

Inpatient Billing Cheat Sheet

Hospital Information

Hospital Name:

Cheat Sheet Version:

Last Updated:

General Billing Tips

- Verify patient insurance coverage and pre-authorization requirements upon admission.
- Ensure accurate patient demographic and insurance information is recorded.
- Familiarize yourself with payer-specific billing guidelines and requirements.
- Review and update the diagnosis and procedure codes according to the latest ICD and CPT updates.
- Conduct regular audits to ensure billing compliance and accuracy.

Common Inpatient CPT Codes

- **99221-99223** - Initial hospital care
- **99231-99233** - Subsequent hospital care
- **99238-99239** - Hospital discharge day management

Evaluation and Management (E/M) Codes for Inpatient Services

- **99251-99255** - Inpatient consultation for a new or established patient
- **99234-99236** - Observation or inpatient hospital care (admission and discharge on the same day)

Diagnostic Imaging Codes

- **71045-71048** - Chest X-ray
- **74176-74178** - CT Abdomen and Pelvis
- **70551-70553** - MRI Brain

Modifiers Commonly Used in Inpatient Billing

- **-25** - Significant, separately identifiable E/M service by the same physician on the same day of the procedure.
- **-26** - Professional component
- **-50** - Bilateral procedure
- **-TC** - Technical component

Insurance Billing Tips

- Always attach detailed documentation to support the medical necessity of the service provided.
- Use modifier -25 judiciously for procedures performed on the same day as an E/M visit.
- Be aware of the Global Surgical Package and how it affects billing for services related to surgery.

Common Insurance Claim Denials & Solutions

- **Denial Reason:**

Non-covered services.

Solution:

Verify coverage before the service is provided; consider an Advance Beneficiary Notice (ABN) for Medicare patients.

- **Denial Reason:**

Missing or incorrect information.

Solution:

Double-check patient and insurance information for accuracy before submission.

- **Denial Reason:**

Lack of medical necessity.

Solution:

Ensure that all claims are supported by sufficient documentation demonstrating the necessity of care.

Practice Notes

Include reminders about coding updates, payer policy changes, or common errors specific to inpatient billing.

Note any specific documentation practices required by major payers.

Signature of Compliance Officer

Name:

Date:

Use this cheat sheet as a quick reference to navigate the complexities of inpatient billing, ensuring that your hospital stays compliant with billing practices and maximizes reimbursement. Regular updates and training are essential to keep the billing team informed and efficient.