The Impact of Medical Coding on Healthcare Transformation and Bridging the Gap in Pakistan

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Dear Editor,

In the field of health care, medical coding entails translating diagnoses, treatments, and medical procedures into standardized alphanumeric numbers. This process is critical in establishing reliable and precise health records among various healthcare providers.

Pakistan's healthcare system encounters accessibility and efficiency issues, resulting in billing errors, delayed reimbursement, as well as substantial compromises in patient treatment. The implementation of ICD-9 and ICD-10 coding systems aids in the classification and retrieval of medical information, which is critical for health managers' decision-making. The adoption of ICD-11 in Pakistan's healthcare system is an important opportunity to improve diagnostic and data precision[1]. The use of medical coding documentation is critical for accounting precision, avoiding errors, and optimizing reimbursement processes, improving the financial viability of healthcare facilities in resource-constrained situations. Medical coding accuracy is critical because coding errors can lead to erroneous information and have an impact on planning, research, and regulation[2]. Another crucial issue is transparency in finance. This not only ensures the financial stability of healthcare facilities but also helps to more efficient resource allocation, which benefits patients.

Policymakers can make informed decisions about public health concerns and resource allocation by analyzing trends and patterns in health data. One study reported that the average accuracy of coding for major medical diagnoses was 70%, implying that 30% of medical records contained coding mistakes[3]. The application of digital platforms and electronic records can help to improve healthcare delivery efficiency. Factors such as the widespread use of standard abbreviations and comprehensible files can have an impact on coding accuracy [4]. Additionally, coding audits should be performed regularly, with a focus on improving the relationship between coders and healthcare professionals, offering coder training, and improving the documentation process[5]. Medical coding aids in digital transformation, optimizing information administration, and increasing interoperability across various healthcare institutions in Pakistan's healthcare system. Furthermore, it will be critical to prioritize medical coding regulations and procedures, education, and training to ensure a workforce with the essential abilities to stay up with technological advances.

The medical coding industry in Pakistan has a promising future, owing to many improvements. The use of electronic health records, or EHRs, and digital health systems will aid in the transition to more advanced coding methodologies. When AI and machine learning for language analysis are utilized in medical coding operations, they will be more accurate and efficient, especially when dealing with multilingual patients.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST
No conflict of interest.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS
All authors contributed equally.

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