2013 ?WHO KNOWS?

And the winner is…

Marilyn B!

June Answer: Dorian Gray Syndrome

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DID YOU KNOW ?

Argyria (a relatively rare skin condition) is caused by the ingestion of elemental silver (colloidal, dust, or other compounds). In the condition's most severe form, the skin permanently becomes blue or bluish-grey colored. While exhibiting low toxicity (the abnormal skin tone seems to be the only issue seen in humans), silver accumulates in the body over time. Chronic intake of silver products can result in an accumulation of silver or silver sulfide particles in the skin, eyes (**Argyrosis**), or other organs and tissues. In particular, these particles in the skin darken with exposure to sunlight (ultraviolet radiation), resulting in a blue-grey discoloration of the skin. Chemically, the process is similar to developing black-and-white photographs. Localized **Argyria** can occur as a result of topical use of substances containing silver, while generalized **Argyria** results from the chronic ingestion of substances containing silver. The condition is considered cosmetic only as opposed to having any other detrimental health issues.

(Continued from page 1, Main Article)

One must also consider that if the symptoms act greater than the typical cold, you may have manifestations of an allergy or potential bacterial infection.

While we've already established that a cold is caused by a virus, allergy symptoms are an immune system response to allergens such as grass, pollen, dust, and dander from pets. A few distinguishing features of an allergy are itchiness of the mouth, eyes, and throat. Also, the type of mucous drainage is often an indicator of a cold verses an allergy. A yellow mucus is typically seen with a cold, whereas a thin, clear/watery mucus drainage is usually seen with allergies.

A cold requires symptomatic care (rest, fluids, chicken noodle soup, and an early use of a zinc supplement may shorten the symptomatic period) while an allergy requires an antihistamine medication (several non-sedating medications are available over the counter) and nasal irrigation with sterile saline spray or a neti pot.

Persistent or increasing symptoms, fever, severe sore throat, or unusually bad headaches necessitate an evaluation by your primary care provider. We are all exposed to cold viruses no matter what time of year. Help protect yourself by practicing proper hand washing, heading off cold symptoms with a zinc supplement, and staying active.

Bradford W. Schwarz is an associate professor and division director of Physician Assistant Studies at the University of Kentucky's College of Health Sciences.

Read more here: http://www.kentucky.com/2013/07/21/2724401/beware-cold-viruses-even-during.html#

ICD-10 Corner

I'm trying to figure out how to code TVT procedures – where do I begin?

PCS coding is going to be challenging at times – don't get overwhelmed. When coding in PCS, you will find many procedures are not listed in the alphabetical index. You have to think about the intent of the procedure and look up the procedure by the root operation. So what is the 'intent' of the TVT procedure (aka TVT sling)? Surgeons insert a mesh transvaginally to provide support to the urethra in treating stress urinary incontinence. This procedure may be performed through a similar approach and it is referred to as the TOT (transobturator sling) – both are coded the same way.

Begin with the root operation, supplement. This root operation is defined as, *"Putting in or on biological or synthetic material that physically reinforces and/or augments the function of a portion of a body part,"* which accurately describes the insertion of the mesh. Once you've established the root operation, you must identify the body site – the urethra. The alphabetical index provides you with the first four characters of the PCS code 0TUD. From there choose your approach (open), and finally the device character (mesh). The mesh is made of synthetic material, so that one is easy. Without any options for the qualifier character, you're there!

0 – Medical and Surgical	D – Urethra
T – Urinary System	0 – Open
U – Supplement	J – Synthetic Substitute
	Z – No Qualifier

Do you have an ICD-10 related question?
Contact Tori at vweinert@torionit.com – you just might see your topic discussed in the next issue of Set the Record Straight.

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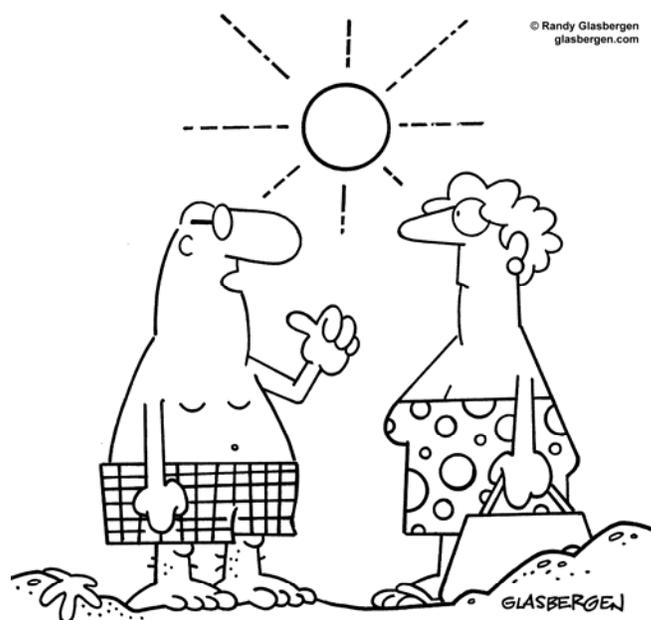
"I'm finally starting to relax.
Come look at the pie charts
I made in the sand!"