Medical Abbreviations

While the use of abbreviations for clinical documentation allows for improved efficiency, it is important to remember that not all providers are familiar with your individualized medical shorthand. There may be patient safety issues if the abbreviations are not approved and the abbreviations create confusion to providers in different areas. Policy A-02 "Abbreviations-Medical", discusses the appropriate use of abbreviations in the EMR/paper record. This policy contains a link for a complete list of approved and unapproved abbreviations. Please view the Policy A-02 at the following link:


ICD-10 Documentation Requirements

One of the key findings we are already seeing in the records is a need for greater specificity; more adjectives as Dr. Glidden puts it. Here are a few examples of what we need you to document:

• **Laterality:** Right, Left, Bilateral (e.g. Left sided Pulmonary embolism)
• **Encounter Type:** Initial, subsequent, sequela
  o initial encounters are used while the patient is receiving active treatment for the injury
  o Subsequent encounters are used for encounters after the patient has received active treatment of the injury and is receiving routine care for the injury during the healing or recovery phase
  o Sequela encounters are used for complications or conditions that arise as a direct result of an injury
• **Stage of Disease:** Acute, Chronic, acute on chronic
• **Anatomy:** Describe location as specifically as possible
• **Manifestations (associated/related conditions):** Must document and link comorbid manifestations related to an overriding condition. Use combination codes when available.
  o Diabetes with ESRD
  o Coagulopathy secondary to Cirrhosis, sepsis, etc.
  o Acute blood loss anemia secondary to variceal bleed secondary to cirrhosis
• Avoid non-specific or general diagnoses that encompass multiple related problems
  o UTI should be cystitis, pyelonephritis, urethritis, etc.
  o Hip fracture should be intertrochanteric femur fracture, sub-capital femur fracture, etc.
• Causation/Etiology: Type of Infectious agent, trauma, environmental factor(smoking, drugs, etc)
• Under-dosing: Intentional, unintentional
• Healing Level: Routine, delayed, non-union, Etc.
• Remember that hospital documentation can include possible, probable, likely or suspected.

Outstanding Physician Comments

Each week we receive written comments from our patients regarding the care we provide within the Hospital. Below are this week’s comments from grateful patients receiving care on the units and clinics at Upstate:

Emergency Dept @ Community – Dr. Shaw was very nice and attentive..
Inpatient @ Community – Dr. Blue was most courteous, explaining what/why of procedures.
  Dr. Khan in the ER was so kind and gentle; loved him.
  Dr. Blue was very open, explaining AND listening to questions.

2N – Dr. Latorre was great; very impressed with him.
10E – Dr. Wright is a caring doctor.
  Dr. Albert was especially friendly and helpful.
  Dr. Goyal explained before the surgery and then did a great job.
5A – Dr. Hess did an excellent job keeping me informed, listened to me, truly cared and was responsive, open and honest about my situation.
6B – Dr. Lehmann made me smile, giggle and laugh – just when I needed it.
UHCC Neurology – Dr. Izadyar has been a blessing to our family; he keeps us in the loop. We love Dr. Izadyar

Medicine Subspecialties – Dr. Savici shows concern and leaves you with a sense of comfort. She is the best in her field. Gives great advice. Dr. Neupane is very knowledgeable, listened carefully to my symptoms and followed through with a phone call on results

Surgery Harrison Center – Dr. Ruangvoravat – I just knew I was in good hands. I was always treated with respect and sincerity.

ENT – Dr. Kellman - With him, I feel I am getting the very best of care.

University Geriatricians – Dr. Bishop is very supportive of my wife and me.

Transplant Center – Dr. Leggat is very down to earth and extremely knowledgeable. He is one of many doctors that I see, and I am very impressed by him.

I feel so blessed to have Dr. Leggat as my transplant doctor.

Upstate Urology – Dr. Makhuli is very gentle and knows his stuff.

Dr. Vourganti goes above and beyond! Answered ALL questions and concerns!

Radiation Oncology – Dr. Bogart and his staff are the best in the area!

Breast Care Center – Dr. Charlamb was very professional, took time with me and answered all my questions. Made me feel very comfortable about my diagnosis and care.

Joslin – Dr. Desimone is very professional, thorough and interested in my well being. Dr. Kelly is really great at what she does

University Cardiology – Dr. Michiel – I found a great doctor!

Dr. Bhatta and her staff – I felt I got excellent care and they went out of their way to accommodate my distant travel issues

Upstate Pediatrics – Dr. Hobart is outstanding, detail oriented, always listens to all questions and concerns. Dr. Kresel is a wonderful lady and my husband and I are so proud of our decision to bring our son to this office!