



NAMAS Weekly Auditing & Compliance Tips

December 2, 2016

Risk Adjustment and Hierarchical Condition Category Coding and Auditing

Risk Adjustment (RA) and Hierarchical Condition Category (HCC) coding is a payment model mandated by CMS in 1997, which was implemented in 2003. This model identifies individuals with serious or chronic illness and assigns a risk factor score to the person based upon a combination of the individual's health conditions and demographic details (called the Risk Adjustment Factor or RAF).

The individual's health conditions are identified by the International Classification of Diseases - 10 (ICD -10) diagnoses that are submitted by providers on incoming claims. There over 9000 ICD-10 codes that map to 79 HCC codes in the RA model. As outlined in the Medicare Managed Care Manual, "CMS administers risk adjusted payments to Medicare Advantage (MA) organizations..."

CMS requires documentation in the patient's medical record by a qualified health care provider to support the submitted diagnosis(es). Documentation must support the presence of the condition and clearly support the provider's assessment and plan for management of the condition.

The chronic conditions that are current and managed must be reported (and supported by the documentation for that date of service) at least once each calendar year for CMS to continue to "count" that condition towards the patient's overall risk level.

The Official ICD-10 coding guidelines state that a condition

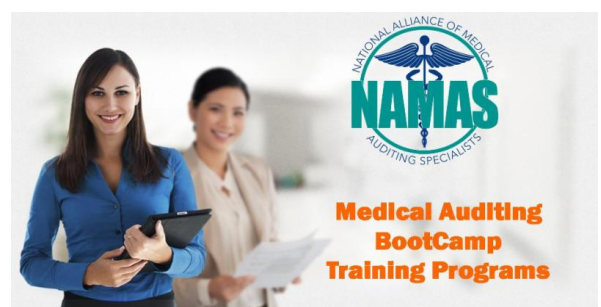
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The Official ICD-10 coding guidelines state that a condition must exist at the time of the encounter and affect the patient's care, or be actively managed AND be documented through the History of Present Illness (HPI), the Physical Exam, and the medical decision making. Each reported diagnosis should be documented in an assessment and a plan of care. According to CMS a simple list of "assessed" conditions alone would not support the diagnosis(es) reported without showing that the condition is current (active) at the time and/or evaluation and treatment for each condition.

M.E.A.T. is an acronym used to describe factors that support the ICD-10 code(s) chosen. Please see below for the acronym description and what they mean:

- M = Monitor** (signs, symptoms, disease progression, disease regression)
- E = Evaluate** (test results, medication effectiveness, response to treatment)
- A = Assess/Address** (ordering tests, discussion, review records, counseling)
- T = Treat** (medications, therapies, other modalities)

Some common issues to be aware of when coding or auditing for support of reported diagnosis(es):

- Code to the highest level of specificity. This can affect support for the risk factor if unspecified or generic codes are used.
- Coding of "history" as current: anything that is not supported as active at the time of the face-to-face encounter, such as "resolved" or "history of" conditions, should not be reported.
- Conditions and manifestations need to be clearly linked with such terms as "due to" "because of" etc. According to ICD-10, some conditions have a presumed cause and effect relationship such as hypertension and CKD (ICD-10 Section 1; 9. A.2.). Always code to the highest level of documented specificity.
- Chronic Conditions: don't overlook documented and supported chronic conditions that affect the patient's care and management.

Be on the lookout for more information and services from NAMAS regarding coding and auditing for Risk Adjustment HCCs!

This Week's Audit Tip Written By:

Michelle West, CPC, CEMC, CPMA, CRC

Michelle is a Senior Compliance Consultant for our parent



Our onsite or online training program will not only prepare you to sit for the medical auditing certification test, but will prepare you for a career as a medical auditor.

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Our next **onsite** bootcamp will be:

December 5-6: Orlando, FL

We've also added additional **online** Saturday classes to our calendar

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Weekly Tip Sponsor



The Association for Rural Health Professional Coding offers education, certification, training and resources for rural health coders.

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NAMAS Calendar of Events



Consultant for our parent organization, DoctorsManagement

Source: Medicare Managed Care Manual;
Chapter 7; Risk Adjustment



Click the image above to view our monthly calendar



8TH ANNUAL
Auditing & Compliance
CONFERENCE 2016

**There's Still Time to Register for the NAMAS
8th Annual Auditing & Compliance
Conference in Orlando, FL !**



NAMAS 8th Annual Auditing & Compliance Conference

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

Dates: Pre-Conference: Tuesday, December 6, 2016
Conference: Wednesday, December 7- Friday
December 9, 2016

Venue: Loews Portofino Bay Hotel, Orlando, FL

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Our 8th Annual Conference Has Gone Green!

We're proud to be a paperless conference, offering attendees the opportunity to download their session

Upcoming Webinars

NAMAS is proud to present the following webinars in November



The Art & Science of Networking

Speaker: Debbe Childress
December 5, 2016
2pm EST

2017 CPT Updates for the Auditor

Speaker: J. Paul Spencer
December 13, 2016
2pm EST

The Practice Manager's Role in Maintaining Compliance

Speaker: Doug Graham
December 20, 2016
2pm EST

E&M Encounter Review

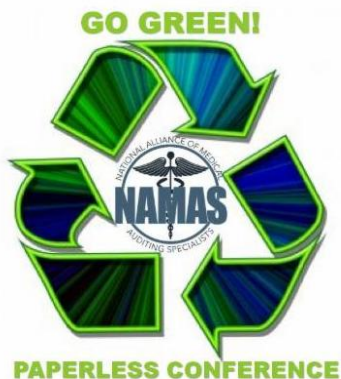
Speaker: Shannon DeConda
December 17, 2016
2pm EST

NAMAS Members: Watch your Email for Registration Links

Non-Members: Email namas@namas.co to learn how to attend these webinars

2016 Salary Survey

handouts electronically prior to conference



[Click Here to View the Conference Agenda](#)

[Register Now](#)



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 \$100 Visa Gift Card
 \$25 Starbucks Gift Card
 and our
GRAND PRIZE
 is a scholarship to attend our 9th Annual NAMAS Auditing & Compliance Conference!

Click the image above to complete the survey. This survey will close on March 15, 2017 and winners will be selected and contacted by a NAMAS representative.

NAMAS Conference Speaker Spotlight

Complimentary
Tip of the Week

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.

Click the image above to be added to our email list!

Speaker Spotlight Meet our speakers for the

Michelle West
CPC, CEMC, CPMA, CRC
Senior Compliance Consultant
DoctorsManagement, LLC




NAMAS 8th Annual Auditing & Compliance Conference

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

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agenda & register today
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8th ANNUAL
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- Auditing Critical Care Services
 - Auditor vs. Auditor
 - You Be the Judge



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Too Many Audits Stacking Up?



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DoctorsManagement & NAMAS employ Senior Management Auditors with no less than 10 years of experience. Our team can perform your audits or offer hands-on assistance to your auditing team.

We are available to assist with:

- Valuation Audits
- Pre-Bill Audits
- Retrospective Audits
- Customized Training

To schedule your audit or training, contact NAMAS at 877-418-5564 or via email at namas@namas.co

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