ICD-10 Diagnosis Documentation Tips – Orthopedic Foot and Ankle Surgery

Code Expansion in ICD-10:
Example: Septic Arthritis
- Primary axis: etiology (organism)
  - Staphylococcal, pneumococcal, streptococcal, other, unspecified
- Secondary axis: anatomy
  - Shoulder, elbow, wrist, hand, hip, knee, ankle and foot, vertebrae, polyarthritis, unspecified
- Tertiary axis: laterality NEW TO ICD-10
  - Right / left / unspecified

Arthropathies:
- 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:
  - Initial [open/closed]
  - Subsequent [routine healing, delayed, malunion, nonunion]
  - Sequela

Acute Injuries: If known, please 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 – Orthopedic Foot and Ankle Surgery

Characters:
❖ Section – almost always medical/surgical
❖ Body system – should be self-evident from your description
❖ Root operation – describes the intent of your 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 – render joint immobile
   ➢ Release – same context as carpal tunnel
❖ Body part – describe with anatomic specificity
❖ Approach – open, percutaneous, perc endo, external [closed reduction]
❖ Device - describe as specifically as possible any device left in the patient
❖ Qualifier - Used typically to add anatomic specificity
   ➢ Example: (partial 3rd ray resection)

Watch out for eponyms: describe multiple procedures anatomically
❖ Modified McBride Bunionectomy (not codeable)
   ➢ Release of adductor hallucis tendon (codeable)
   ➢ Release of the transverse metatarsal ligament (codeable)
   ➢ Release of lateral capsule (codeable)
   ➢ Excision of medial eminence, and (codeable)
   ➢ Plication (reposition) of the capsule medially (codeable)
❖ Recommendation
   ➢ In the heading of your operative note, list all component procedures and let the coder determine which ones should or should not be coded.