



Documentation 101

- **Type of condition**
 - Categorization of condition
- **Onset**
 - When did it start
- **Etiology/Cause**
 - Infectious agent
 - Physical agent
 - Internal failure
 - Congenital
- **Anatomical location**
 - Which anatomical structure
 - Proximal, distal, medial, lateral, central, peripheral, superior, inferior, anterior, posterior
- **Laterality**
 - Right side or left side
 - Bilaterally or unilateral
- **Severity**
 - Mild, moderate, or severe
- **Environmental factors**
 - Smoking
 - Geographic location
- **Time parameters**
 - Intermittent/paroxysmal
 - Recurring
 - Acute or Chronic
 - Postoperative, post delivery
- **Comorbidities or complications**
 - Diabetes with neuropathic joint
 - Intracranial injury
- **Manifestations**
 - Paralysis
 - Loss of consciousness
- **Healing level**
 - Routine healing, delayed healing, non-union, malunion
- **Findings and symptoms**
 - Fever
 - Hypoglycemia/hyperglycemia
 - Wheezing
- **External causes**
 - Motor vehicles, injury locations
 - Assault, accidental, work related, intentional self-harm
- **Type of encounter**
 - Initial encounter, subsequent encounter, encounter for condition sequel, routine evaluation, administrative encounter

Poorly Specified Coding - Is coding that does not fully define important parameters of the patient condition that could otherwise be defined given information available to the observer (clinician) and the coder.