

step by step medical coding pdf

step by step medical coding pdf materials are essential resources for anyone pursuing a career in medical coding or seeking to enhance their coding skills. These comprehensive guides provide detailed instructions on how to accurately assign standardized codes to medical diagnoses, procedures, and services. Utilizing a step by step medical coding pdf can simplify the learning process by breaking down complex coding systems like ICD-10-CM, CPT, and HCPCS into manageable sections. This article explores the importance of medical coding, the structure of coding manuals, and how to effectively use a step by step medical coding pdf to master coding techniques. Additionally, it covers the benefits of having a downloadable resource for study and reference purposes and offers tips on selecting the best coding PDFs for your educational needs. Following is a detailed table of contents that outlines the main sections covered in this article.

- Understanding Medical Coding
- Key Coding Systems Explained
- How to Use a Step by Step Medical Coding PDF
- Benefits of Using Medical Coding PDFs
- Choosing the Right Step by Step Medical Coding PDF
- Tips for Mastering Medical Coding

Understanding Medical Coding

Medical coding is the process of transforming healthcare diagnoses, procedures, medical services, and equipment into universal alphanumeric codes. These codes are derived from documentation, such as physician notes, laboratory results, and radiologic findings. Accurate medical coding is vital for billing, ensuring proper reimbursement, and maintaining detailed medical records. It also plays a crucial role in healthcare analytics, research, and compliance with regulations.

The Role of Medical Coders

Medical coders analyze patient records and assign the appropriate codes based on the services provided. Their responsibilities include verifying the accuracy of documentation, ensuring compliance with coding guidelines, and keeping up to date with coding updates and changes. Coders must possess a strong understanding of anatomy, medical terminology, and healthcare procedures to perform their work efficiently.

The Importance of Accurate Coding

Errors in medical coding can lead to claim denials, delayed payments, or even legal issues related to fraud and abuse. Accurate coding ensures healthcare providers receive proper reimbursement and supports the integrity of healthcare data. Using a step by step medical coding pdf helps coders follow standardized procedures, minimizing mistakes and improving overall coding quality.

Key Coding Systems Explained

Several coding systems are fundamental to medical coding. Each serves a specific purpose and is used in different contexts within healthcare documentation and billing. A step by step medical coding pdf typically covers these systems in detail to facilitate comprehensive learning.

ICD-10-CM (International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification)

ICD-10-CM codes classify and describe diagnoses and health conditions. They are primarily used for morbidity coding and are essential for reporting diagnoses on claims. This system includes thousands of codes organized by chapters based on body systems and disease types.

CPT (Current Procedural Terminology)

CPT codes describe medical, surgical, and diagnostic services. These codes are used to report procedures and services rendered by healthcare providers, enabling standardized billing across various settings. CPT codes are divided into three categories, with Category I being the most commonly used for typical procedures.

HCPCS (Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System)

HCPCS codes complement CPT codes and cover products, supplies, and services not included in CPT, such as ambulance services and durable medical equipment. HCPCS is divided into Level I (CPT codes) and Level II codes, which address non-physician services.

How to Use a Step by Step Medical Coding PDF

A step by step medical coding pdf serves as a practical guide for learners and professionals alike. It provides structured lessons that walk through the coding process, from understanding medical terminology to applying coding guidelines effectively.

Following the Structured Approach

These PDFs typically organize content into sequential modules or chapters that cover essential topics in logical order. Users can progress from foundational concepts to more advanced coding scenarios, reinforcing learning through examples and exercises.

Utilizing Examples and Practice Exercises

Most step by step medical coding PDFs include sample coding cases and practice questions. These tools are invaluable for applying knowledge and testing comprehension. Working through these examples enhances coding precision and builds confidence.

Referencing Coding Guidelines and Updates

Reliable medical coding PDFs incorporate the latest official coding guidelines and updates. Users should pay close attention to these details to ensure compliance with current standards and to avoid common pitfalls in coding.

Benefits of Using Medical Coding PDFs

Medical coding PDFs offer multiple advantages over traditional textbooks and online courses. They provide convenience, accessibility, and a flexible learning format suitable for diverse learning styles.

Portability and Accessibility

Medical coding PDFs can be downloaded and accessed offline on various devices, allowing learners to study anytime and anywhere. This portability supports continuous learning without dependence on internet connectivity.

