ICD-10 Diagnosis Documentation Tips – Surgical Oncology

ICD-10 code expansion:
- ICD-10 codes include LATERALITY
- ICD-10 codes include etiology, pathophysiology and/or anatomy
  - Example: Malignant neoplasms of the adrenal gland
    - Anatomic specificity: cortex, medulla, unspecified
    - Laterality: right, left, unspecified
- ICD-10 codes include pathophysiologic specificity

Malignant Neoplasm of Breast:
- Describe anatomic location
  - Nipple and areola, central portion, upper-inner, lower-inner, upper-outer, lower-outer, axillary tail, **overlapping sites**
- Secondary axis: male or female
- Tertiary axis: **laterality**

Malignant Neoplasm of Liver: added specificity due to type:
- Hepatoblastoma, angiosarcoma of liver, Kupffer cell sarcoma, other sarcomas of liver, other specified carcinomas of liver, etc.

Malignant Neoplasm of Esophagus: anatomic description
- ICD-9 terms
  - Cervical, thoracic and abdominal esophagus eliminated
- ICD-10 terminology
  - Upper third, middle third, lower third
  - **Overlapping sites** – new codes for various anatomic regions if the surgeon describes the neoplasm as extending across specified body parts (see breast above)
ICD-10 [INPATIENT] Procedural Coding Tips – Surgical Oncology

Characters:
- Section – almost always medical/surgical, don’t need to state
- 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
- Body part – describe with anatomic specificity, laterality if applies
- Approach – open, percutaneous, percutaneous endoscopic, via natural orifice, via natural orifice endoscopic, via natural orifice endoscopic with percutaneous endoscopic assistance
  - Device: Describe as specifically as possible any device left in the patient
- Qualifier – If diagnostic procedure be sure to state so

Lymphadenectomy:
- Key documentation tip: (the entire lymphatic chain is the body part)
  - document **resection** for removal of entire lymphatic chain
  - document **excision** for partial removal of lymphatic chain

Recommendations:
- List each distinct part of a procedure separately at the beginning of your operative note (component documentation)
- Radical Trachelectomy: “radical trachelectomy is a complex surgical procedure that removes: the cervix, parametrium, pelvic lymph nodes, a portion of the vagina, and then connects the uterus to the vagina”
- Component documentation results in coding of:
  - Resection cervix
  - Resection pelvic lymph nodes
  - Excision (part of) vagina