ICD-10-PCS Coding Tip

Character 7: Qualifier

In an effort to aid Health Information Management Coding Professionals for ICD-10, the following is provided with an educational intent.

The seventh character (qualifier) defines a qualifier for the procedure code. A qualifier provides specificity regarding an additional attribute of the procedure, if applicable.

Qualifiers can be used to:

1.) Specify when more than one tissue layer was used in the transfer procedure.
2.) Specify whether a vertebral joint fusion uses an anterior or posterior approach.
3.) Specify the destination site in a bypass operation.
4.) Specify whether a cochlear prosthesis is single- or multiple-channel.
5.) Identify extraction procedures that are biopsies.

Coding Clinic is the official resource and authority for ICD-10 coding rules and conventions.
This coding tip sheet was developed by the CHIA Coding and Data Quality Committee as an educational resource 2013.