About the AHA Central Office and Coding Clinic
• Clearinghouse service established by 1963 Memorandum of Understanding with HHS to provide free assistance with ICD-9-CM advice
  – Switched to ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS coding advice since 2014
  – Does NOT replace learning how to code
  – Not a coding hotline service
How to Submit a Coding Question?

• Questions should be submitted via CodingClinicAdvisor.com
  – Not limited to AHA members, but registration required
• Please be sure to read the FAQ section to find out what types of questions can or cannot be answered.
  – https://www.codingclinicadvisor.com/Home/HelpCenter
How to Submit a Coding Question? (cont.)

• Review FAQ section for details on how to submit questions
  – Formulate coding question, not just “what is the code for XYZ”
  – Provide documentation
  – Specify whether inquiry refers to a certain setting (e.g. skilled nursing facility, home health, lab, etc.)
  – Cannot answer questions on payment, coverage, etc.
Coding question submitted via CodingClinicAdvisor.com

Staff reviews previous *Coding Clinic* advice, guidelines, previous Coding Clinic Editorial Advisory Board minutes and database of previous letters answered

Has issue been addressed before?

**NO**

Refer to EAB and obtain consensus

Publish in *Coding Clinic* and/or send direct response to requestor

**YES**

Draft response letter, obtain consensus from AHA coding staff.

Send direct response to requestor
What is *Coding Clinic*? Back in 1984 …

“*Coding Clinic for ICD-9-CM* has been developed to help everyone who is interested in and dedicated to improving the accuracy and uniformity of medical record coding. The newsletter will provide coding advice, official coding decisions, and news related to the use of ICD-9-CM. It will be a valuable reference tool in clinical data reporting activities. Readers are encouraged to suggest topics for inclusion in the newsletter.”
AHA Coding Clinic

- Quarterly publication provided ICD-9-CM coding advice for over 30 years
  - 2012-early 2014 Dual ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS advice
  - Since early 2014 solely focused on ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS
- Practical examples of frequently asked questions from AHA Central Office clearinghouse service
- Real life applications of classification rules and guidelines
- Fills in gaps on code selection

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AHA Coding Clinic

• Publication dependent on consensus of Cooperating Parties
  – Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
  – Centers for Disease Control National Center for Health Statistics
  – American Hospital Association
  – American Health Information Management Association
• Supported by the Editorial Advisory Board
  – American Academy of Pediatrics
  – American Medical Association
  – American College of Physicians
  – American College of Surgeons
  – Other physician specialties on ad hoc basis
  – Coding experts
Coding Clinic Major Functions

• Provide official ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS coding advice and official guidelines
• Answer questions on code assignment and sequencing of codes
• Serve as a current reference on regulatory and other requirements for reporting diagnostic and procedural information from medical records
Coding Clinic Major Functions

• Present topics and articles that provide practical information, improve technical coding skills, and address issues facing ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS users on data reporting requirements, data edits, record documentation and various other ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS related matters.
Coding Clinic Recognized by CMS and RACs for Coding Advice

• “We note that, historically we have not provided coding advice in rulemaking with respect to policy. We collaborate with the American Hospital Association (AHA) through the Coding Clinic for ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS to promote proper coding.”
  
  Federal Register, August 2016

• “Examples of Medicare-sanctioned coding guidelines include: CPT statements, CPT Assistant statements, and Coding Clinic statements.”

  Statement of Work for the Part A/B Medicare Fee-for-Service Recovery Audit Program– Regions 1- 5, November 30, 2016
What *Coding Clinic* is NOT

- Clinical criteria
- Replacement for physician documentation
- Clinical definitions
EAB Responsibilities

- Publication of Coding Clinic depends on unanimous agreement of the Cooperating Parties
- Approval is dependent on EAB discussion and timely submission of draft articles or background material
• Review and critique coding/sequencing advice, guidelines and rules prepared for publication
• Assist in selection of topics for each issue
• Review and critique clinical content, consult with specialty group, as needed
• Provide recommendations for ICD-10 modification to the Coordination and Maintenance (C&M) process
• Keep confidential the proceedings and results of any EAB meeting prior to publication in Coding Clinic as decisions are not final until published.
**Coding Clinic Availability**

- Online from the AHA
  - Annual subscription
  - Unlimited access
- All major encoder software programs