

Coding Notes



HYPE UNIT, ESR

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*Happy St. Patrick's Day to you all.
Hope the celebrations aren't curtailed too
much by the foot and mouth crisis.*



Quality Initiative



Most of you will have received additional queries from us recently and you may have noticed some changes in our approach. Along with the regular checks on your exports which we do routinely, we are also looking at your individual hospital's data specifically from a quality perspective and producing a range of reports to guide checks on the data. You will now receive queries in several different ways:

Regular routine query check returned on query form:



Selector checks listed in either single case, chart number lists or detailed lists depending on the frequency of the coding issue.



For these selector checks please note some cases will on occasion be queried twice if there is than one issue arising and, also, we may not always have access to your explanation notes on these selector checks.

These queries will compliment the existing edit checks run as you enter data PC. These built in edit checks are constantly being monitored and updated.

As part of our data quality initiative, we plan on auditing selected charts in hospitals on a regular basis. This is standard practice in most countries and chart-based audit is a crucial element in ensuring data quality. Jacqui Curley has been appointed to lead this project and will be in touch with several hospitals regarding audit in the near future. It is in the interests of all involved with HYPE to ensure that the highest possible data quality standards are achieved. We look forward to your co-operation with this initiative.





Cracking the Code!



A selection of queries received in the HIPE unit recently

Query: A patient was admitted to hospital for phlebotomy with a principal diagnosis of haemochromatosis. What code would you use for the phlebotomy procedure?

Answer: Phlebotomy is coded to 38.99.

Query: What code would you use for a diagnosis of Myelodysplasia Syndrome?

Answer: Myelodysplasia Syndrome is coded to 238.7

Query: A patient is admitted with a diagnosis of **Spondylosis**. What code would you use?

Answer: **Spondylosis** is coded to 721.90

It is important not to confuse the term **Spondylosis (code 721.90)** with the term **Spondylolysis (code 756.11)**. The term **Spondylosis** means ankylosis of a vertebral joint. It is also a general term for degenerative changes due to osteoarthritis. The term **Spondylolysis** is a congenital condition and refers to the breaking down of a vertebrae.

Query: A patient was admitted to hospital with a diagnosis of digoxin toxicity. The patient had been taking the digoxin as prescribed but, nonetheless, had an adverse reaction. The nature of the adverse effect was not stated in the medical record. What code(s) would you use?

Answer: The principal diagnosis would be coded to 995.2 (Unspecified adverse effect of drug, medicinal and biological substance) followed by E942.1 (Adverse effect of digoxin in therapeutic use). Remember code 995.2 is only used when the nature of the adverse effect is not stated in the medical record. If a reaction is stated this will be coded as the principal diagnosis followed by the E-therapeutic code. (See Coding Corner on p3)

DON'T FORGET THOSE E-CODES

Whether it's a sports injury, a road traffic accident or a poisoning don't forget to include an E-code to explain the cause of the injury or poisoning. If for example, the patient sustained multiple injuries due to an R.T.A. don't drop the E-code.

IF PATIENT IS ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL AND SOURCE OF ADMISSION IS EITHER 4, 5, 6 OR 7 THEN E-CODE IS REQUIRED TO EXPLAIN CAUSE OF INJURY OR POISONING. Where space allows use E849.x as an additional code to explain the location of the accident or poisoning.



Coding Corner

Poisoning & Adverse Effects

The following guidelines relate to the sequencing of codes for poisonings and for adverse effects of correct substances properly administered.

Poisoning

Improper use of a substance = Poisoning

Poisoning results from improper use of a substance.

Includes: Intoxication, overdose, wrong dosage given or taken, therapeutic misadventure, toxic effect and wrong substance given or taken.

Sequencing of codes for poisoning/ improper use:

1. PDX = Substance poisoning the patient.
Code selected from the poisoning column of the Table of Drugs and Chemicals.
2. Manifestation or reaction of the patient to the poisoning, e.g. vomiting, coma etc.
3. E-Code to determine the circumstances of the poisoning.
This E-Code will be selected from the Accident, Suicide Attempt, Assault or Undetermined columns of the Table of Drugs and Chemicals.

NOTE: If in doubt about the circumstances of the poisoning use the Undetermined E-Code.

Adverse Effect

Proper use of a substance but adverse reaction occurs nonetheless.

Adverse effect = A correct substance is taken properly but an adverse reaction/effect occurs.

Includes: Allergic reaction, cumulative toxicity, hypersensitivity, idiosyncratic reaction, “side effect”, interaction of drugs (both properly taken), synergistic reaction and adverse effect of drug not stated as being used properly or improperly.

Sequencing of codes for adverse effect/proper use:

1. PDX = The nature of the adverse effect e.g. rash, gastritis, Parkinson’s.
If the specific reaction is unknown ICD-9-CM provides code 995.2.
2. The drug causing the adverse effect is identified *only* by an E-code from the “Therapeutic Use” column in the Table of Drugs & Chemicals.

NOTE: E-Codes from the “Therapeutic Use” column may *never* be used with a code from the poisoning column.

Competition Results

Thanks to everyone who entered our Christmas Crossword Competition.

The winner is Claire Kennedy, University College Hospital, Galway.

Congratulations Claire, your prize is on the way.

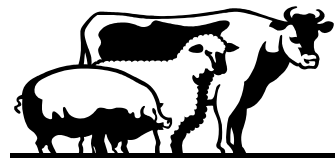




Workshops and Foot & Mouth Disease

Hopefully the foot and mouth crisis is not affecting you too much. But if anyone needs a code it goes to 078.4 in humans.

We are always happy to arrange regional workshops along with the regular courses we hold here in the ESRI in Dublin. These regional workshops will continue to be held where possible so please let us know if you would like help with workshops in your area or, if you have an idea for a topic, let us know.



To contact the HIPE Unit....

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If you have any ideas for future topics for Coding Notes please let us know. Thanks and keep in touch.

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