Mandatory ICD-10 Conversion

Presented by:

J.R. Henry Consulting Inc.

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- The consultant plans to share knowledge and practical experience with the attendees.
- All attendees are advised to obtain professional legal advice from an attorney before implementing any material change in their billing, administrative or operational policies or any other matter which is governed by law or regulation.

Novitas Solutions

- Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) for two jurisdictions:
  - JL Coverage Area
    - DC, DE, MD and PA
  - JH Coverage Area
    - AR, CO, LA, MS, NM, OK, TX and Indian Health
    - Emergency Health for Undocumented Aliens

Novitas Solutions

- PA & TX have had a number of ambulance companies who were convicted of submitting millions of $$$ in fraudulent ambulance claims
- Repetitive transports (Dialysis, etc.)
  - Philadelphia area – 2010 - 2013
  - Dallas and Houston areas 2010 - 2012

Novitas Solutions

- Efforts to identify and stop the fraud include:
  - Ambulance Service License Moratorium
  - Prior Authorization Process for Repetitive Transports
  - Special LCD (L32252) issued in July, 2012 which mandated the use of only ~250 ICD-9 codes

Novitas Solutions

- Emergency / Non-Emergency Categories
- Limited set of ICD-9 Codes
- Novitas refuses to recognize CMS approved “Condition Codes”
- Novitas advice: use “the most appropriate code”
- Some emergency transports and many NET’s were not billable to Medicare

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Mandatory Conversion to ICD-10

- Effective Date: for dates of service on or after: October 1, 2015
- Affects all health care providers in the US
- Additional codes were added
- Some codes have much more specificity
- Novitas Solutions has published a list of “suggested” codes for ambulance services

ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes

- Diagnosis codes are required on each electronic claim
- Unlike other providers, the codes do not determine the level of payment for ambulance transports
- Don’t let this conversion drive you crazy!
  - Simply select the most appropriate codes!

Novitas Solutions – LCD ICD-10 Conversion

- LCD # – L35162
- Article – A54574
- Effective Date – October 1, 2015
- New Coding Requirements
  - Each ambulance transport claim requires dual diagnosis

Novitas Solutions – LCD ICD-10 Conversion

- A primary code must be selected from two “Groups” as identified in Novitas Article # A54574
  - Group 1: Transports to acute care and interfacility transports for specialized care = 285 codes
  - Group 2: “Post Treatment” Transports to transfers to home, nursing facility, SNF, Rehab, etc.) = 82 codes

Novitas Solutions – LCD ICD-10 Conversion

- Many of the “suggested” primary codes are more general in nature
- Many of the codes seem to be more appropriate for EMS environment
- Examples: Heart Failure, ETOH, Cannabis abuse, COPD, Pain unspecified, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, dehydration AND.....

ICD-10 Conversion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis / Condition</th>
<th>ICD-10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHRONIC PAIN</td>
<td>G89.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEAKNESS</td>
<td>R53.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INJURY, UNSPECIFIED</td>
<td>T14.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIFFICULTY IN WALKING</td>
<td>R26.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER LACK OF COORDINATION</td>
<td>R27.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Novitas Solutions – LCD ICD-10 Conversion

- Novitas has also indicated that we are not limited to use only the “suggested” codes
- They indicate that you can select the most appropriate codes from the entire IVD-10 list
- But........

Novitas Solutions – LCD ICD-10 Conversion

A secondary code must be selected from a list of four (4) codes as identified in Novitas LCD # L35162

Although, not stated by Novitas, I believe this will be the primary focus of future audits!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICD-10 CODE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Z74.01</td>
<td>BED CONFINEMENT STATUS Unable to get out of bed without assistance, unable to ambulate or sit in a chair / WC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z74.3</td>
<td>NEED FOR CONTINUOUS SUPERVISION (includes cardiac/hemodynamic monitoring enroute)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z78.1</td>
<td>PHYSICAL RESTRAINT STATUS (denote patient safety, danger to self or others / monitoring other and unspecified psychosis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z99.89</td>
<td>DEPENDENCE ON OTHER ENABLING MACHINES AND DEVICES (includes IV’s, active airway management and multiple machines / devices (LVAD, CPAP, ECMO, etc)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DOCUMENTATION IS THE KEY

- PCR must contain objective and comprehensive assessment of the patient’s condition at the time of transport
- PCR must support selected code!
- Don’t try to falsely upcode!
- Be honest and truthful when coding!

ICD-10 Required Code for transports which are not medically necessary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICD-10 CODE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Z76.89 with Modifier GY</td>
<td>Persons encountering health services in other unspecified circumstances (to be used when a patient is transported by ambulance but did not require services of an ambulance crew</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Paramedic assessment coding may require three (3) codes

1) Primary Code
2) Dispatch Condition Code
3) One of the four (4) secondary codes

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Novitas Solutions – LCD
ICD-10 Conversion

All other modifiers and HCPCS
codes remain unchanged!
PCS requirements unchanged!

BEST PRACTICES
ICD-10 CONVERSION

• Review, train and discuss with internal
  or external billing staff
• Use information contained in Novitas
  LCD and corresponding article
• I do not recommend that your
  ambulance crews perform any coding
  functions – leave it to trained billers!

BEST PRACTICES
ICD-10 CONVERSION

• Conduct new and regular documentation
  training for all volunteers and staff
  members
• Be careful in how you deliver the
  message!
• Don’t mandate unnecessary treatment or
  provide mandatory PCR language!

BEST PRACTICES
ICD-10 CONVERSION

• Review and upgrade billing software
  (ICD-10 list?)
• Review and update compliance plans
  and programs
  – Self Audits / External Audits
  – Education and Training
• Stay informed about changes and new
  rules!

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