FEATURED ARTICLE:
How Can A Chart Audit Benefit Your Practice?

Reimbursement for services rendered sounds easy, doesn’t it? As a provider, you think “I supplied the service so I will submit a claim and get the compensation I deserve”. Not so fast! Healthcare reimbursement today is littered with obstacles including coding rules, payer policies and other issues; however, no obstacle causes physicians as much strife as their own documentation shortcomings.

As an AAPC certified coder and certified auditor, I can confidently tell you that purchasing an outside chart audit is one of the smartest and most lucrative decisions you can make as a healthcare provider. I review documentation every day in an effort to help providers get paid for the work they do, but all too often, I see holes in their documentation. Obtaining a chart audit will give you objective feedback and guidance on both your documentation and coding.

Most auditors will request you submit a variety of encounter types (e.g. new patient visit, established patient visit, procedures, etc.). This gives the auditor a chance to survey an assortment of your work. Typical examples of the feedback they will provide are E/M level of service, diagnosis code specificity, modifier usage, medical necessity, documentation tips, and benchmarking. All of these can help you the provider build on your strengths and correct your weaknesses. I don’t know about you, but I would rather obtain this information from a friendly consultant than a payer sanctioned audit.

Our world of healthcare reimbursement is quickly changing and we must keep up. Providers need to invest in perfecting their documentation and coding so they can get paid, keep their payments and maintain their monetary soundness. I know documentation, coding and billing is not your top concern (your patients are), but retaining your financial viability should be an important part of your daily practice. **Think about it.**

**Above the Waves**

**UPA Has Partnered with AAPC Physician Services to Provide Chart Audits at a Discounted Rate!**

AAPC Physician Services offers experience, professionalism and they are the leading resource for coding and documentation. **Every chart audit from AAPC Physician Services includes:**

- A quality review of each chart’s documentation and coding by a certified professional medical auditor.
- A detailed audit report of the findings along with recommendations and cross references to coding guidelines.

A consultation with your providers and staff to review the audit findings can be arranged. AAPC can provide a quote for training and education upon request.

Contact Cristy Donaldson at 865/670-6177 to coordinate and schedule a chart audit with these special services; partnering together AAPC Physician Services and UPA.