ICD-10 Diagnosis Documentation Tips – Plastic Surgery

**Increased Specificity:**

- **Anatomic Specificity & Laterality**
  - Example: Pressure ulcers
    - ANATOMIC SPECIFICITY: in ICD-10 “back” split into upper, lower, sacral and coccygeal
    - LATERALITY: L, R, bilateral (where appropriate)
    - STAGE: Stages I-V, now captured with pressure ulcer code

- **Pathophysiology and anatomy**
  - Example: Congenital anomalies of skull / face (ICD-9 – 1 code)
    - Enhanced ICD-10 specificity: Craniosynostosis, craniofacial dysostosis, hypertelorism, macrocephaly, mandibulofacial dysostosis, etc.

**Injury Codes:** hierarchical organization

- **Injuries to Single Body Regions**
  - Chapter 19
  - Injuries to the head S00-S09
    - Superficial S00
      - Nose S00.3
        - Insect bite S00.36
          - Initial encounter S00.36A

- **Key documentation component: nature of encounter**
  - Initial, subsequent or sequela

**Acute Injuries:**

- If known, please document the following:
  - Nature of injury [example: fall from tree, initial encounter]
  - Place [example: public park as place of occurrence]
  - Activity [example: climbing, not elsewhere classified]
  - Status [example: leisure activity]
ICD-10 [INPATIENT] Procedural Coding Tips – Plastic 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
  - Alteration – cosmetic surgery
    - Example: abdominoplasty
  - Creation – sex change surgery
- Body part – describe with anatomic specificity, laterality if applies
- Approach – open, percutaneous, percutaneous endoscopic
- Device
  - Describe as specifically as possible any device left in the patient
  - Breast surgery: synthetic substitute, autologous tissue, etc.
  - Hand surgery: internal fixation device, external fixation device, synthetic substitute (MCP prosthesis)
- Qualifier – If diagnostic procedure, document.

Suggestion: describe the procedures performed on individual body parts:
- Layered repair eyelid, left and closure superficial laceration face
  - Code as two procedures

Flaps: we must communicate the operative process
- Free tissue flap: coded as a “replacement”
- Pedicle tissue flap: coded as a “transfer”