ICD-10-CM Coding Tip
Sequela (Late Effects)

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

➤ General Guidelines:
- ✓ A sequela is the residual effect (condition produced) after the acute phase of an illness or injury has terminated. In ICD-10-CM, the term "late effect" has been replaced with sequela.
- ✓ There is no time limit on when a sequela code can be used.
- ✓ The residual may be apparent early, such as in cerebral infarction, or it may occur months or years later, such as that due to a previous injury.
- ✓ The code for the acute phase of the illness or injury that led to the sequela is never reported with a code for the late effect.

➤ Coding of sequela generally requires two codes sequenced in the following order:
- ✓ The condition or nature of the sequela is sequenced first.
- ✓ The sequela code is sequenced second.

Example: M81.8 Other osteoporosis without current pathological fracture
           E64.8 Sequelae of other nutritional deficiencies (calcium deficiency)

➤ There are additional guidelines for reporting sequelae of injuries.
- ✓ The code that describes the sequela is reported first, followed by the code for the specific injury with a seventh character of S to identify the condition as a sequela of the injury.
- ✓ The 'S' is added only to the injury code, not the sequela code. The seventh character 'S' identifies the injury responsible for the sequela.
- ✓ The specific type of sequela (e.g. scar) is sequenced first, followed by the injury code.

Example: L90.5 Scar conditions and fibrosis of skin
           T22.322S Burn of third degree of left elbow, sequela

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 an Data Quality Committee as an education resource, 2013.