health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ICD-10 CIRCULAR : No 1 OF 2012

ICD-10 CODING REQUIREMENTS

1.Background

The implementation of ICD-10 as a diagnostic coding standard for South Africa was adopted on the 1st July 2005. The Medical Schemes Act 131 of 1998 ,Regulation (5)f requires that the relevant diagnostic code(s) that relates to the health services rendered must be included on a claim in order for it to be considered for payment. It has been raised as a concern that certain disciplines and /or provider groups are of the opinion that compliance with this regulatory requirement is optional.

2.Detail

Whilst it is legislated and enforced by all stakeholders that an ICD-10 code must be on a healthcare claim, it has come to the attention of the ICD-10 Task Team that some providers and coders contact certain call centers for diagnosis information and create a shortlist or "cheat sheet" based on these limited ICD-10 codes. This has been particularly evident for the psychiatric and psychologist disciplines in certain regions that seem to be defaulting all diagnosis to one uniform ICD-10 code. The task Team would like to stress the importance that,medico-legally, a diagnosis can only be made by a trained professional whose scope of practice includes the treatment and diagnosis of illnesses. Call center agents, helpdesk consultants and general administration staff may not be contacted to assist a prescriber in making a diagnosis or allocating an ICD-10 code. It is also important to stress that the accurate reflection of ICD-10 diagnosis codes is critical in supporting our country's future healthcare strategies and that healthcare providers who do not comply or adhere to the ICD-10 industry standards and who use limited and inaccurate cheat sheets will be in contravention of the intent and aim of the ICD-10 implementation by the National Department of Health.

3.**Conclusion and Recommendation**

The Task Team would kindly request that all stakeholders adhere to the coding regulatory requirements.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to call the National Department of Health at icd10@health.gov.za and Council for Medical Schemes at support@medicalschemes.com