

ICD-10 CODING DOCUMENTATION GUIDELINES **Past Medical History**

MVP Health Care understands that diagnosis coding can be challenging. This Fast Fax will outline the coding guidelines for past medical history.

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), physicians should code for all documented conditions that coexist at the time of the encounter/visit. However; the term “history of” and “past medical history” is used loosely in clinical documentation, and this has become an area of concern for many payers, including MVP Health Care.

CMS states that “physicians can make errors in one of two ways with respect to these (history of) codes. One error is to code (or document) a past condition as active. The opposite error is to code (or document) a condition as “history of” when that condition is still active. “History of” means the patient no longer has the condition. There are exceptions; it is appropriate to code/document “history of” when documenting some status conditions e.g. Amputations, Transplants, Dialysis, AIDS/HIV, Chronic or debilitating neurological conditions (MS, ALS, Huntington’s Disease, Myasthenia, Epilepsy), Ostomies (respiration, feeding or elimination) and Ventilators. Examples of documentation:

Incorrect Documentation	Correct Documentation
H/O CHF, Meds Lasix	Compensated CHF, stable on Lasix
H/O Angina, Meds nitro quick	Angina, stable on nitro
H/O COPD, Meds Advair	COPD controlled w/Advair

MVP Health Care has received many claims and many chart notes where providers will submit or document an active cancer code when it clearly is considered past medical history. Coding guidelines allow the coding of cancers as current as long as they are still being treated by chemotherapy, radiation therapy or hormonal treatment, watchful waiting, or if the patient is too frail for, or refuses, treatment.

All existing chronic illness should be documented in the medical record and have an assessment and a plan of care:

Sample	Language
<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Plan</u>
Stable	Monitor
Improved	D/C Meds
Tolerating Meds	Continue Current Meds
Deteriorating	Refer

If you have any questions with respect to this notice, please contact your Professional Relations Representative.

