



## Activ News August 2, 2023

### ICD-10-CM Coding: INVALID ICD-10 CODE denials:

Over the past few months, ActivHealthCare has noticed an increase in the number of claims being denied due to an INVALID ICD-10-CM CODE remark code. The denials are most often associated with pain codes, such as M54.51, M54.2, and M54.6, being used with other ICD-10-CM codes that are more specific.

For example, M41.115 is Scoliosis (thoracolumbar region). This covers thoracic and lumbar regions; therefore, thoracic and lumbar pain codes should not be coded in this case. If you use both the pain and scoliosis codes together your claim will be denied for INVALID ICD-10-CM CODE.

Also, M40.292 is Kyphosis (cervical); therefore, neck pain should not be coded. The diagnosis pointers should not point to a general neck pain code and a more specific Kyphosis code. If the diagnosis pointers are pointing to both codes on a service line of the claim, that service line will be denied. It is advised not to put both of those ICD-10-CM codes on the same claim.

ActivHealthCare is not a billing service and will not assume any responsibility for the way your claims are billed. If a claim is billed improperly the insurance payor may deny the claim and we will notify you of the denial.

We are very grateful to Greg Schmitz, a biller who researched this issue and brought it to our attention, and Rhonda Setnar-Klubeck, a biller and certified coder, who provided easy-to-understand examples for this ICD-10-CM coding issue. If any office needs a billing service, ActivHealthCare would highly recommend either of them. We have worked with both of their companies for many years, and they do an excellent job. Please contact us at [webmaster@ActivHealthCare.com](mailto:webmaster@ActivHealthCare.com) if you would like their contact information.

It is important the person responsible for your billing be informed and trained as much as possible. Billing is much more complicated today and improper coding can result in a significant amount of lost revenue. There are ample resources online to assist in training and the GCA, SCCA and TCA chiropractic associations offer resources and training for CAs.

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