



## **ICD-9-CM Coding Questions and Answers**

### Summary of Q & A's at recent ICD-9-CM Educational Sessions

- Q. If a patient's condition is listed as both acute and chronic, how should I code this?
- A. If there are separate subentries in the coding manual for acute and chronic, use both codes, sequencing the acute code first. If there are no subentries for acute and chronic, ignore those adjectives when coding the condition. If a condition is described as subacute and there is no subacute subentry, code the condition as if it were acute.
- Q. What if the physician doesn't note the type of diabetes?
- A. If the physician doesn't state in the medical record whether the patient has Type I or Type II diabetes, you would default to a fifth digit of either 0 (type II or unspecified type, not stated as uncontrolled) or 2 (type II or unspecified type, uncontrolled). If the physician did not state that blood sugars are uncontrolled, 0 would be the most appropriate 5<sup>th</sup> digit.
- Q. How should I code a recurrence of a neoplasm in the original site, as a primary or secondary cancer?
- A. A recurrence in the same location as the original neoplasm should be coded using a primary site ICD-9 code (unless Alphabetic index directs otherwise) since this is still the original site of the neoplasm.