BILLING AND CODING: DISPARITIES IN HEALTHCARE PROVIDER TRAINING

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OBJECTIVE

- Upon conclusion of this presentation, the participant should be able to recognize current billing training offerings within five discrete healthcare disciplines, as well as identify disparities between the disciplines of pharmacy, social work, dietetics, nursing, and medicine.
BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

MEDICAL BILLING IS USED TO TRANSLATE MEDICAL ENCOUNTERS INTO CLAIM SUBMISSIONS

KNOWLEDGE ON MEDICAL BILLING IS CRUCIAL TO RECEIVE PAYMENT FOR PROVIDED HEALTHCARE SERVICES

MANY PROVIDERS DO NOT RECEIVE FORMAL TRAINING ON HOW TO DOCUMENT AND BILL FOR SERVICES

GOAL: COMPARE CURRENT BILLING AND CODING TRAINING OFFERINGS AND IDENTIFY TRAINING DISPARITIES OF FIVE DISCRETE HEALTHCARE DISCIPLINES (E.G., PHARMACY, SOCIAL WORK, DIETETICS, NURSING, AND MEDICINE)
METHODS

- Literature Review: Performed using the PubMed database and Google Chrome Scholar
  - MeSH terms: billing, coding, and curriculum
- Survey:
  - Faculty of the top 100 U.S. colleges and universities offering degrees in social work, pharmacy, nursing, and medical studies were asked to complete a survey
    - Dietetic school faculty identified via stateuniversity.com
  - Contact information was obtained from the program website
  - Two questions were asked of each school:
    - Is billing/coding taught (in any capacity; single lecture vs. entire module) within the program curriculum?
    - What resources are provided in the curriculum? Willingness to share resources
SURVEY: WHO WAS CONTACTED AND HOW?

Who: 493 schools contacted
99 doctor of pharmacy schools
94 social work schools offering MS degree
96 dietetics schools offering MS or BS in nutrition
104 nursing schools offering MS degree
100 medical schools offering a doctoral degree

How:
Email (n=454, 92%)
Webpage (n=25, 5%)
Telephone (n=14, 3%)
RESULTS

- Literature Review:
  - 18 peer-reviewed manuscripts - state the need for billing to be taught

- Survey: 26% of schools (129/493) responded to the survey, the majority being public institutions (72%)
  - Pharmacy had mixed results (n=13, 23%)
  - No social work schools taught billing (n=36, 0%)
  - Dietetic schools were the most responsive and had the greatest number of billing programs (n=39, 92%)
    - These were the only ones required to teach coding/billing, due to accreditation standards
  - Nursing had mixed results (n=21, 52%)
  - One medical school out of those that responded to the survey taught billing (n=20, 5%)
TOP 100 U.S. COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES THAT RESPONDED TO SURVEY
DIETETIC SCHOOL CASE STUDY EXAMPLES
CPT and G codes for RDNs

97802: ...initial assessment and intervention, individual, face-to-face with the patient, each 15 minutes.
97803: ...reassessment and intervention, individual, face-to-face with the patient, each 15 minutes.
97804: ...group (2 or more individuals), each 30 minutes.

G0270-1: Medical Nutrition Therapy G Codes^2

G0270: ...Medical nutrition therapy; reassessment and subsequent intervention(s) following second referral in same year for change in diagnosis, medical condition, or treatment regimen (including additional hours needed for renal disease), individual, face-to-face with the patient, each 15 minutes.

G0271: ...Medical nutrition therapy; reassessment and subsequent interventions(s) following second referral in same year for change in diagnosis, medical condition, or treatment regimen (including additional hours needed for renal disease) group (2 or more individuals), each 30 minutes.

G0108-9: Diabetes Outpatient Self-Management Training Services^2

G0108: ...Diabetes outpatient self-management training services, individual, per 30 minutes.
G0109: ...group session (2 or more individuals), per 30 minutes.
G9873-85; and G9890 & G9891: Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP)

These codes may be used by approved suppliers of a Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program providing services to eligible beneficiaries with Medicare Part B coverage starting April 1, 2018.
LIMITATIONS

Few published articles found

- Hard to determine when billing training implemented

Low survey response rate; especially in pharmacy
CONCLUSIONS

- Curriculums are based primarily on accreditation requirements
- Physicians utilize billing, however most medical schools don’t offer training
  - Suggests training is outside curriculum or during residency
- Few nursing and pharmacy programs have established training programs on billing and documentation
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LEARNING ASSESSMENT – QUESTION 1

Out of the different professions contacted, which one had the highest rate of response?

A. Pharmacy
B. Social Work
C. Dietetics
D. Nursing
E. Medical
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LEARNING ASSESSMENT – QUESTION 2

Out of the different professions contacted, which one had the lowest rate of response?

A. Pharmacy
B. Social Work
C. Dietetics
D. Nursing
E. Medical
LEARNING ASSESSMENT – QUESTION 2

Out of the different professions contacted, which one had the lowest rate of response?

A. Pharmacy
B. Social Work
C. Dietetics
D. Nursing
E. Medical
LEARNING ASSESSMENT – QUESTION 3

Why are dietetic schools required to teach billing/coding within their curriculum?

A. It’s a popular topic amongst students
B. To meet accreditation standards
C. It’s not actually required
D. For the fun of it
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References

- Jaxion Tran, David Cennimo, Sophia Chen & Eric L. Altschuler (2013) Teaching billing and coding to medical students: a pilot study, Medical Education Online, 18:1, 21455, DOI: 10.3402/me.v18i21455.
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