

# TODAY'S MESSAGE

## CLINICAL CODING TESTING RESULTS TO DATE

### LESSONS LEARNED AND HOW THIS TESTING MAY SUPPORT YOU!

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware (Highmark Delaware's) Clinical Coding testing is supporting providers and staff with professional practice and facility ICD-9 to ICD-10 coding experiences daily. Since its inception in December of 2014 this testing opportunity has afforded:

1. Pass, fail, or partial match of one or more coding scenarios based on specialty;
2. Reports to assist in identifying code trends; and,
3. Identification of training and educational opportunities prior to ICD-10's compliance date, Oct. 1, 2015.

Current testing partners include your colleagues, professional providers and facilities, who understand quality coding is required in all aspects of ICD-10 transition planning. To date, results of this testing have been both successful and valuable in lessons learned.

The following de-identified, compiled testing results, demonstrated areas of additional attention (lessons learned), for testers, as matched against national ICD-10 trending standards through the Clinical Coding tool. The primary areas of educational focus for those involved were: specificity and laterality.

**Specificity** should be coded by each health care encounter to the level of specificity known for that encounter. The encounter should be based on clinical knowledge of the patient's health condition and available medical record documentation.

Examples from testing follow:

Selection of unspecified code when a more specific code was available

- INCORRECT code usage: I20.9 – Angina Pectoris, unspecified
- **CORRECT code usage: I20.8 – Other forms of angina pectoris**

Insufficient data in medical record to support selected code

- INCORRECT code usage: I25.709 – Atherosclerosis of coronary artery bypass graft(s), unspecified, with unspecified angina pectoris
- **CORRECT code usage: I20.8 – Other forms of angina pectoris**

Selection of unspecified code when a more specific code was available

- INCORRECT code usage: O24.913 - Unspecified diabetes mellitus in pregnancy, third trimester
- **CORRECT code usage: O24.013 - Pre-existing diabetes mellitus, type 1, in pregnancy, third trimester**

Selection of incorrect imaging procedure

- INCORRECT code usage: B215ZZ - Fluoroscopy of Left Heart using Other Contrast
- **CORRECT code usage: B205ZZ - Plain Radiography of Left Heart using Other Contrast**

Recognition of approach type

- INCORRECT code usage: 027234Z - Dilatation of Coronary Artery, Three Sites with Drug-eluting Intraluminal Device, Percutaneous Approach

- **CORRECT code usage: 027244Z - Dilation of Coronary Artery, Three Sites with Drug-eluting Intraluminal Device, Percutaneous Endoscopic Approach**

**Laterality** - The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) elaborates on this topic in their [ICD-10-CM Guidelines](#): "Some ICD-10-CM codes indicate laterality, specifying whether the condition occurs on the left, right or is bilateral. If no bilateral code is provided and the condition is bilateral, assign separate codes for both the left and right side. If the side is not identified in the medical record, assign the code for the unspecified side."

Examples from testing follow:

Usage of code for correct side of body – scenario: Hemiplegia left side

- INCORRECT code usage: G81.93 – Hemiplegia, unspecified affecting **right** nondominant side
- **CORRECT code usage: G81.94 – Hemiplegia, unspecified affecting left nondominant side**

Usage of code for specified side of body - scenario: Chronic hip pain

- INCORRECT code usage: M25.559 – Pain in unspecified hip
- **CORRECT code usage: M25.551 - Pain in right hip**

As you may be aware, ICD-10 may include all or most facets of your daily practice or facility routine. This perhaps wasn't the case with ICD-9 which was a bit more compartmentalized including only physicians and clinical staff. However, at compliance, all staff may interact, in one form or another, with ICD-10. That's why Clinical Coding testing is so valuable! This free testing opportunity provides the three key outreaches mentioned above. As such it may greatly support your transition planning efforts. And, you can test for a short timeframe or as long as required for maximum benefit. If you haven't yet [signed up](#), don't delay! The ICD-10 compliance date is fast approaching!

In addition, Highmark Delaware developed the Tool Kit, available on the ICD-10 Library, to offer transition support. The Tool Kit contains clinical coding and documentation resources including a topic on Laterality and Encounters, and much more! We encourage you to utilize this valuable resource frequently. The contents are topically linked to industry leader websites of relevance, like CMS.

In fact, don't miss any of the ICD-10 Library resources. The library is located on the Provider Resource Center under *ICD-10/HIPAA*. It's your primary source for all things ICD-10 including: the Tool Kit, FAQs, articles and websites of relevance, like [www.CMS.gov/ICD10](http://www.CMS.gov/ICD10).