

Risk Coding Tips and Tools

Risk Adjustment: Documentation and Diagnosis Coding

Supporting documentation for diagnosis coding can be as simple as D.S.P.

D

Diagnosis

Document all related diagnoses for the encounter with as much specificity as possible.

S

Status and Support

Document the status of the diagnosis along with pertinent physical exam findings and test results to support the diagnosis.

P

Plan of Treatment

Document the plan of care which includes diagnostic tests ordered, follow-up recommendations and linking current medication prescribed to the diagnosis.

Physician Documentation Examples

Example 1:

A 74-year-old female presented to the office for a routine follow up of **ongoing residual left-sided weakness due to her stroke (Diagnosis)** a year ago and the weakness is still present per exam today **(Status and Support)**. Pt. is to continue physical therapy three times weekly **(Plan of Treatment)**.

Provider coded: Z86.73 - Personal history of transient ischemic attack, and cerebral infarction without residual deficit. *(No mapping to CMS-HCC/no risk score)*

Correct code: I69.354 - Hemiplegia and hemiparesis following cerebral infarction affecting left non-dominant side. *(CMS-HCC 103/has a score value)*

Coding guidelines state that the late effects (sequelae) caused by a stroke may be present from the onset of a stroke or arise at ANY time after the onset of the stroke.

Example 2:

A 38-year-old patient came in for a refill on her depression medication. Patient has **moderate recurrent major depression (Diagnosis)** and has been on Sertraline for six months with no noticeable improvement **(Status and Support)**. Will adjust medication **(Plan of Treatment)**.

Provider coded: F32.A - Depression, unspecified. *(No mapping to CMS-HCC/no risk score)*

Correct code: F33.1- Major Depressive Disorder, recurrent, moderate. *(CMS-HCC 59/has a score value)*

Provider documented and supported a more specific depression code in the HPI.

Reference: AAPC. (n.d.). *Risk adjustment: Documentation and diagnosis coding*. AAPC.com.
<https://www.aapc.com/risk-adjustment/documentation-coding.aspx>

You can find this resource and others like it in the OHN Risk Coding Corner at
www.OrlandoHealth.com/Network/Resources.

You can also contact us at RiskCoding@OrlandoHealth.com for additional questions or support needs.