

“The Art of ICD-9 Coding for Home Health”

Did you know that there have been several major changes to many of the official source documents that instruct home health coders how to assign ICD-9 codes just since September of 2008? This February over 300 attendees were trained on those changes at CAHSAH's three-day “Art of ICD-9 Coding for Home Health” workshops.

The beginning level day was spent learning about the criteria used to select primary & secondary diagnoses and when to complete M0246. We also discussed how to translate clinical “speak” into the language of coding, use the coding manual, recognize and use coding conventions and guidelines to ensure coding accuracy, and what the unique characteristics of home health coding are that makes this task so difficult.

The intermediate level day we continued to build on the foundational knowledge presented in the beginning class. We covered such topics as how to access and use chapter-specific coding guidelines to code familiar home health scenarios including diabetes, stroke, cancer, hypertension and wounds. We learned the rules for using complication, late effects, combination and V & E codes. We even took a closer look at how Medicare's PPS impacts our coding choices.

During the advanced strategies day we looked beyond the official coding guidelines to all the other official source documents that impact home health coding. This class focused on ensuring that participants knew what these documents are, how to access the most current versions, what each says and how to apply those rules when assigning ICD-9 codes in home health. There were many exercises, discussions and scenarios included which clearly demonstrate how each subsequent document impacts home health coding and how our coding changes in order to maintain compliance with each.

If this looks like the education you need, please join us at the upcoming *Art of ICD-9 Coding for Home Health Workshops* in July and August. We'll save you a chair!

Sacramento Evaluation Scores

February 4-6, 2009

	<u>Day 1</u>	<u>Day 2</u>	<u>Day 3</u>
How would you rate this session overall?	4.88	4.84	4.88
How well did this session meet the course objectives?	4.88	4.88	4.89
How well did this session meet your personal objectives?	4.88	4.79	4.89

SPARKLE SPARKS

	<u>Day 1</u>	<u>Day 2</u>	<u>Day 3</u>
Knowledge of Topic	4.98	4.95	4.96
Communication Skills	4.98	4.96	4.96
Usefulness of Handouts	4.91	4.87	4.92
Effectiveness of Visual Aids	4.88	4.84	4.88
Adequate Opportunity for Audience Participation	4.93	4.90	4.93
Value to your Professional Development	4.88	4.88	4.93
Overall Quality of Presentation	4.93	4.92	4.93

Testimonials

“Sparkle is great! She really did a great job putting it in basic terms to understand a complex topic like coding.” – Day 1

“Thank you for making such a grueling task seem not so difficult. Sparkle lives up to her name – she shines.” – Day 2

“I loved this “Day 3” class, as brings all the “coding stuff” together with the other quality and compliance issues we also need to be involved with.” – Day 3

Buena Park Evaluation Scores

February 10-12, 2009

	<u>Day 1</u>	<u>Day 2</u>	<u>Day 3</u>
How would you rate this session overall?	4.78	4.82	4.72
How well did this session meet the course objectives?	4.78	4.84	4.72
How well did this session meet your personal objectives?	4.72	4.80	4.69

SPARKLE SPARKS

	<u>Day 1</u>	<u>Day 2</u>	<u>Day 3</u>
Knowledge of Topic	4.89	4.92	4.90
Communication Skills	4.89	4.94	4.90
Usefulness of Handouts	4.87	4.90	4.88
Effectiveness of Visual Aids	4.78	4.83	4.84
Adequate Opportunity for Audience Participation	4.71	4.78	4.80
Value to your Professional Development	4.87	4.86	4.84
Overall Quality of Presentation	4.97	4.88	4.86

Testimonials

“Excellent presentation making ICD coding simple and fun, a great education for those who would like to be a coder or for update of their ICD skills” – Day 1

“Great! And funny, too! Made the day interesting and not boring” – Day 2

“Sparkle is an authority on the subject matter. She is open to questions of wide scope. She approached the lecture/discussion with confidence..” – Day 3