

Keeping Your Auditing Skills Sharp

Medical documentation auditors have a unique responsibility and accountability to the physicians and organization they work for. It is imperative to stay abreast of changes in Federal and commercial payer regulations and guidance requiring services performed and reported, as well as the requirements for the documentation that supports them.

Here are some tips for keeping your auditing skills up-to-date:

1. Take Refresher Courses. NAMAS offers monthly webinars, workshops, and annual conferences for all auditing skill levels. Depending on your schedule and learning style, you may elect to take an online training course or an in-person training, or attend a multi-day conference like the one coming up in Nashville. These help keep you informed of auditing nuances and may even bring a new perspective on your skill level.

2. Review your Medicare administrative contractor's website at regular intervals to stay current with changing regulations and guidelines of how your individual contractor views certain element requirements of E/M documentation. Review of Systems (ROS) documentation is one example of where regulations and guidelines vary from one contractor to another. Also, be sure to review the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) manuals, FAQ documents, etc. This is where you will find information regarding new covered service guidelines and documentation requirements such as Transitional and Chronic Care Management.

3. Read and subscribe to publications related to your physician's practice specialty, as well as coding and auditing organizations. Here, you can find valuable information specific to the types of services that affect you the most.

4. Network. Networking with other coding and auditing professionals is a beneficial way to share experiences as well as glean from others' expertise. The NAMAS Forum provides a way for you to ask questions to not only the NAMAS team, but to your colleagues as well (so feel free to chime in and answer any questions you can!) When attending in-person workshops and conference, socialize and exchange information with others who are in the same profession.

This Week's Tip Provided By:

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