

Outpatient Clinical Documentation Improvement (CDI) Where to Focus First

THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Reviewing the physician and nursing documentation in the Emergency Department (ED) can ensure all services are billable.

BDA can look for these opportunities by:

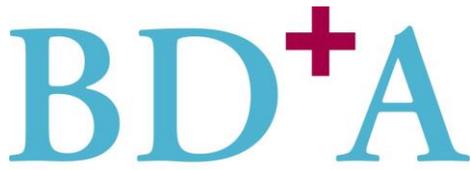
- **Reviewing your ED Facility Point System is crucial for accurate Facility ED level capture.** Your point system should be a consistent methodology for assigning an ED Facility Level based on the work performed by the ED staff. An interesting fact is that to this date there are no national standards for assignment of hospital Facility Levels. Your Point System should correlate with the resources utilized to provide a given service such as facility costs. In summary, the ED Facility code should reflect the intensity of the hospital services that are provided.
- **Improved documentation of Time-Based Services.** Understanding time for Critical Care and IV / Hydration coding is important to an Emergency Departments revenue capture.
- **Identify denials, trends or focal points of codes (professional, procedural or diagnostic).**
- **Determine if diagnoses were not coded or should be coded at a different level of specificity to support medical necessity.**
- **Determine if procedures were performed and either not coded or coded inaccurately.**
- **Correlate diagnoses with an active and accurate problem list -- critical for HCC risk scoring.**

A BDA coding review includes taking a thorough look at the documentation of a particular visit to ensure that the appropriate level of the ED code was billed along with any other billable services.

ED documentation accuracy can influence the hospital inpatient severity/mortality and DRG depiction if the patient is admitted.

AMBULATORY CLINICS

Ambulatory clinic encounters, including primary care services and multi-specialty physician practices, can also benefit from Outpatient CDI efforts. BDA Outpatient CDI specialists review medical records to ensure accurate and complete documentation of diagnoses that impact the HCC assignment and the associated risk adjustment factor (RAF) scores on MA patients within. BDA Outpatient CDI specialists perform their reviews retrospectively to ensure physician documentation addresses all acute and chronic conditions during the encounter.



Bill Dunbar and Associates

Reviews can also identify those patients who have low RAF scores to check whether the low scores are due to insufficient documentation. The benefits of a dedicated Outpatient CDI review include improved overall financial stability and billing compliance within the clinic.

EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT (E/M) SERVICES

Understanding the appropriate E/M documentation guidelines and utilizing the right tools for each specialty is important to every patient encounter. Provider education should occur to ensure the appropriate level of service is captured. Developing a clear Policy and Procedure Manual that identifies the grey areas in coding will assist with Compliance and minimizing claim denials.

WHY BDA IS YOUR SOURCE FOR AN OUTPATIENT CDI

Our experience with hundreds of clients over three decades has taught us to keep things simple when it comes to determining how – and whether – our services might be a good fit for you. The BDA Preliminary Analysis, or Prelim, is our simple tool to assess that fit.

BDA strives to set the standard in consultancy for improved accuracy of medical coding and documentation through our Outpatient CDI Program. As a single solution provider of all outpatient services for hospitals and physician practices, we clearly understand the challenges you face as a healthcare provider. BDA is dedicated to continual process improvement in terms of compliance, as well as improving the level of accuracy of medical coding and documentation.

The BDA Preliminary Analysis, or Prelim, lets us put a laser focus on where you are, where you can be, and whether we can help you achieve your full potential. This report represents a substantial value in terms of research, analysis and insight; the report is free and provided at no obligation to you.

Remember, the report is yours to keep – COMPLIMENTARY – even if you choose not to partner with us. To get our Prelim process started for your organization, just contact us at 800-783-8014.