ICD-10 Diagnosis Documentation Tips – Orthopedic Trauma

**Infections:**
- State first location and type (osteomyelitis right femur)
- Indicate organism, if known

**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
- Specificity for open fractures of the forearm, femur, and lower leg
  - Gustilo I, II, IIIA, IIIB, or III C

**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 Trauma

Characters:
• Section – almost always medical/surgical
• Body system – should be evident from your description
• Root operation – describes the intent of the procedure
  o Detachment – amputation
  o Resection – removal of all of a body part
  o Excision – removal of a portion of a body part
  o Fusion – renders joint immobile
  o Release – same context as carpal tunnel
• Body part – describe with anatomic specificity
• Approach – open, percutaneous, percutaneous endoscopic, 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)

Examples of complete documentation:
• ORIF right femur with intramedullary device
• ORIF shaft left humerus with hybrid external fixation device
• Open fasciotomy right lower leg
• Carpal tunnel release, right
• Tension band wiring left patella