Factors Influencing Health Status and Contact with Health Services

Introduction

Chapter 21 of the Tabular List of ICD-10-CM contains codes that describe factors influencing health status and contact with health services. Codes range from Z00 to Z99. The following are the key guidelines to keep in mind when coding conditions of this system:

- These codes are used in any healthcare setting.
- They may be used as the principle diagnosis or as a secondary code depending on the circumstances of the encounter.
- Z codes indicate a reason for the encounter.
- A corresponding procedure code must accompany a Z code if a procedure is performed.
- Categories of Z codes describe the following:
  - Contact or exposure (Z20 for contact with or suspected exposure to communicable diseases, Z77 indicates contact with or suspected exposures hazardous to health)
  - Inoculations and vaccinations (Z23)
  - Status codes (indicates that a patient is either a carrier of a disease or has a sequelae or residual of a past disease)

Z codes identify occasions when circumstances other than a disease or injury are recorded as diagnoses or problems. They are also used to indicate that a patient has a residual of a past disease or condition, a history of a disease, or is a current carrier of a disease.
Notes

- Contact/exposure codes may be used as a first-listed code to explain an encounter for testing, or as a secondary code to identify a potential risk.

- A status code is distinct from a history code. A history code indicates that the patient no longer has the condition.

Example

**Diagnosis:** Encounter for dental examination and cleaning, no abnormal findings

- Z Code: **Z01.20**

**Diagnosis:** Suspected exposure to tuberculosis

- Z code: **Z20.1**

**Diagnosis:** Hemophilia A carrier, asymptomatic

- Z code: **Z14.01**