coding notes. . . .

Update '99

The ICD-9-CM coding scheme will be updating to the 1999 version of ICD-9-CM from 1.1.99. This will give us more codes for both diagnoses and procedures. It will also involve changes in guidelines.

Only the new 1999 ICD-9-CM Version should be used for coding patients discharged from 1.1.1999. You will need your new book and new software before you code any discharges from 1.1.1999

We will be organizing update courses for mid January and will distribute the new coding books, update manuals, software and all necessary information at that time. We will be sending out application forms for coding courses to every hospital soon. **If you haven't received an application form by 11th December contact us directly.** To enable all coders to attend we plan to run three update courses in:

- 📖 **Cork**
- 📖 **Dublin**
- 📖 **Galway**

Looking forward to seeing you all in January for the update!

HIPE Computer Backup

Some hospitals have experienced hard disk crashes during 1998 and subsequently discovered problems with their backup disks during the Restore. With the New Year in sight it is timely to review local HIPE Backup Procedures and make New Year Resolutions. This review can be done with the help of your local IT support person or with help from ESRI HIPE Unit staff. Larger hospitals have different requirements for backup to smaller hospitals and may have adopted different hardware solutions but the same review is applicable to all hospitals.

WHY BACKUP?

HIPE Backup ensures that there are copies of all the records keyed by the HIPE coders available. In the event of the PC developing a fault which results in loss of data the most recent backup is used to restore the data. System files can be provided by the HIPE Programmer/Analyst but only your local backup provides a complete copy of the data you have collected. Exported records held in the ESRI can be used to restore data when the backup disks are unusable but they will not contain all the data that you have keyed e.g. the names of the patients which are never exported.

Some questions to consider in your review are:
- How often do you key HIPE records?
- Do you have written Backup Procedures that are followed rigorously?
- How many sets of Backup do you keep?
- Are these used in rotation systematically and their use logged?
- How old are the disks/tapes?
- Where do you keep your Backup disks/tapes?

Some points and recommendations to consider are:-
- Backup as often as you key
- Have written backup procedures and log all backups in a HIPE PC Log Book
- Keep several sets of Backups e.g. 5 daily/4 weekly and rotate their use

Care of Floppy Disks
- Replace disks with new ones at least once a year
- Formatting disks once a month will alert you to any errors on the disk
- Throw away any disks that have errors reported after formatting
- Throw away any disk that has any sign of physical damage to the plastic or metal covers
- Keep your backup disks in a clean clearly labeled box that will protect them from dust/damage

Please refer to pages 23-24 of the HIPE User Manual for the Ideal Backup Procedure which was designed to give complete peace of mind about data security. If you feel this is overly complicated develop Backup Procedures (with the help of IT Support) that are simpler to follow and carry them out consistently.

You are welcome to contact me for further information and/or help with this review.
Anne Clifton. (Phone 01-6671525 Extn. 471; e-mail anne.clifton @esri.ie)

Coding Corner

Hydrocephalus

Hydrocephalus comes from the Greek: hydro means water, cephalus head. Hydrocephalus is an abnormal accumulation of fluid - cerebrospinal fluid, or CSF - within cavities called ventricles inside the brain.

CSF is produced in the ventricles, circulates through the ventricular system and is absorbed into the bloodstream. CSF is in constant circulation and has many important functions. It surrounds the brain and spinal cord and acts as a protective cushion against injury. CSF contains nutrients and proteins that are needed for the nourishment and normal function of the brain. It also carries waste products away from surrounding tissues. Hydrocephalus occurs when there is an imbalance between the amount of CSF that is produced and the rate at which it is absorbed. As the CSF builds up, it causes the ventricles to enlarge and the pressure inside the head to increase.

What Causes Hydrocephalus?

Hydrocephalus that is congenital (present at birth) is thought to be caused by a complex interaction of genetic and environmental factors.

Aqueductal stenosis, an obstruction of the cerebral aqueduct, is the most frequent cause of congenital hydrocephalus. (742.3)

Acquired hydrocephalus may result from spina bifida, intraventricular hemorrhage, meningitis, head trauma, tumors and cysts (331.4)

Hydrocephalus affects about one in every 500 children born.

The Guidelines for coding Hydrocephalus are:

✤ Hydrocephalus with Aqueductal stenosis or stated as congenital is coded as congenital 742.3

✤ Hydrocephalus resulting from, intraventricular hemorrhage, meningitis, head trauma, tumors and cysts is coded to acquired 331.4. This occurs sometimes in premature infants.

✤ Hydrocephalus occurring with Spina Bifida is coded as 741.0+, 'Spina Bifida with Hydrocephalus'.

If the Hydrocephalus is acquired *a second code* is added to identify the cause (where possible)

- ■ resulting from neonatal intraventricular hemorrhage code to 331.4 + 771.2
- ■ resulting from, cerebral cyst, Intracranial Abscess or Pyogenic Infection code to 331.4 + 326

Please review older documentation when in doubt as to cause of Hydrocephalus if available. This may involve reviewing initial neonate correspondence.

New Staff in the HIPE Unit, E.S.R.I.

Jacqui Curley

Before joining the E.S.R.I. Jacqui worked as a coder with the Federated Hospitals in Dublin and more recently as HIPE Casemix Co-Ordinator for the Mid Western Health Board. You can contact Jacqui in relation to Coding issues and she's sure to help you out. Contact 01-6671525 ext. 470.
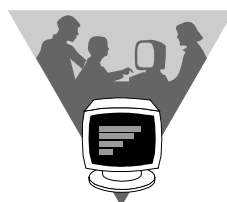E-mai: jacqui.curley@esri.ie

Claire Doble

Previously in Peamount Hospital, Claire is now involved in the data, management section of the HIPE Unit. You can contact Claire for P.C. support, training and selector reports at 01-6671525 ext. 469.
Email: claire.doble@esri.ie

Brian McCarthy

A special welcome for Brian McCarthy who will be joining the HIPE team on the 7th December. Brian is our new programmer and will be looking after the HIPE software.

Happy Christmas and an Updated New Year to all. If you have any ideas for future topics please let us know. Thanks and keep in touch.

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