Risk Adjustment Coding Corner

Neighborhood News – April 2023

Welcome to the Risk Adjustment Coding Corner! Here, we strive to offer our provider community accurate and timely coding and documentation information. In upcoming editions of the provider newsletter, we will focus on some commonly miscoded and targeted diagnoses, according to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) with regard to CMS audits.

Commonly Miscoded Conditions

Below is the list of high-risk diagnoses that we will be taking a closer look at in the coming months:

1. Acute stroke
2. Acute heart attack
3. Acute stroke and acute heart attack combination
4. Embolism
5. Vascular claudication
6. Major depressive disorder
7. Potentially mis-keyed diagnosis codes

"I hear there's a new ICD-10 code for carpal tunnel syndrome caused by clicking too many times in an EMR system."

Let's Talk History – "History of" and "Past Medical History"

Providers are taught a different use of the term "History of" than what the ICD-10-CM code set uses. This area is often used by providers to describe both past and present health conditions. However, this can cause confusion for the coder. ICD-10-CM code set defines "history of" as a patient's past medical condition(s) that no longer exists and is not being treated, but has the potential for recurrence, and therefore may require continued monitoring.

- For example: (HPI) "Patient has **history of** asthma." For the coder, this means the condition no longer exists and/or is not being treated.
- If the patient's asthma has any bearing on the visit or is a current condition, stating "Patient **has** asthma" supports actively monitoring the condition.
  - Support can also include:
    - Medications reviewed and are current
    - Patient followed by Dr. XYZ
    - Any recent onset of exacerbation

References & Links:

- AAPC CRC 2019 Study Guide
- AAPC Healthcare Business Monthly
- 2023 ICD-10-CM Complete Code Set
- RISE National 2023 Conference
- https://www.fortherecordmag.com/archives/Winter23p22.shtml
- https://www.mrahis.com/oig-releases-medicare-advantage-compliance-audit-of-specific-diagnosis-codes/
- https://oig.hhs.gov/oas/reports/region2/21801029.pdf
- https://www.doctustech.com/blog/hhs-oig-medicare-advantage-compliance-audits/