Cost-Effectiveness

Compared to printed manuals or paid courses, many step by step medical coding PDFs are affordable or even free. This makes them an economical option for students and professionals seeking quality study materials.

Comprehensive and Up-to-Date Content

Well-maintained PDFs are frequently updated to reflect coding changes, new guidelines, and industry best practices. This ensures that learners have access to the most current information, which is crucial for accurate coding and certification exams.

Choosing the Right Step by Step Medical Coding PDF

Selecting the most appropriate medical coding PDF requires careful consideration of several factors. The ideal resource should align with your learning goals, level of expertise, and the coding certification you are pursuing.

Evaluate Content Quality and Structure

Look for PDFs that offer clear explanations, well-organized chapters, and practical examples. A step by step approach that builds knowledge progressively enhances understanding and retention.

Check for Certification Alignment

If preparing for certification exams such as Certified Professional Coder (CPC) or Certified Coding Specialist (CCS), choose PDFs aligned with the exam content and guidelines. This targeted preparation increases the likelihood of success.

Consider User Reviews and Recommendations

Feedback from other learners can provide insight into the usefulness and clarity of a particular medical coding PDF. Reviews often highlight strengths and weaknesses that may influence your choice.

Tips for Mastering Medical Coding

Mastering medical coding requires dedication, consistent practice, and a strategic approach to learning. The following tips complement the use of a step by step medical coding pdf to enhance proficiency.

1. **Develop Strong Medical Terminology Skills:** Understanding medical language is foundational to accurate coding.
2. **Practice Regularly:** Frequent coding exercises improve accuracy and speed.
3. **Stay Current with Coding Updates:** Follow official coding guidelines and changes issued annually.
4. **Use Multiple Resources:** Supplement PDFs with coding manuals, online forums, and training courses.
5. **Join Professional Associations:** Engage with communities like AAPC or AHIMA for networking and educational opportunities.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a 'Step by Step Medical Coding PDF' guide?

A 'Step by Step Medical Coding PDF' guide is a comprehensive document designed to help learners understand medical coding processes in a structured and sequential manner, often including explanations, examples, and coding exercises.

Where can I find a reliable 'Step by Step Medical Coding PDF' for beginners?

Reliable 'Step by Step Medical Coding PDF' guides for beginners can be found on official medical coding websites, educational platforms like AAPC or AHIMA, and through authorized course providers that offer downloadable resources.

What are the benefits of using a 'Step by Step Medical Coding PDF' for learning medical coding?

Using a 'Step by Step Medical Coding PDF' helps learners grasp coding concepts progressively, allows self-paced learning, provides easy reference material, and often includes practice examples that enhance coding accuracy and confidence.

Does a 'Step by Step Medical Coding PDF' cover ICD-10, CPT, and HCPCS coding systems?

Most comprehensive 'Step by Step Medical Coding PDF' guides cover key coding systems such as ICD-10 for diagnoses, CPT for procedures, and HCPCS for additional services to provide a complete understanding of medical coding.

Can I use a 'Step by Step Medical Coding PDF' to prepare for medical coding certification exams?

Yes, many learners use 'Step by Step Medical Coding PDF' guides as study aids to prepare for certification exams like the CPC (Certified Professional Coder) by practicing coding scenarios and understanding coding guidelines thoroughly.

Are there free downloadable 'Step by Step Medical Coding PDF' resources available online?

There are some free 'Step by Step Medical Coding PDF' resources available online, but it's important to ensure they come from reputable sources to guarantee up-to-date and accurate coding information.

Additional Resources

1. *Step-by-Step Medical Coding 2024 Edition*

This comprehensive guide provides detailed instructions on medical coding procedures with updated codes for 2024. It includes numerous examples and exercises to help beginners and professionals master ICD-10-CM, CPT, and HCPCS coding. The book is designed to facilitate learning through a clear, step-by-step approach, making complex coding concepts easier to understand.

2. *Medical Coding Workbook and Step-by-Step Guide*

Ideal for students and coding professionals, this workbook combines practical coding exercises with step-by-step explanations. It covers essential coding systems and emphasizes real-world application through case studies. The interactive format helps reinforce knowledge and improve coding accuracy.

3. *Step-by-Step Medical Coding for Hospital Settings*

Focused on hospital-based coding, this book breaks down complex inpatient and outpatient coding processes. It offers detailed instructions for using ICD-10-CM, CPT, and MS-DRG coding standards. The stepwise format supports learning with examples drawn from typical hospital scenarios.

