Tip Sheet on Maternity and Newborn Coding

Chapter 11: Complications of Pregnancy

- Chapter 11 codes should **never** be coded on newborn record.

- **Coding example:** If diabetes mellitus causes the complication, code 648.0X (Diabetes mellitus complicating pregnancy, childbirth or puerperium), 250.xx (Diabetes mellitus) or 249.00 (Secondary diabetes mellitus). If the patient is insulin-dependent, also code V58.67 (Long-term [current] use of insulin).

- If gestational diabetes occurs in 2nd or 3rd trimester, code 648.8X (Abnormal glucose tolerance) but **do not** use 648.0X (Conditions complicating pregnancy, childbirth or puerperium) with this code.

- Postpartum complications occur within 6 weeks of the birth. After 6 weeks, they are considered pregnancy-related complications.

- Late effects of complications after the initial postpartum period are coded to 677 (Late effect of complication of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium). Sequence the 677 after the code describing the actual complication.

Chapter 15: Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period

*Note:* Perinatal is defined as the period before birth through the 28th day following birth.

- Chapter 15 codes are allowed to follow a patient throughout life if the condition it is still present. Assign codes for conditions that the physician specifies as having implications for the patient’s future health.

- Assign a prematurity code **only** when the physician specifies premature. Codes 765.0x (Extreme immaturity) and 765.1x (Other preterm infants) are based on the baby’s recorded birth weight and estimated gestational age. When coding prematurity, also include a code from 765.2x (Weeks of gestation).

- Newborn sepsis is coded 771.81 (Septicemia [sepsis] of newborn). Include a code from 041.xx (Bacterial infection in conditions classified elsewhere and of unspecified site) as a secondary code, if known. If applicable, 995.92 (Severe sepsis) and any acute organ dysfunction can be coded as well. However, note that 038.xx (Septicemia) and 995.91 (Sepsis) should **not** be used on newborn records.

- Consider procedure codes from 99.1x or 99.2x (Injection or infusion of [other] therapeutic or prophylactic substance) if injections are being done in the home by a skilled nurse.

*Source:* This tip sheet was created by Shirley Kucirek, HCS-D, principal of Medical Billing and Insurance Consulting, LLC in Rochester, Minn.

*References:* ICD-9 Official Coding Guidelines and DecisionHealth Home Health ICD-9-CM Diagnosis Coding Manual