



Gulf Coast Health Information Management Association

Remembrance: Monica Cole

We were all saddened to hear the news of Monica's passing. As the new FHIMA officers and program directors were inducted for 2009-2010 at the state meeting July 14, 2009, long time friend and GCHIMA member Karla Philippou accepted in her place with the following:

I feel privileged to accept this plaque for Monica's service as a Director of FHIMA. She wanted to accept it herself and she almost made it. For those of you who have not heard, Monica succumbed to the insidious pancreatic cancer that has been plaguing her for the last two years. She fought valiantly, but she could not conquer death. Do not grieve for Monica, because she is no longer suffering.

Monica loved life. She loved her family – three lovely daughters, Brittany, Tiffany, and Courtney, and she loved her profession.

She served as past president of the GulfCoast HIMA, she spoke on coding issues with her dear friend Dr. Michelman at both the FHIMA and AHIMA conventions, and even after her diagnosis, she wanted to fulfill her commitment to FHIMA. It never occurred to her that she might not be able to fulfill her commitment, because failure was not in her vocabulary.

I will miss her quiet determination, her gentle manner, and her girlish giggle. Nothing except death could have prevented her from being here.

John McCreery said:

*"There is no death! The stars go down
To rise upon some other shore,
And bright in Heaven's jeweled crown
They shine for ever more."*

Monica is a new star in the heavens.

Getting Ready for ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS (first in a series)



Let's admit it! The prospect of ICD-10-CM implementation has been looming over us for quite some time now, probably for more years than we care to admit. (Didn't we start talking seriously about this circa 1998?)

Now it seems it is really going to happen this time. No really, it is serious this time. That means now we really have to prepare for the transition. Undoubtedly, there will be other educational opportunities to help with the transition. While we wait to see who steps up, GCHIMA will research and publish a series of articles that spotlight specific specialties of ICD-10-CM.

We already know that the codes will be expanded, alpha-numeric and will contain much more specific descriptions. What we need are examples that show practical application. We will be choosing specific clinical subjects (e.g., sepsis) and will spell out how the diagnoses and procedures transition into the new system. We will also try to provide what kind of clinical information and documentation will be necessary to accurately report these codes.

GCHIMA encourages its members to provide suggestions for specific topics. E-mail any board member or Joan Warner at jewarner@tampabay.rr.com

Disclaimer: As there has been no "Official Guidance" published yet, this should not be interpreted as such. Information will be researched and provided based on the most available information available. Sources will be included for your review and confirmation.

ICD-10-CM Prep – Are you “Encoder” Dependent?

In preparation for ICD-10-CM implementation, you should ask yourself (1) am I encoder dependent (2) do I memorize codes and direct enter them and / or (3) do I work from a “cheat” sheet? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, now would be a good time to break some bad habits.

Start to work with the code book in conjunction with the encoder to confirm coding accuracy by identifying nonessential modifiers, instructions to “see also” and excludes notes. Be aware of punctuation and context of clarifying statements (e.g., with or without). At the same time become familiar with the ICD-10-CM tabular list. It consists of 21 chapters, mostly divided by anatomic site, however there are some chapters based on etiology or other criteria.

One of the first things you will notice is that the basic conventions are the same. Punctuation, symbols and instructional notes will look similar to what you have seen in ICD-9-CM. These will include:

Structure of the ICD-10-CM Tabular List

1. Certain infectious and parasitic diseases (A00-B99)
2. Neoplasms (D50-D89)
3. Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism (D50-E89)
4. Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (E00-E90)
5. Mental and behavioral disorders (F01-F99)
6. Diseases of the nervous system (F01-F99)
7. Diseases of the eye and adnexa (H00-H59)
8. Diseases of the ear and mastoid process (H60-H95)
9. Diseases of the circulatory system (I100-I99)
10. Diseases of the respiratory system (J00-J99)
11. Diseases of the digestive system (K00-K94)
12. Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue (L00-L99)
13. Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue (M00-M99)
14. Diseases of the genitourinary system (N00-N99)
15. Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium (O00-O9A)
16. Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period (P00-P96)
17. Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities (Q00-Q99)
18. Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified (R00-R99)
19. Injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes (S00-T88)
20. External causes of morbidity (V00-Y98)
21. Factors influencing health status and contact with health services (Z00-Z99)

Punctuation:

Square brackets [] will enclose synonyms, alternative wordings and explanatory phrases

Colon: is used with includes and excludes statements
Parentheses () are used for supplemental words that may be present or absent in the statement of diagnoses without affecting code assignment (e.g., nonessential modifiers). They are also used to enclose codes are a code range for excludes terms. They are also used at the beginning of each chapter to enclose the range of three digit character codes

Words and Phrases with Special Meanings:

The word “and” always means “and/or” when used in narrative statements. When the words “with” and “without” represent the options, the option representing “without” should be assumed unless the documentation supports the assignment of “with”

Other words / phrases include

“other specified”

“unspecified”

“not elsewhere classified”

“not otherwise specified”

There will be instructional notes “includes” and “excludes”

There will be codes that have deactivated categories to allow for future expansion. ICD-10-CM uses a lowercase ex (x) to as a placeholder.

Alphabetic Index has 3 sections:

I will have Chapters 1-21 except Drugs and Chemicals; it will include the Table of Neoplasms

II is the index to the terms related to external causes of morbidity and terms classifiable to Chapter 20

III is the Table of Drugs and Chemicals



Our next meeting will take place on September 16, 2009 at Town & Country Hospital, Tampa, FL fro 12:30-3:30 p.m.

We will be voting on changes to the Bylaws. Please refer to the GCHIMA website Calendar of Events for details: <http://www.gchima.org/Calendar/Index.htm>

Speaker: Ezra Elkayam, MD (neurologist)
Subject: TIAs / CVAs

Please RSVP by September 11 to Iris B. Alcantara, BS, RHIA, RHIT, CCS

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