4. Essentials of Step-by-Step Medical Coding

This text streamlines the medical coding learning process by focusing on core concepts and practical skills. It includes easy-to-follow explanations, charts, and coding tips to enhance comprehension. Students will find it a useful resource for mastering the essentials of medical coding from the ground up.

5. Step-by-Step Medical Coding for Physician Services

Designed specifically for coding in physician offices, this book covers CPT and ICD-10-CM coding with a focus on outpatient services. It provides a clear, methodical approach to assigning codes for various medical procedures and diagnoses. The guide also includes compliance tips and coding updates relevant to physician practices.

6. Step-by-Step ICD-10-CM Coding Workbook

This workbook emphasizes ICD-10-CM coding with a structured, progressive teaching method. It features exercises, quizzes, and case studies to build proficiency in diagnosis coding. The workbook is a practical tool for reinforcing learning and preparing for professional certification exams.

7. Step-by-Step CPT Coding Made Easy

Focusing exclusively on CPT coding, this book breaks down the complex coding rules into manageable steps. It includes comprehensive coverage of evaluation and management, surgery, and radiology codes. The straightforward format aids coders in understanding and applying CPT codes accurately.

8. Medical Coding Step-by-Step: From Basics to Advanced

This all-encompassing guide takes readers from fundamental concepts through advanced coding techniques. It integrates ICD-10, CPT, and HCPCS coding with numerous real-world examples and practice questions. Suitable for both novices and seasoned coders looking to update skills.

9. Step-by-Step Medical Coding with Case Studies

By incorporating detailed case studies, this book provides a hands-on approach to learning medical coding. Each chapter presents coding challenges followed by stepwise solutions, enhancing critical

thinking and practical application. It is an excellent resource for developing coding proficiency in a clinical context.

Step By Step Medical Coding Pdf

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Step-by-Step Medical Coding PDF

Ebook Title: Mastering Medical Coding: A Step-by-Step Guide

Ebook Outline:

Introduction: What is Medical Coding? Why is it Important? Career Paths in Medical Coding.

Chapter 1: Foundations of Medical Coding: Understanding ICD Codes (Diagnosis Codes), CPT Codes (Procedure Codes), HCPCS Codes (Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System). Coding Guidelines and Compliance.

Chapter 2: Step-by-Step Coding Process: Patient Chart Review, Identifying Diagnoses and Procedures, Selecting Appropriate Codes, Code Sequencing and Documentation. Practical Examples.

Chapter 3: Advanced Coding Techniques: Modifier Usage, Unbundling and Bundling, Auditing and Compliance. Handling Complex Cases.

Chapter 4: Medical Coding Software and Resources: Introduction to popular medical coding software, Online resources, and professional organizations.

Chapter 5: Career Development and Certification: Paths to becoming a certified coder, Professional certifications (CPC, CCS, etc.), Continuing Education.

Conclusion: Recap of Key Concepts, Future Trends in Medical Coding.

Mastering Medical Coding: A Step-by-Step Guide

Medical coding, the process of transforming medical diagnoses, procedures, and services into standardized alphanumeric codes, is a critical component of the healthcare industry. Accurate medical coding ensures proper billing, facilitates healthcare data analysis, and ultimately impacts patient care and reimbursement. This comprehensive guide provides a step-by-step approach to mastering the intricacies of medical coding, equipping you with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in this vital field.

Introduction: The Importance of Medical Coding

Medical coding isn't just about numbers; it's the language of healthcare finance and data management. Every doctor's visit, every procedure performed, and every medical supply used generates a complex tapestry of information. Medical coders translate this information into standardized codes, allowing healthcare providers to submit accurate claims for reimbursement from insurance companies and government agencies. Without accurate coding, healthcare organizations could face significant financial losses, impacting their ability to provide quality patient care.

Furthermore, the data generated through accurate coding plays a crucial role in public health research, epidemiological studies, and the ongoing development of healthcare policies. Accurate data provides valuable insights into disease trends, treatment effectiveness, and healthcare resource allocation. The demand for skilled medical coders is consistently high, offering rewarding career paths with opportunities for growth and specialization.

