

CODING CORNER

March 2009

Hello everyone! As we all know there are many changes and revisions in ICD-9 codes for 2009. Just one example is migraine headaches. Where there were only a couple codes in the past for migraine headaches there are now 40 – yes that's right, 40 – different codes for migraine headache. That is why it is essential that you be as specific as possible with your documentation. The coder can only code what is documented, and everything **must** be coded to the highest specificity. Samaritan Health Plan Office will be conducting quarterly internal risk adjustment data validation audits to verify diagnosis codes are supported by appropriate medical documentation in preparation for possible audits by Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS). We greatly appreciate your cooperation with these internal audits in advance.

If you think there were a lot of changes in 2009, just wait until ICD-10 is implemented! I will be talking more about ICD-10 in up coming issues.