Radiology and HIM: Understanding Our Differences

There are five challenges for the accurate coding of radiologic procedures. Understanding these challenges and exploring the different perspectives between HIM and radiology coders is the first step in finding solutions and improving the relationship.

Challenge #1: Different Focus

- Procedure codes versus diagnosis codes
- Limited outside review versus high levels of scrutiny

Challenge #2: Different Training

- Focused training versus broad, general training

Challenge #3: Procedure vs. Diagnosis

- Automated coding versus complete record review
- Both need ICD-9-CM diagnosis code for medical necessity

Challenge #4: Payers Rules and Edits

- Vary by region / payer and continually change

Challenge #5: Clinical Documentation Deficit

- Everyone lacks sufficient documentation
- Strategies to improve: technology, standard reports, CDI program

NOTES

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