Elevate Medicare Advantage Risk Adjustment:
1. Matching Dx Codes to Notes
2. Coding Diabetes with Complications

1. Diagnosis codes should match the notes in the medical record

Please ensure that the diagnosis codes you select in the EPIC system match your notes in the patient’s medical record.

This match is important! Payment from CMS depends on the diagnosis codes selected, as those are the data submitted to CMS to represent the health conditions of the patient population. However, CMS payment audits are performed by reviewing the notes in the medical records (and not the diagnosis codes selected).

» If the diagnosis codes selected are not supported by the medical record documentation, CMS takes back payment and may even issue additional fines.

» If the medical record documentation supports codes that were not selected and submitted to CMS, CMS does NOT issue additional payment to treat those conditions. Instead, Denver Health is expected to absorb those costs.

To ensure complete and accurate payment from CMS, please document the medical conditions of your patients in your notes AND THEN ALSO select the diagnosis codes that appropriately match those notes.

2. Coding diabetes with complications

Please note that E11.8 (Type 2 diabetes mellitus with unspecified complications) cannot be coded in the same visit as E11.9 (Type 2 diabetes mellitus without complications).

For members having diabetes with complications, please ensure that you first make a note of the complication. Then, when selecting the diagnosis code, use a combination code (“diabetes mellitus with...”) if possible.

If there is no combination code to represent the diabetes with complication, instead code the appropriate diabetes code followed by the separate code for the complicating condition.

Documenting the complication and selecting the appropriate code will help ensure complete and accurate payment from CMS.

Contact DHMP’s Elevate Medicare Risk Adjustment Analyst at 303-602-2134 if you have any questions regarding this training or about Medicare risk adjustment in general. Thank you!