



Talk Ten (ICD 10) Tuesday Tips....Got a Minute:

Principal Diagnosis vs. Signs and Symptoms

Principal diagnoses that are considered “signs and symptoms” are more likely to be targeted for audits regarding level of care if the patient is admitted to inpatient status.

Definitive diagnoses are preferred in the inpatient setting and support a higher evaluation and management (E/M) fee.

In the inpatient setting, coders can capture ‘probable’, ‘likely’, ‘suspected’, or presumed diagnoses when patients present with the signs and symptoms of the diagnoses being ruled out.... as long as those diagnoses are restated in the discharge summary and have not been ruled out during the stay.

Consider:

- Suspected sepsis
- Probable community-acquired pneumonia
- Presumed wound infection
- Likely resistant urinary tract infection (UTI)
- Suspected sepsis from likely resistant UTI

DRG: Fever 864 Relative weight: 0.4905

DRG: Sepsis 872 Relative weight: 1.230

- Check out the latest on TFHS’ ICD10 Website for Physicians: www.tfhd.com/icd10

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