

The Swedish Society of Clinical Coders - The Swedish Society of Diagnoses Coding
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ACCURATE CODING OF CLINICAL DATA - CODE OF ETHICS AND PRACTICE STANDARDS

The Swedish Society of Clinical Coders has developed a code of Ethics and practice standards to define the principles governing the conduct of its members. Every member of the Swedish Society of Clinical Coders shall abide to the code of ethics and practice standards to promote the objectives of being a clinical coder. Any action which is in violation with the spirit and purpose of this code shall be considered unethical.

Code of Ethics

The clinical coder has a skill and working knowledge of medical science and terminology and shall assist clinicians in making decisions about the appropriate codes to assign. The clinical Coder will Communicate and cooperate with colleagues to secure correct and consistent interpretation of coding rules.

The Clinical Coder makes sure that coding is based on documentation in the medical record and shall consult the clinicians when appropriate.

Selection of main condition (primary reason for care) is done in accordance with Classification guidelines provided by The Swedish board of Health and Welfare.

Practice Standards

Clinical Coders:

- ◆ Shall not misrepresent or falsify their education, qualifications or experience and not make speak in the name of the Society outside their realm of knowledge
- ◆ Shall refuse to participate in fraudulent or unethical acts or processes
- ◆ will not code with the purpose of maximizing reimbursement by upcoding, nor add or alter codes against classification rules to increase reimbursement by changed casemix allocation.
- ◆ Support and assist managers and clinicians in guidelines and practices that support ethical coding. (ICD-10 code for primary reason for care are not to be chosen from DRG-weight)
- ◆ Participate in quality improvement activities to ensure that quality of coding is maintained
- ◆ Initiate and maintain communication with other health care professionals and relevant organisations to improve development in quality and accuracy of coding
- ◆ Liaise with other professional bodies in order to strive for advancement of quality health care
- ◆ Maintain the integrity of the Swedish Society of Clinical Coders and not make unsanctioned representation on behalf of the society