May 4, 2018

Weekly **Auditing and Compliance** Tip

National Alliance of Medical Auditing Specialists | 877-418-5564 | namas.co | namas@namas.co

The Devil is in the (Data) Details

As an auditor who has reviewed thousands and thousands of encounter documents for level of service, a predictable pattern has merged when it comes to the Medical Decision Making (MDM) component that has attracted my attention.

Let's delve into the formula for a moment. There are four levels of complexity under MDM: Straightforward, Low, Moderate and High. The level of complexity is defined by determining the level of elements of MDM: the number of diagnoses or management options, the level of risk and the amount and complexity of data. Selecting the level of complexity is based on the highest two of three levels as defined by the elements documented.

When auditing E/M services, I find that providers do a fairly good job of identifying the number of diagnoses, and the level of risk, even in the sometimes over-regimented world of the electronic medical record, can be easily discerned from documentation.

This brings us to the amount and complexity of data, our topic of discussion for purposes of this article. Determining the complexity of data

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occurs on the following point system:

- Review and/or order of labs - 1 point
- Review and/or order of radiological imaging - 1 point
- Review and/or order of medical tests (90000 series of CPT) - 1 point
- Discussion of test results with performing physician - 1 point
- Decision to obtain old records / decision to obtain history from someone other than the patient - 1 point
- Review & summarization of old records / obtaining history from someone other than the patient / discussion of case with another health care provider - 2 points
- Independent visualization of image, tracing or specimen - 2 points

When considering data, providers tend to either misinterpret or neglect the last two items on this list.

A "review and summarization of old records" means reviewing records that the current provider of service has not previously had at his / her disposal. Credit is not given for a review and summarization of the provider's own records relating to the patient.

"Obtaining history from someone other than the patient" refers to anyone other than the patient that provides relevant history for the patient at the time of service. This differs from a decision to obtain history from someone other than the patient, which refers to obtaining history from another source at the conclusion of the encounter.

In the case of a "discussion of case with another healthcare provider", there should be detailed documentation of what was discussed with the other provider within the body of the note for the encounter.

The independent visualization of an image, tracing or specimen is more than simply a review of an existing report. "Independent visualization" is the viewing of an x-ray or other test, with the provider's own interpretation of what he or she is seeing. Providers often miss this data point, and instead credit themselves erroneously with one point for the review of the test. It is important

Our **Medical Auditing Bootcamp** will train you to become a medial auditor. Learn the principles of auditing, compliance regulations, and how to perform the daily duties of an auditor.

Our next online session, scheduled as a **5 week LIVE ONLINE Saturday course,** begins on July 7, 2018!

Click Here to Learn More & View Our Medical Auditing BootCamp Schedule

Our **2- Day E&M Auditing Bootcamp** is an accelerated auditing training specific to E&M auditing. Learn about audit policies, get clarity on documentation guidelines, medical decision making, medical necessity and more. Plus, during this training program you will have the opportunity **earn our NEW CREDENTIAL - Certified Evaluation and Management Auditor (CEMA)!**

Our 2-Day E&M BootCamps are scheduled as follows:

May 8 & 9: San Antonio, TX
June 5, 6, 7: Online (1pm - 5pm each day)
June 19 & 20: Denver, CO
July 17 & 18: Minneapolis, MN
July 24 & 25: Portland, ME

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that these impressions from the independent visualization be documented fully in order to gets the full two points of credit under data.

Of course, crediting these data points will depend largely on the provider capturing these items, but if a provider is in the habit of performing these tasks without accompanying details, the opportunity is there to better define a higher level of complexity of patient encounter.

This Week's Audit Tip Written By:

J. Paul Spencer, CPC, COC

Paul is a Senior Compliance Consultant for our parent organization, DoctorsManagement.

NAMAS is proud to offer the following webinars in May:

Unbundling Modifiers:
What You Need to Know
(What you Need to Know Webinar Series)
May 8, 2018
2pm EST
Speaker: Aimee Wilcox

Overpayments, Clawbacks, Identified Billing Errors & Voluntary Refunds
(Compliance Webinar Series)
May 15, 2018
2pm EST
Speaker: David Glaser, JD

Hands On: Orthopedic Surgery
(Hands on Webinar Series)
May 22, 2018

Auditing BootCamp schedule

You're Invited to Help Us Celebrate Our
10th Conference Anniversary!

Pre-Conference: Sunday, Nov. 11, 2018
Conference: Monday, Nov. 12 - Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018
Venue: Wyndham Grand Clearwater Clearwater Beach, FL

Click Here to View the Conference Agenda

NAMAS Makes it Easy AND Affordable to Attend Conference! There are Multiple Ways to Register:

1. Secure your spot & lock in your registration rate with just a $50 deposit and make payments toward your balance

2. Request an invoice to be supplied to your employer for payment

3. Receive 90 days no interest financing with PayPal Credit for balances over $99! Simply add your registration to our shopping cart and select the PayPal Credit option at checkout!

Registration Information
NAMAS Member Registration (Through May 31, 2018)
Conference Only: $995
Pre-Conference & Conference: $1295

2pm EST
Speaker: Pam Vanderbilt

If you are interested in registering for the webinars above, please email us at namas@namas.co.

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NAMAS Calendar of Events

Click the image above to view our monthly calendar.

Non-Member Registration (Through May 31, 2018)
Conference Only: $1195
Pre-Conference & Conference: $1495

Can't Make the Entire Event? Day Passes Available!
Register for one day for only $399!

Hotel Information: NAMAS has negotiated a discounted room rate at the Wyndham Grand Clearwater for conference attendees at the rate of $189/night plus tax.

Excel in your career and expand your knowledge, attending sessions from the industry's leading experts - all on the beautiful white sand beaches of Florida's Gulf Coast!

Continue to Watch Your Email for Important Conference Information Including CEU Information, VIP Packages, Special conference events and More!

Click Here to Register!

DoctorsManagement has opportunities for qualified medical coders and auditors!

Auditing position requirements:

- Minimum of 5 years auditing experience with proficiency in E/M services, specifically in the areas of medical decision making and medical necessity. In addition, competency in a variety of surgical specialties.

Our weekly auditing & compliance tip emails are available to anyone who could benefit from this information.
If you know someone who would like to receive these emails, invite them to sign.

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- Productivity & quality are necessary with an aggressive QA monitoring program in place.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills to convey report of findings to physicians and other qualified healthcare providers.

Those wishing to conduct provider education will be asked to present a review of findings as part of the interview process. PRN, Part-Time and full time opportunities are available. Potential for travel up to 50%.

Coding position requirements:

- Minimum of 5 years coding experience with experience in E/M services in addition to a variety of surgical specialties.
- Productivity &quality are necessary with an aggressive QA monitoring program in place
- Strong verbal communication skill is required to work with other remote coders and management team
- Advancement opportunities available to grow within our firm
- PRN, Part-time and Full time opportunities available

Education/Certification Requirements:
Maintain certification through AAPC or AHIMA and auditors must also maintain CEMA or CPMA certification.

We offer competitive compensation. **Proficiency testing is required.**

For consideration, submit your detailed resume via email to resume@drsmgmt.com

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