ICD-10 Diagnosis Documentation Tips – Total Joint

Infections:
- State first location and type (osteomyelitis right femur)
- Indicate organism if known

Arthopathies:
- Describe type / manifestation / location / laterality / specifics
- Example: chronic gout, lead induced, right foot, with tophus

Fractures:
- Anatomic specificity / displacement / open or closed
- Episode of care:
  o Initial [open/closed]
  o Subsequent [routine healing, delayed, malunion, nonunion]
  o Sequela

Pathologic Fracture:
- Type:
  o Osteoporosis with current pathological fracture (276)
  o Pathologic fracture in neoplastic disease (192)
  o Pathologic fracture in other disease (192)
  o Pathologic fracture, NEC (228)
  o Collapsed vertebra, NEC (36)
- Anatomic location / Laterality
- Initial / Subsequent (as under other fractures) / Sequela

Acute Injuries: If known, document the following:
- Nature of injury [example: MVA - car vs. pedestrian]
- Place [example: interstate highway]
- Activity [example: talking on cellphone]
- Status [example: while engaged in work activity]

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ICD-10 [INPATIENT] Procedural Coding Tips – Total Joint

Characters:
- Section – almost always medical/surgical
- Body system – should be self evident from your description
- Root operation – describes the intent of the procedure
  - Replacement – total or partial joint
  - Detachment – amputation
  - Resection – removal of all of a body part
  - Excision – removal of a portion of a body part
  - Fusion – renders joint immobile
  - Release – same context as carpal tunnel
- Body part – describe with anatomic specificity
- Approach – open, percutaneous, percutaneous endoscopic, external [closed reduction]
- Device - describe as specifically as possible any device left in the patient
  - Joint replacement – metal on poly, ceramic on poly, etc.
- Qualifier - Used typically to add anatomic specificity
  - Example: (partial 3rd ray resection)

Example of complete documentation:
- Femoral hemiarthroplasty R hip with synthetic metal implant, cemented [or simply document the specifics of the implant used]