Chapter 1: Foundations of Medical Coding: Understanding the Code Systems

This chapter lays the groundwork for your medical coding journey. We'll delve into the three primary code sets:

1.1 ICD Codes (International Classification of Diseases): These codes are used to classify diagnoses, representing the diseases, injuries, and other health conditions a patient presents with. The current version, ICD-10-CM (Clinical Modification), utilizes a highly detailed system of alphanumeric codes to ensure accurate representation of medical conditions. Understanding ICD-10-CM requires mastering its hierarchical structure, including chapters, categories, and subcategories. This requires careful attention to detail and a thorough understanding of medical terminology. We'll cover the structure, how to search for specific codes, and how to identify the most accurate code based on the patient's diagnosis.

1.2 CPT Codes (Current Procedural Terminology): CPT codes represent medical, surgical, and diagnostic procedures performed on a patient. The American Medical Association (AMA) publishes CPT codes, and these codes are crucial for accurately billing procedures. Understanding CPT codes requires familiarity with surgical techniques, diagnostic tests, and medical procedures. We'll explore the various sections of the CPT manual, focusing on how to find the appropriate code based on the procedure performed, including modifier usage (explained later).

1.3 HCPCS Codes (Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System): These codes extend beyond CPT codes to include services and supplies not typically found in CPT. HCPCS Level I codes are identical to CPT codes, while Level II codes cover a wider range of items, such as durable medical equipment (DME), ambulance services, and specific medical supplies. Understanding HCPCS codes is crucial for accurately billing a broad spectrum of healthcare services.

1.4 Coding Guidelines and Compliance: Adhering to official coding guidelines is paramount for accurate and compliant billing. We'll examine the significant guidelines issued by organizations like the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the AMA. Understanding these guidelines ensures accurate code selection, preventing denials and audits.

Chapter 2: Step-by-Step Coding Process: From Chart Review to Code Assignment

This chapter provides a practical, step-by-step guide to the coding process:

2.1 Patient Chart Review: The process begins with a thorough review of the patient's medical record. This includes examining physician notes, lab results, imaging reports, and other relevant documentation to gather all necessary information. Efficient and thorough chart review is crucial for accurate coding. We'll provide tips for effective chart review, including strategies for identifying key information and avoiding common pitfalls.

2.2 Identifying Diagnoses and Procedures: Based on the chart review, the coder identifies the patient's diagnoses (using ICD codes) and the procedures performed (using CPT and HCPCS codes). This step requires a strong understanding of medical terminology and anatomy. We'll provide examples of how to extract relevant information from complex medical documentation.

2.3 Selecting Appropriate Codes: This is where the coder uses their knowledge of the various code sets to select the most precise and accurate codes to represent the patient's condition and the procedures performed. The selection process must align with coding guidelines and ensure the appropriate level of detail. We'll provide numerous practical examples illustrating the code selection process.

2.4 Code Sequencing and Documentation: Proper code sequencing is critical for accurate billing. We'll explain the rules for sequencing codes based on the principal diagnosis and other factors. Accurate documentation of the coding process is also important for audits and compliance.

Chapter 3: Advanced Coding Techniques: Mastering the Nuances

This chapter explores more complex aspects of medical coding:

3.1 Modifier Usage: Modifiers are two-digit codes appended to CPT and HCPCS codes to provide additional information about the service or procedure performed. Understanding modifier usage is crucial for accurate billing, and we will cover the most commonly used modifiers and their

applications.

3.2 Unbundling and Bundling: Unbundling refers to incorrectly billing separate components of a procedure as individual codes, while bundling involves inappropriately combining codes that should be billed separately. Understanding the nuances of unbundling and bundling is crucial to avoid billing errors.

3.3 Auditing and Compliance: Regular auditing of coding practices ensures accuracy and compliance with regulatory guidelines. We'll discuss common coding errors and strategies for minimizing the risk of audits and penalties. This includes staying updated with coding guidelines and best practices.

3.4 Handling Complex Cases: We'll examine strategies for coding complex medical scenarios, such as multiple diagnoses, comorbidities, and unusual circumstances.

Chapter 4: Medical Coding Software and Resources

This chapter introduces essential tools and resources for medical coders:

4.1 Medical Coding Software: This section explores various software options designed to streamline the coding process, including features like code lookup tools, audit functions, and automated claims submission.

4.2 Online Resources: Numerous online resources provide coding updates, guidelines, and educational materials. We'll explore some of the most valuable websites and databases.

