

*Tuesday, February 6, 3:30PM-5:00PM
Concurrent Breakout Session D*

The Heart Surveillance: Tips on Coding

Angela Lin, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA
Tiffany Riehle, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

Congenital heart defects (CHDs), also known as cardiovascular malformations, are fascinating and common birth defects. However, their anatomic complexity and the variations in cardiac nomenclature used to describe them pose tremendous challenges. Abstractors encounter these issues early in the process of medical record abstraction, and questions about complex cases may perplex additional staff (coordinators, coding specialists, clinicians) at birth defects surveillance programs. Analysts studying the data must also grapple with complex hearts and codes.

The presenters of this “hands on” symposium will work as a team to systematically review CHDs and the issues related to coding them. Relying on material that the attendees will have heard during the Plenary Session (embryology, anatomy review, prenatal diagnostic tests, clinical outcome), Drs. Lin and Riehle will: 1) briefly review CHD “families”, starting with laterality, single ventricle, looping and conotruncal defects, followed by atrioventricular canal defects, right and left heart outflow obstruction, atrial and ventricular septal defects, and anomalous pulmonary venous return; 2) discuss options to code the defects referencing assorted coding schemes, e.g. ICD-9 (4 digits), ICD-9-CM BPA (used by MACDP); 3) present options for detailed versus streamlined “heart classification” coding which can be used in some programs or for analysis; 4) integrate real-life sample cases throughout the discussion to enhance the learning process. Dialogue will be encouraged.

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NBDPN Collaborative Research Projects

Moderator: David Law, Tennessee Department of Health, Nashville, TN

This breakout session will cover the process of developing and conducting collaborative research projects involving individual-level data from participating state birth defects surveillance programs. We will showcase past and current collaborative projects and highlight two recent projects focusing on ventral wall defects and preterm births/birth defects. Participants will explore the feasibility of new topics for collaborative studies that might form the basis for future NBDPN activities.