“The billing office is handling that,” an orthopedic surgeon at a recent reimbursement workshop said. Like many physicians, he was unaware that asking the billing office to handle ICD-10, the 10th revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD), is like trying to do a crossword puzzle using only the “Down” clues. It is impossible, because half of the information is missing.

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Results from a recent survey have shed new light on the trend of hospitals’ employing orthopedists. In short, nothing about these orthopedists’ experiences with, or opinions about, hospital employment is crystal clear. In fact, the survey data indicates that opinions are adrift about whether hospital employment is the right way, or wrong way, to go.