

Community Hospital

Job Description

Job Title: Certified Coder
Department: Health Record Information Services (HRIS)
Reports To: HRIS Manager
FLSA Status: Non-exempt
Approved By:
Approved Date: 8/1/09
Revision/Review:

SUMMARY

Assign ICD-9 CM, CPT-4, and HCPCS codes as appropriate to narrative diagnoses and procedures documented in the medical record.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES include, but are not limited to, the following.

- Assign ICD-9 CM, CPT-4, and HCPCS codes according to regulating guidelines.
- Thoroughly review all chart documentation prior to assigning codes.
- Access and follow, as appropriate, coding regulations through the 3-M software.
- Maintain CE credits as outlined in department procedure; i.e. attending hospital sponsored in-services and workshops and reading articles about coding and the Prospective Payment System.
- Strive for an accuracy rate of 95% or above in DRG/APC assignment.
- Strive for an accuracy rate of 91% or above in overall coding assignment.
- Strive to obtain a Certified Coding Specialist rating through the American Health Information Management Association.
- Strive toward the maintenance of a four day turn around time on coding.
- Maintain or exceed daily coding productivity goals given by HRIS Manager/Lead Coder.
- Answer coding questions from other departments and outside calls from physicians' offices.
- Communicate with physicians when there are ambiguous statements or lack of documentation, i.e. "query", including pathologists and radiologists.
- Work together with Clinical Documentation Specialist to clarify documentation on in patient and observation charts.
- Report transcription errors to Lead Transcriptionists as found while reviewing chart for coding.
- Verify through chart documentation and/or confirm with case management regarding the discharge status of the patient.
- Assist with coding reviews as appropriate
- Assist with training of new coders and/or provide assistance to co-workers when required and consult HRIS Manager for data quality decisions.
- Abide by the coding Code of Ethics.
- Compile and send statistical report to the Colorado Hospital Association on a monthly basis.

- Complete the charging process for Emergency Room and Observation patients as appropriate.

CUSTOMER SERVICE:

- Applies resolution to customer calls based on established standards and procedures.
- Listens and responds to customer service needs with the appropriate level of urgency.

COMMUNICATION:

- Attends monthly IDM, and other committee meetings as needed
- Works with coworkers to obtain required information on a timely basis and to solve outstanding issues, as appropriate.
- Promotes and contributes positively to the teamwork of the department by assisting coworkers, contributing ideas and problem-solving with co-workers.
- Any other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE

High school diploma or general education degree (GED) and certification in one of the following organizations is required: AHIMA, AAPC (RHIT, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P, CPC, or CPC-H). One to three years experience in acute care surgery and inpatient coding preferred. Knowledgeable in the application of coding regulations. Excellent computer skills, 10 key by touch, filing and typing proficiency. Familiarity with CPT-4 and ICD-9 coding.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Must be able to read and write English. Ability to read and interpret documents such as safety rules, operating and maintenance instructions, and procedure manuals. Ability to write routine reports and correspondence. Ability to effectively present information in one-on-one and small group situations to supervisors, patients, patient's family and other employees of organization. Able to work in a team-oriented environment.

MATHEMATICAL SKILLS

Ability to add, subtract, multiply, and divide in all units of measure, using whole numbers, common fractions, and decimals. Ability to compute rate, ratio, and percent.

REASONING ABILITY

Ability to solve practical problems and deal with a variety of concrete variables in situations where only limited standardization exists. Ability to interpret a variety of instructions furnished in written, oral, diagram, or schedule form.

COMPUTER SKILLS

To perform this job successfully, an individual should have general computer literacy skills and knowledge of Microsoft Office applications.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an

employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to sit; use hands to finger, handle, or feel; and talk or hear. The employee is occasionally required to stand; walk; reach with hands and arms; climb or balance; and stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl. The employee must regularly lift and/or move up to 20 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and ability to adjust focus.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is occasionally exposed to moving mechanical parts, risk of electrical shock, exposure to infectious diseases, and transmission of airborne disease. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate.

HIPPA

Ensures and adheres to strict confidentiality when handling patient information, according to the HIPAA Privacy Act and hospital policy and procedure regarding confidentiality. Complies with all hospital information security practices.

Has knowledge of and adheres to all compliance regulations, policies and procedures.

COMPETENCIES

To perform the job successfully, an individual should demonstrate the following competencies:

Technical Skills- Assesses own strengths and weaknesses; Pursues training and development opportunities; Strives to continuously build knowledge and skills; Shares expertise with others.

Customer Service- Manages difficult or emotional customer situations; Responds promptly to customer needs; Solicits customer feedback to improve service; responds to requests for service and assistance; Meets commitments.

Interpersonal Skills- Focuses on solving conflict, not blaming; Maintains confidentiality; Listens to others without interrupting; Keeps emotions under control; remains open to others' ideas and tries new things.

Ethics- Treats people with respect; Keeps commitments; Inspires the trust of others; Works with integrity and ethically; Upholds organizational values.

Quantity- Meets productivity standards; Completes work in timely manner; Strives to increase productivity; works quickly.

Safety and Security- Observes safety and security procedures; Determines appropriate action beyond guidelines; Reports potentially unsafe conditions; Uses equipment and materials properly.

Attendance/Punctuality- Is consistently at work and on time; Ensures work responsibilities are covered when absent; Arrives at meetings and appointments on time.

Dependability- Follows instructions, responds to management direction; Takes responsibility for own actions; Keeps commitments; Commits to long hours of work when necessary to reach goals; Completes tasks on time or notifies appropriate person with an alternate plan.

