ICD-10 Diagnosis Documentation Tips – Trauma Surgery

Code Expansion in ICD-10:

- **Etiologic specificity**: example - acute pancreatitis
  - Idiopathic, biliary, alcohol-induced, drug-induced, other, unspecified

- **Anatomic Specificity**:
  - Example: Thigh wound with tendon involvement
  - Hip muscle, quadriceps muscle, adductor muscle, posterior thigh muscle, other specified muscle, unspecified

- **LATERALITY**: Right, left, bilateral (some conditions)

Cerebral Edema: ICD-9 (only one code); ICD-10 (33 codes)

- **Type**:
  - Due to birth injury, of newborn, traumatic (30 codes), unspecified

- **Subtype: traumatic**
  - LOC: <30 min, 31-59 min, 2-6 hr, 6-24 hr, >24 hr w/o return to prior LOC (surviving), LOC any duration with brain death, LOC any duration with death due to other cause

- **Further specificity: nature of encounter**
  - Initial, subsequent, sequel

- **Note**: trauma coding now includes Glasgow Coma Scale (assessed at a point in time or as a total score: See R40.2.)

**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]
ICD-10 [INPATIENT] Procedural Coding Tips – Trauma 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
  - Drainage – paracentesis, etc., (document if diagnostic)
  - Bypass
    - Definition bypass: altering the route of passage of the contents of a tubular body part
      - Indicate the “from” – descending colon
      - Indicate the “to” - cutaneous
- **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

Describe the procedures you perform on individual body parts:
- Example: A typical multiple trauma could include:
  - Splenectomy
  - Repair superficial laceration left lobe liver
  - Open Femoral Nailing Right Femur
  - Open reduction internal fixation fx shaft humerus, R
  - Endotracheal intubation
  - Mechanical ventilation <24 hours
  - Colostomy
- Make sure to include in D/C summary all procedures performed by colleagues as well