

AHDAM

Association for Healthcare Denial and Appeal Management

Pre-Appeal Matrix – Coding Diagnosis Code(s)

By Karla Hiravi, BSN, RN

Most facilities do not have unending resources, so it's smart to pick and choose which denials to appeal prior to assigning out to be written, especially if in a situation with many denials and limited staff or time.

Using a simple matrix as a "triage" tool can be invaluable. An experienced coding appeal writer can quickly look through most medical records in 5-10 minutes, at the most, and decide if it should be appealed. Yes – some things might be missed or put in the "appeal list" incorrectly, but not many high dollar cases will be missed. It is to be expected that after a thorough review by the appeal writer, they will find the facts of some cases are not enough to appeal.

The below is a simple example of a matrix that you are welcome to use but would need modified to fit your particular needs.

Coding Denials of Diagnosis Codes

First priority: APPEAL First Dollar amount at risk \geq \$20,000 Diagnosis in question documented several times including in the discharge summary or day of discharge progress note or in response to a post-discharge but prebill query Coding clinics/guidelines appear to have been followed regarding the code in question (nothing stands out on a quick look)	Third Priority: APPEAL after second priority appeals written Dollar amount at risk \geq \$1500 and $<$ \$10,000 Diagnosis documented several times or in discharge summary or in response to a post-discharge but prebill query Coding clinics/guidelines appear to have been followed regarding the code in question (nothing stands out on a quick look)
--	--

AHDAM
Association for Healthcare Denial and Appeal Management

<p>Second priority: APPEAL after first priority appeals written</p> <p>Dollar amount at risk \geq \$10,000 and $<$\$20,000</p> <p>Diagnosis in question documented several times including in the discharge summary or day of discharge progress note or in response to a post-discharge but prebill query</p> <p>Coding clinics/guidelines appear to have been followed regarding the code in question (nothing stands out on a quick look)</p>	<p>No appeal</p> <p>Dollar amount at risk $<$ \$1500 or Diagnosis not documented Or Coding clinics/guidelines clearly not followed (on a quick look)</p>
--	---