Figure 1. Process of Assigning ICD-9-CM Codes within the VA by Coding Staff

1. The patient’s entire chart is reviewed to identify all possible conditions documented and therefore what is documented is compared with coding guidelines to determine code assignment.

2. The coding professional must consider the movement between bed sections in code assignment.

3. Conditions for which codes are assigned may need to be prioritized in software.

4. Coding professional determines the final assignment of codes.