ICD-10 Diagnosis Documentation Tips – Plastic Surgery

Increased Specificity:
- Anatomic Specificity & Laterality
  - Example: Pressure ulcers
    - ANATOMIC SPECIFICITY: in ICD-10 “back” split into upper, lower, sacral and coccygeal
    - LATERALITY: L, R, bilateral (where appropriate)
    - STAGE: Stages I-V, now captured with pressure ulcer code
- Pathophysiology and anatomy
  - Example: Congenital anomalies of skull / face (ICD-9 – 1 code)
    - Enhanced ICD-10 specificity: Craniosynostosis, craniofacial dysostosis, hypertelorism, macrocephaly, mandibulofacial dysostosis, etc.

Injury Codes: hierarchical organization
- Injuries to Single Body Regions Chapter 19
  - Injuries to the head S00-S09
    - Superficial S00
      - Nose S00.3
        - Insect bite S00.36
    - Initial encounter S00.36A
- Key documentation component: nature of encounter
  - Initial, subsequent or sequela

Acute Injuries:
- If known, please document the following:
  - Nature of injury [example: fall from tree, initial encounter]
  - Place [example: public park as place of occurrence]
  - Activity [example: climbing, not elsewhere classified]
  - Status [example: leisure activity]
ICD-10 [INPATIENT] Procedural Coding Tips – Plastic Surgery

Characters:
- **Section** – almost always medical/surgical
- **Body system** – should be self evident from your description
- **Root operation** – describes the intent of the procedure
  - Resection – removal of all of a body part
  - Excision – removal of a portion of a body part
  - Alteration – cosmetic surgery
    - Example: abdominoplasty
  - Creation – sex change surgery
- **Body part** – describe with anatomic specificity, laterality if applies
- **Approach** – open, percutaneous, percutaneous endoscopic
- **Device**
  - Describe as specifically as possible any device left in the patient
  - Breast surgery: synthetic substitute, autologous tissue, etc.
  - Hand surgery: internal fixation device, external fixation device, synthetic substitute (MCP prosthesis)
- **Qualifier** – If diagnostic procedure, document.

**Suggestion:** describe the procedures performed on individual body parts:
- Layered repair eyelid, left and closure superficial laceration face
  - Code as two procedures

**Flaps:** we must communicate the operative process
- **Free tissue flap:** coded as a “replacement”
- **Pedicle tissue flap:** coded as a “transfer”