Coding: Physician Query Examples

Topic	Query Example
Respiratory	The discharge summary notes that the patient was admitted with shortness of breath due to her multiple medical problems. The admitting progress note does not mention COPD or CHF, only atrial fibrillation. Assignment of codes is determined by causal factors. What was the primary cause of the patient's shortness of breath at the time of admission?
Pneumonia	The admitting H&P states the patient presented with fever, cough, and a history of dysphagia. The chest x-ray indicates atelectasis, and the patient was placed on aspiration precaution. Sputum culture shows staph aureus. The patient is noted to have pneumonia in the progress notes. Please specify what type of pneumonia patient had or was being treated for, if established.
Anemia	Per the operative report, the patient's estimated blood loss was noted to be 1000 ml, the lab work indicated the H&H was 9.2 & 30.2, and the patient was transfused 2 units of packed red blood cells. Please clarify if the patient has anemia. If the patient does have anemia, please clarify what specific type, unless indicative of some other condition.
Post-op Complications	Patient had surgery on 6/30/06. The progress note of 07/01/06 mentions "post-op fever" (Reference any other notations of fever/complication in chart). Coding rules require that unexpected reactions or conditions be clearly identified and correlated for correct code selection. Please clarify whether the fever was related to the surgery or if this is a clinically insignificant finding.
Septicemia	The H&P and admitting progress note by the resident notes the presence of urosepsis. Progress note by another resident indicates patient has a UTI. Attending physician notes that patient has sepsis. The term urosepsis is often used interchangeably with sepsis, septicemia (systemic infection) or urinary tract infection (localized infection). Please clarify what was meant by urosepsis in this case.