**Why is clinical documentation important?**
Proper documentation can lead to improvements across a variety of key areas, including patient care, compliance, quality measures, coding, reimbursements and clinical data/information integrity. As a physician, your engagement in the clinical documentation process is essential to world-class patient care.

WellStar’s Clinical Documentation Excellence (CDE) program is designed specifically to assist WellStar physicians in improving their documentation. We can help:

- Drive appropriate coding for accurate reimbursement
- Improve accuracy of patient acuity levels
- Meet standards
- Reduce compliance risks
- Provide accurate data for quality indicators and other hospital metrics
- Reduce coding turnaround time
- Decrease post-discharge (coding) queries to physicians

**ICD-10 Assistance**
Quality clinical documentation is crucial when communicating the intent of an encounter, confirming medical necessity and providing details that support ICD-10 code selection. Be sure and contact a CDE specialist if you need ICD-10 assistance before or after implementation on Oct. 1. *Remember, ICD-10 starts at clinical documentation.*

**Contact a CDE Specialist**
- WellStar Cobb Hospital: 470-732-3909
- WellStar Douglas Hospital: 770-883-1327
- WellStar Kennestone Hospital: 470-514-9916
- WellStar Paulding Hospital: 470-644-7077
- Outpatient/WellStar Medical Group: 770-842-2094

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