



# Professional & Hospital Coding 101

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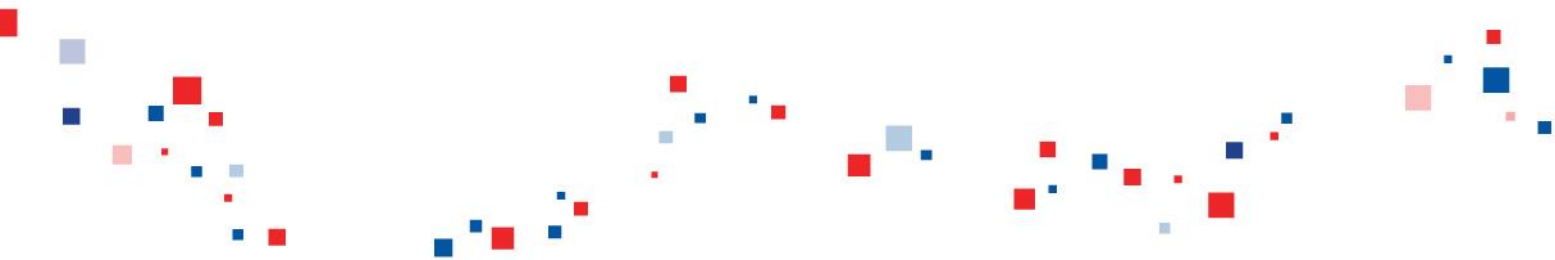
Jean Heindel, RHIT, CCS – Hospital Coding

Our legacy is yours.



# Our Teams

How they differ – how they are alike



EMANUEL Medical Center	GOOD SAMARITAN Medical Center	MERIDIAN PARK Medical Center	MOUNT HOOD Medical Center	SALMON CREEK Medical Center	SILVERTON Medical Center	
RANDALL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL Legacy Emanuel		LEGACY MEDICAL GROUP	LEGACY HEALTH PARTNERS	LEGACY HOSPICE	LEGACY LABORATORY	LEGACY RESEARCH

# Educational backgrounds

- Initial training is similar:
  - > Basics of ICD-10-CM and CPT coding systems
  - > Anatomy and Physiology
  - > Certification - Testing
- Training paths then diverge
  - > Often path taken is based on individual's interest/focus.
  - > Professional coding requires greater focus on CPT procedures and Evaluation and Management coding. Focus is on what the doctor does. Interest in direct interaction and exchange of information with providers is key to success.
  - > Hospital coders also learn ICD-10-PCS (procedural) codes for use on inpatient accounts. Coding focus is to explain patient's status, need for care, resources used.

# Tasks

- Professional
  - > CPT, ICD-10, & HCPCS Code Validation
  - > Assignment/Abstracting
  - > Modifier Additions
  - > Educating Physicians & Practice Managers
    - Documentation Requirements
    - Coding Denial Patterns & Coverage Limitations
  - > Auditing
  - > Querying Physicians
  - > Resolving Coding-Related Claim Edits (NCCI,MUE)
  - > Reviewing Coding-Related Denials

# Tasks

- Facility
  - > ICD-10, CPT code assignment based on and supported by provider documentation
    - For inpatient:
      - Principal diagnosis – what condition after study occasioned the admission to the hospital?
      - Secondary diagnoses – confirmed, possible, probably, ruled out
      - Procedures – specificity
    - For outpatient:
      - Medical necessity, specificity
  - > Retrospective querying as needed to supplement and/or clarify needed documentation specificity
  - > Abstracting of key data utilizing 3M
  - > Auditing – Coding quality and compliance
  - > Reviewing Coding-Related Denials

# Tasks

- Facility
  - > Training and education
    - Ongoing for coding and technology changes
    - Advise for related departments and teams
      - New technology
      - Developing programs
  - > Strategic reporting and analysis
    - PEPPER report (Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic *Report*) - compare hospital-specific Medicare data stats
    - DRG analysis – define trends, opportunities

# Professional Coding – E&M

- Evaluation & Management (E&M)
  - > Patient Type
    - New
    - Established
  - > Place of Service
    - Clinic
    - Hospital (ER, IP, OP, Observation)
    - Long Term Care
  - > 3-key Components
    - History
    - Exam
    - Medical-Decision Making
  - > Other Factors
    - Encounter dominated by counseling and/or coordination of care (Time)
    - Split/Shared Visits
    - Consultations

