



Clinical Documentation Integrity Weekly Bulletin Medical Staff –8.1.2017

Talk Ten (ICD 10) Tuesday Tips....**Got a Minute:**

Specificity: *noun* spec·i·fic·i·ty \,spe-sə-'fi-sə-tē\
the quality or condition of being free from ambiguity

GLF...> 50 yr old...**Consider if Pathologic/Fragility Fracture:**

'Pathologic' Fx has higher severity impact than comparable 'Traumatic' Fx

Criteria for **'Pathologic/Fragility Fracture':**

- **≥ 50** years old
- **Ground Level Fall** (i.e. from sitting or standing position)
- Creating a fracture when a **fracture wouldn't be expected** in a normal, healthy bone.
 - When the **fracture is out of proportion to the degree of the trauma** (weakening of bone structure by pathologic processes)
- History of **Osteoporosis, Neoplasm** etc

Note:

- **'DEXA scan'** is the usual diagnostic tool for osteoporosis....it does **not** need to be repeated if prior diagnosis of osteoporosis has been made.
- **Osteoporosis has already become severe if it can be identified on plain x-ray studies;** radiologists will often use the word **'osteopenia'**.
 - **Even mild osteopenia on plain x-ray represents severe underlying osteoporosis.**

Please consider the following sample statements (when applicable)..IF not stated by MD as 'pathologic and/or fragility' Fx it can't be coded as such:

- **"Pathologic/Fragility Hip Fracture, due to Osteoporosis, tripped on shovel"**
- **"Pathologic/Fragility Fracture, due to Neoplastic disease"**