



NAMAS Weekly Auditing & Compliance Tips

August 26, 2016

Don't Undervalue Patient Complexity

Healthcare professionals can readily discern the acuity and severity of a patient's illness based on the presentation of the patient and objective data at their disposal.

Although it is the responsibility of the clinician to convey the complexity of the case, it is not always easy for an auditor to infer that complexity while auditing an E&M encounter.

One approach that can be used is referring to a diagnosis coding manual that contains notations for CC and MCC conditions. Not all publishers use these symbols in their coding manuals as they are representative of indicators for inpatient coding purposes. However, these particular codes may be found on the CMS website at

https://www.cms.gov/icd10manual/fullcode_cms/P0370.html

The symbol 'CC' designates a complication or co-morbidity while 'MCC' represents a major complication or co-morbidity. When one of these codes is documented, one can infer that it is a severe to majorly severe condition and aptly apply it to the presenting problem on the table of risk.

An additional approach is to identify what types of management options are considered for a given disease

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management options are considered for a given disease. Consulting a reputable clinical reference can provide valuable insight. These management options can be compared to the table of risk under management options. However, they are only given credit if actually ordered or performed. It becomes a useful tool when combing a record for data.

Below are two examples, that when documented properly and using the approach outlined within this tip, will help capture and credit for patient complexity. In this scenario, even if the patient did not have emergent surgery for perforation or hemorrhage, but did have a colonoscopy, one can infer the overall risk is high in a patient with a perforated and/or bleeding diverticulitis.

Presenting Problem	Diagnostics	Management options
Diverticulitis K57.92 (CC)	x-rays, barium enema	Colonoscopy
Diverticulitis with bleeding or perforation K57.81 (MCC)	x-rays, paracentesis	Bowel resection, fistula repair, PRBCs

While the table of risk provides a few examples of presenting problems and management options that are considered moderate and high risk, why not consult your coding manual and clinical references to help identify patient complexity?

This Week's Tip Written By:

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Robin is President of Medical Liaison Services, based in Florida

We Want to See You In Orlando!

WEBINAR

We are pleased to present you the following complimentary webinar in August:

Predicing Like a Pro: Critical Skills for Professional Development

Tuesday, August 30, 2016
2pm EST

Speaker: Frank Cohen

Click Here to Register for This Webinar

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NAMAS Medical Auditing BootCamp®

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 October 6, 2016: Covington, LA
 November 15, 2016: Columbus, OH

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NAMAS Calendar of Events





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NAMAS Conference Speaker Spotlight

Speaker Spotlight

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Conference**

December 6-9, 2016
Orlando, FL
Loews Portofino Bay Hotel

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Aimee Wilcox

CPMA, CCS-P, CST, MA, MT

Director of Content
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Conference Sessions:

- Auditor vs. Auditor
- You Be the Judge!
- Considering the Diagnosis in Your Audit



8TH ANNUAL
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Upcoming Webinars

NAMAS is proud to present the following webinars in August



Predicting Like a Pro: Critical Skills for Professional Development

Speaker: Frank Cohen
August 30, 2016
2pm EST

Quality and Pay for Performance

Speaker: Kimberly Charland
September 6, 2016
2pm EST

Challenges with Electronic Communication

Speaker: Scott Kraft
September 13, 2016
2pm EST

Defending Yourself Against Commercial Insurer Recoupments

Speaker: Tom Force
September 20, 2016
2pm EST

E&M Encounter Review

Speaker: John Burns
September 27, 2016
2pm EST

NAMAS Members: Watch your Email for Registration Links

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the Frank Coneri Group, is a software system that provides you with a visual roadmap of your organization's risk. CRA calculates a statistical analysis of your risk and provides you with valuable insight and reports you can't find anywhere else.

Click the image above to learn more about Compliance Risk Analyzer



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