

## Poorly Controlled Seizure Disorder

ONE word can change an entire code:

- “Poorly controlled seizures” is not a comorbid condition (CC) and does not impart severity of illness (SOI).
- “Poorly controlled seizure **disorder**” codes to epilepsy and is a comorbid condition (CC). This diagnosis supports severity of illness (SOI).
- The terminology of “seizures” alone is non-specific and may be associated with many different medical issues.
- A seizure disorder is associated with the diagnosis of epilepsy for coding purposes and shows that the patient is sick.
- “Status epilepticus”: seizure lasting  $\geq$  5 minutes.

| Not Sick<br>(No SOI)                               | Sick<br>(Low SOI)=CC                  | Very Sick<br>(High SOI)=MCC |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Seizure disorder;<br>Poorly controlled<br>seizures | Poorly controlled<br>seizure disorder | Status epilepticus          |

Remember - Hospital documentation can include “possible, probable, likely or suspected” diagnoses