4.3 Professional Organizations: Professional organizations offer networking opportunities, continuing education, and support for medical coders. We'll highlight key organizations and the benefits of membership.

Chapter 5: Career Development and Certification

This chapter explores the career path of a medical coder:

5.1 Paths to Becoming a Certified Coder: This section outlines the educational requirements, training options, and experience needed to become a proficient medical coder.

5.2 Professional Certifications: We'll discuss the significance of professional certifications, such as the Certified Professional Coder (CPC) and Certified Coding Specialist (CCS), and the benefits they offer in terms of career advancement and recognition.

5.3 Continuing Education: The field of medical coding is constantly evolving. We'll emphasize the importance of ongoing education to stay current with coding updates, guidelines, and new technologies.

Conclusion: The Future of Medical Coding

This guide has provided a foundational understanding of medical coding principles, techniques, and resources. The demand for skilled medical coders is expected to continue to grow, driven by advancements in healthcare technology and increasing complexities in medical billing. By mastering the concepts presented in this guide and pursuing continued professional development, you can build a successful and rewarding career in this essential field.

FAQs

1. What is the difference between ICD, CPT, and HCPCS codes? ICD codes classify diagnoses, CPT codes classify procedures, and HCPCS codes encompass a broader range, including supplies and services not covered by CPT.
2. What are the key steps in the medical coding process? Chart review, identifying diagnoses and procedures, selecting appropriate codes, sequencing codes, and documentation.
3. What are medical coding modifiers? Modifiers provide additional information about the service or procedure, clarifying circumstances not fully captured by the primary code.
4. What are some common coding errors? Unbundling, bundling, and selecting incorrect codes due to insufficient chart review or lack of understanding of coding guidelines.
5. What software is commonly used for medical coding? Numerous software options exist, each offering various features for code lookup, claims submission, and audit functions. Specific software recommendations are beyond the scope of this FAQ but are addressed in the ebook.
6. How can I become a certified medical coder? Obtain the necessary education, training, and experience, and pass a certification exam offered by organizations like AAPC or AHIMA.
7. What are the career prospects for medical coders? The job outlook is excellent, with a consistently high demand for skilled professionals.
8. How important is continuing education for medical coders? Crucial, due to ongoing changes in coding guidelines and healthcare regulations.
9. What resources are available for medical coders? Professional organizations, online databases, and medical coding software all provide valuable resources and support.

Related Articles:

1. ICD-10-CM Coding Essentials: A deep dive into the structure and usage of ICD-10-CM codes.
2. Mastering CPT Coding: A comprehensive guide to understanding and utilizing CPT codes effectively.
3. Understanding HCPCS Level II Codes: A detailed explanation of HCPCS Level II codes and their application.
4. Medical Coding Compliance and Auditing: Best practices for ensuring coding accuracy and avoiding audits.
5. Introduction to Medical Terminology for Coders: Essential medical terminology for successful medical coding.
6. Medical Coding Software Comparison: A review of popular medical coding software options.
7. Career Paths in Medical Coding: Exploring various career opportunities within the medical coding field.
8. The Importance of Medical Coding in Healthcare Revenue Cycle Management: How accurate coding impacts healthcare revenue.
9. Staying Current with Medical Coding Updates: Strategies for staying abreast of the latest changes and guidelines.

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coding and success on the job.

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step by step medical coding pdf: ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting - FY 2021 (October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021) Department Of Health And Human Services, 2020-09-06 These guidelines have been approved by the four organizations that make up the Cooperating Parties for the ICD-10-CM: the American Hospital Association (AHA), the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), CMS, and NCHS. These guidelines are a set of rules that have been developed to accompany and complement the official conventions and instructions provided within the ICD-10-CM itself. The instructions and conventions of the classification take precedence over guidelines. These guidelines are based on the coding and sequencing instructions in the Tabular List and Alphabetic Index of ICD-10-CM, but provide additional instruction. Adherence to these guidelines when assigning ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes is required under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The diagnosis codes (Tabular List and Alphabetic Index) have been adopted under HIPAA for all healthcare settings. A joint effort between the healthcare provider and the coder is essential to achieve complete and accurate documentation, code assignment, and reporting of diagnoses and procedures. These guidelines have been developed to assist both the healthcare provider and the coder in identifying those diagnoses that are to be reported. The importance of consistent, complete documentation in the medical record cannot be overemphasized. Without such documentation accurate coding cannot be achieved. The entire record should be reviewed to determine the specific reason for the encounter and the conditions treated.