# Professional Coding E&M

- Evaluation & Management - Exam Audit Tool Example

Based on '97 Guidelines

EXAM	Problem Focused	Exp. Prob. Focused	Detailed	Comprehensive
	99201 99241 99212	99202 99242 99213	99203 99243 99214	99204 99244 99215
	At Least 1 from any system area	At least 6 from any system area	At Least 12 from at least 2 system areas	At least 2 from each of the 9 system areas (18)
<b>Constitutional</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Any 3 vital signs	<input type="checkbox"/> General appearance of patient (development, body habitus, nutrition, grooming)		
<b>Eyes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Optic disks	<input type="checkbox"/> Pupils & irises	<input type="checkbox"/> Conjunctivae, lids, sclera	
<b>ENT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Hearing <input type="checkbox"/> Lips, teeth & gums	<input type="checkbox"/> EACs & TMs <input type="checkbox"/> Oropharynx	<input type="checkbox"/> External ears & nose <input type="checkbox"/> Nasal mucosa, septum & turbinates	
<b>Neck</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Thyroid <input type="checkbox"/> Neck (masses, appearance, symmetry, tracheal position, crepitus)			
<b>Respiratory</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Respiratory Effort	<input type="checkbox"/> Percussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Palpitation	<input type="checkbox"/> Auscultation
<b>Cardiovascular</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Palpitation of heart <input type="checkbox"/> Femoral	<input type="checkbox"/> Auscultation <input type="checkbox"/> Pedal pulses	<input type="checkbox"/> Carotids (JVD)	<input type="checkbox"/> Abdominal aorta <input type="checkbox"/> Extremities for edema &/or varicosities/capillary refill
<b>Chest/Breast</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Inspection of breast <input type="checkbox"/> Palpation of breast & axillae			
<b>GI (Abdomen)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Occult Blood <input type="checkbox"/> Masses, tenderness	<input type="checkbox"/> Liver, spleen <input type="checkbox"/> Bowel Sounds	<input type="checkbox"/> Hernia <input type="checkbox"/> Anus, perineum & rectum	
<b>GU</b>	<b>FEMALE:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Cervix <input type="checkbox"/> Ext genitalia/vagina <input type="checkbox"/> Adnexa/parametria		<input type="checkbox"/> Bladder <input type="checkbox"/> Urethra <input type="checkbox"/> Uterus	<b>MALE:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Scrotal contents <input type="checkbox"/> Prostate gland <input type="checkbox"/> Penis
<b>Lymph</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Lymph nodes in 2 or more areas: <input type="checkbox"/> Neck <input type="checkbox"/> Groin <input type="checkbox"/> Axillae <input type="checkbox"/> Other			
<b>Musculoskeletal</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Gait & Station <input type="checkbox"/> Digits & nails (clubbing, cyanosis, capillary refill, inflammatory conditions, petechiae, ischemia, infection) Joints, Bones, Muscles: Inspection or palpation (I/P), ROM (R), Stability (S), Strength & Tone (S&T)			
	<b>Head, neck</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I/P <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> S&T		<b>Right upper extremity</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I/P <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> S&T	<b>Left upper extremity</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I/P <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> S&T
	<b>Spine, ribs, pelvis</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I/P <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> S&T		<b>Right lower extremity</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I/P <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> S&T	<b>Left lower extremity</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I/P <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> S&T
<b>Skin</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Inspection of skin & subcutaneous tissue <input type="checkbox"/> Palpation of skin & subcutaneous tissue (describe)			
<b>Neurological</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Cranial nerves (EOM)	<input type="checkbox"/> Reflexes	<input type="checkbox"/> Sensation	
<b>Psychiatric</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Mood & affect	<input type="checkbox"/> Judgment & insight	<input type="checkbox"/> Orientation to time, place & person	<input type="checkbox"/> Memory



# Coding for Procedures

- Surgical Coding Example
  - > Pediatric General Surgery
  - > Cyst Removal
  - > Coder & Physician Discussion
  - > Final Result



# Provider Education

- Educating Physicians, Practice Managers & Staff
  - > Variety of Methods & Forums
    - Site Meetings – Quick Topics, Subject applies to most participants
    - Separate Meetings – Focused group discussions
    - One on One – Initial Education, Audit Feedback, Hearing concerns
    - Email or InBasket Messaging – Individual Case Queries or Code Changes
    - Engaging Physician Leaders



# Professional Coding

- Auditing
  - > E&M
    - Annual Provider Audits & Re-Audits (Mix of Internal & External)
    - Annual Topic Focused Audits
    - Ad Hoc Audits based on Monitors (below)
    - Internal QA vs External Audits of the Auditors
  - > Surgical
    - QA Audits
      - Employed Coders
      - Vendors
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Review Process for disagreements
- Monitors
  - > E&M Bell Curves
  - > Charge per Visit
  - > Denial Patterns

# Challenges – Unique to Each Group

- Professional
  - > Payment Model Changes
  - > Physician Productivity Measures
  - > Different Requirements by Payer
    - Different Interpretation of CPT Codes
    - Different Bundling Rules
- Facility
  - > Different Requirements by Payer
    - “Special DRGs”
    - APR DRGs



# Challenges – Shared

- Continual Change
  - > ICD-10-CM/PCS is in it's infancy
  - > Post-implementation changes
  - > Medical Necessity/coverages
- EMR Updates and Optimization Efforts
- External Audits
- Limited Work Force Availability
  - > Job satisfaction
  - > Retention bonuses
  - > “Train your own”





Thank you!

