

# Risk Adjustment Documentation & Coding Tips



## TOP TEN TIPS

Conditions that go undocumented usually also go untreated. This is just one of the important reasons that thorough and accurate Risk Adjustment coding is critical to patient care. Additionally, comprehensive coding provides specialists and ancillary providers insight into a patient's complete health profile.

Please review the tips below to ensure that you are following the appropriate steps for accurate Risk Adjustment coding.

- 1.** Ensure the signature on the medical record (such as chart notes and progress notes) is legible and includes the signee's credentials.
- 2.** Confirm all electronic signatures, dates and time fields are completed for Electronic Health Records (include qualifying words such as "Authenticated by," "Verified by" or "Generated by").
- 3.** Make sure the physician documents to the highest degree of specificity in the medical record.
- 4.** Assign the ICD-10 code that includes the highest degree of specificity.
- 5.** Include proper causal or link language to support highest degree of specificity in diagnosis and coding.
- 6.** Verify that the billed diagnosis codes are consistent with the written description on the medical record.
- 7.** Include whether the diagnoses are being monitored, evaluated, assessed/addressed and treated (MEAT) in the documentation.
- 8.** Do not use language such as "history of," if a chronic condition is currently present in a member.
- 9.** Document all chronic conditions present in the member during each visit on the medical record.
- 10.** Submit all chronic diagnosis codes based on documentation in a claim, at least once per year.