step by step medical coding pdf: Step-by-Step Medical Coding, 2017 Edition - E-Book Carol J. Buck, 2016-11-08 Take your first step toward a successful career in medical coding with guidance from the most trusted name in coding education! From Carol J. Buck, the bestselling Step-by-Step Medical Coding is a practical, easy-to-use resource that shows you exactly how to code using all current coding sets. Practice exercises follow each 'step' of information to reinforce your understanding of important concepts. In-depth coverage includes reimbursement, ICD-10-CM, CPT, HCPCS, and inpatient coding, with an Evolve website that includes 30-day access to TruCode® Encoder Essentials. No other text so thoroughly covers all coding sets in one source! - 30-day access

to TruCode® Encoder Essentials (in addition to separate encoder practice exercises on the Evolve companion website) help you understand how to utilize an encoder. - A step-by-step approach makes it easier to build skills and remember the material. - UNIQUE! Real-world coding reports (cleared of any confidential information) simulate the reports you will encounter as a coder and help you apply coding principles to actual cases. - Over 500 illustrations include medical conditions and procedures to help you understand the services being coded. - Exercises, Quick Checks, and Toolbox features reinforce coding rules and concepts, and emphasize key information. - Valuable tips and advice are offered in features such as From the Trenches, Coding Shots, Stop!, Caution!, Check This Out, and CMS Rules. - UNIQUE! Four coding-question variations develop your coding ability and critical thinking skills, including one-code or multiple-code answers. - Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting boxes allow you to read the official guidelines wording for inpatient and outpatient coding alongside in-text explanations. - UNIQUE! Coders' Index makes it easy to quickly locate specific codes. - Sample Electronic Health Record screenshots in the appendix provide examples similar to the EHRs you will encounter in the workplace. - Online practice activities on Evolve include questions such as multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, and coding reports. - A workbook corresponds to the textbook and offers review and practice with more than 1,200 theory, practical, and report exercises (odd-numbered answers provided in appendix) to reinforce understanding of medical coding. Available separately. - Medical Coding Online uses animations, photographs, drawings, narrated slide shows, case-based exercises, pop-up definitions, and professional insights to reinforce coding concepts from the Step-by-Step text. Available separately.

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American Medical Association, 2019-09-25 ICD-10-CM 2020: The Complete Official Codebook provides the entire updated code set for diagnostic coding, organized to make the challenge of accurate coding easier. This codebook is the cornerstone for establishing medical necessity, determining coverage and ensuring appropriate reimbursement. Each of the 21 chapters in the Tabular List of Diseases and Injuries is organized to provide quick and simple navigation to facilitate accurate coding. The book also contains supplementary appendixes including a coding tutorial, pharmacology listings, a list of valid three-character codes and additional information on Z-codes for long-term drug use and Z-codes that can only be used as a principal diagnosis. Official coding guidelines for 2020 are bound into this codebook. FEATURES AND BENEFITS - Full list of code changes. Quickly see the complete list of new, revised, and deleted codes affecting the FY 2020 codes. - QPP symbol in the tabular section. The symbol identifies diagnosis codes associated with Quality Payment Program (QPP) measures under MARCA. - The addition of more than 100 coding tips. Obtain insight into coding for physician and outpatient settings. - The addition of more than 300 new definitions in the tabular listing. Assign codes with confidence based on illustrations and definitions designed to highlight key components of the disease process or injury. - Intuitive features and format. This edition includes full-color illustrations and visual alerts, including color-coding and symbols that identify coding notes and instructions, additional character requirements, codes associated with CMS hierarchical condition categories (HCC), Medicare Code Edits (MCEs), manifestation codes, other specified codes, and unspecified codes. - Placeholder X. This icon alerts the coder to an important ICD-10-CM convention--the use of a placeholder X for three-, four- and five-character codes requiring a seventh character extension. - Coding guideline explanations and examples. Detailed explanations and examples related to application of the ICD-10-CM chapter guidelines are provided at the beginning of each chapter in the tabular section. - Muscle/tendon translation table. This table is used to determine muscle/tendon action (flexor, extensor, other), which is a component of codes for acquired conditions and injuries affecting the muscles and tendons - Appendices. Supplement your coding knowledge with information on proper coding practices, risk adjustment coding, pharmacology, and Z codes.

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