Chapter 1: Certain Infectious and Parasitic Diseases

Chapter 1. Certain Infectious and Parasitic Diseases Guidelines and Examples

ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting 2017

Chapter Specific Guidelines with Coding Examples

The chapter specific guidelines from the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting have been provided below. Along with these guidelines are coding examples, contained in the shaded boxes, that have been developed to help illustrate the coding and for sequencing guidance found in these guidelines.

a. Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections

1) Code only confirmed cases

Code only confirmed cases of HIV infection/illness. This is an exception to the hospital inpatient guideline Section II, H. In this context, “confirmation” does not require documentation of positive serology or culture for HIV; the provider’s diagnostic statement that the patient is HIV positive, or has an HIV-related illness is sufficient.

Patient admitted with anemia possibly related to HIV

D64.9 Anemia, unspecified

Explanation: Only the anemia is coded in this scenario because it has not been confirmed that an HIV infection is present. This is an exception to the guideline Section II, H for hospital inpatient coding.

2) Selection and sequencing of HIV codes

(a) Patient admitted for HIV-related condition

If a patient is admitted for an HIV-related condition, the principal diagnosis should be B20, Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease followed by additional diagnosis codes for all reported HIV-related conditions.

HIV with Pneumocystis

B20 Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease

B95 Pneumocystosis

Explanation: Pneumonia due to Pneumocystis carinii is an HIV-related condition, so the HIV diagnosis code is reported first, followed by the code for the pneumonia.

(b) Patient with HIV disease admitted for unrelated condition

If a patient with HIV disease is admitted for an unrelated condition (such as a traumatic injury, the code for the unrelated condition (e.g., the nature of injury code) should be the principal diagnosis. Other diagnoses would be B28 followed by additional diagnosis codes for all reported HIV-related conditions.

Unstable angina, native coronary artery atherosclerotic, HIV

I25.110 Atherosclerotic heart disease of native coronary artery with unstable angina pectoris

B30 Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease

Explanation: The atherosclerotic coronary artery disease and the unstable angina are not related to HIV, so these conditions are reported first using a combination code, and HIV is reported secondarily.

(c) Whether the patient is newly diagnosed

Whether the patient is newly diagnosed or has had previous admissions/encounters for HIV conditions is relevant to the sequencing decision.

Newly diagnosed multiple cutaneous Kaposi’s sarcoma lesions in previously diagnosed HIV disease

B28 Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease

C46.8 Kaposi’s sarcoma of skin

Explanation: Even though the HIV was diagnosed on a previous encounter, it is still sequenced first when coded with an HIV-related condition. Kaposi’s sarcoma is an HIV-related condition.

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(d) Asymptomatic human immunodeficiency virus

221. Asymptomatic human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection status, is to be applied when the patient without any documentation of symptoms is listed as being “HIV positive,” “known HIV,” “HIV test positive,” or similar terminology. Do not use this code if the term “AIDS” is used or if the patient is treated for any HIV-related illness or is described as having any condition(s) resulting from his/her HIV positive status; use B28 in these cases.

Patient admitted with acute appendicitis. Status positive HIV test on Atripla, with no prior symptoms.

K35.80 Unspecified acute appendicitis

221 Asymptomatic human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection status

Explanation: Code 221 is sequenced second since documentation indicates that the patient has had a positive HIV test but has been asymptomatic. Being on medication for HIV in not an indication that code B20 is used instead of 221. Unless there has been documentation that the patient has had current or prior symptoms or HIV-related complications, code B20 is not used. The appendicitis is not an AIDS-related complication and is sequenced first.

(e) Patients with inconclusive HIV serology

Patients with inconclusive HIV serology, but no definitive diagnosis or manifestations of the illness, may be assigned code Z75, Inconclusive laboratory evidence of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

(f) Previously diagnosed HIV-related illness

Patients with any known prior diagnosis of an HIV-related illness should be coded to B28. Once a patient has developed an HIV-related illness, the patient should always be assigned code B28 on every subsequent admission/encounter. Patients previously diagnosed with any HIV illness (B28) should never be assigned to K35 or Z21. Asymptomatic human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection status.

(g) HIV infection in pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium

During pregnancy, childbirth or the puerperium, a patient admitted (or presenting for a health care encounter) because of an HIV-related illness should receive a principal diagnosis code of O98.7, Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium. In these cases, code B28 is used for the HIV-related illness(es). Codes from Chapter 15 are used, taking pregnancy priority.

Patients with asymptomatic HIV infection status admitted (or presenting for a health care encounter) during pregnancy, childbirth, or the puerperium should receive codes of O98.7 and Z21.

(h) Encounters for testing for HIV

If a patient is being seen to determine his/her HIV status, use code Z21.1, Encounter for screening for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Use additional codes for any associated high-risk behavior. If a patient with signs or symptoms is being seen for HIV testing, code the signs and symptoms. An additional counseling code Z21.7, Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) counseling, may be used if counseling is provided during the encounter for the test.

When a patient returns to be informed of his/her HIV test results and the test result is negative, use code Z21.7, Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) counseling.

If the results are positive, see previous guidelines and assign codes as appropriate.

(b) Infectious agents as the cause of diseases classified to other chapters

Certain infections are classified in chapters other than Chapter 1 and no organism is identified as part of the infection code. In these instances, it is necessary to use an additional code from Chapter 1 to identify the organism. A code from category B95, Streptococcus, Staphylococcus, and Enterococcus as the cause of diseases classified to other chapters, B95. Other bacterial agents as the cause of diseases classified to other chapters, B97. Viral agents as the cause of diseases classified to other chapters, B98. Other bacterial agents as the cause of diseases classified to other chapters, B99. Other bacterial agents as the cause of diseases classified to other chapters, E99.
1) Coding of Sepsis and Severe Sepsis
(a) Sepsis
For a diagnosis of sepsis, assign the appropriate code for the underlying systemic infection. If the type of infection or causal organism is not further specified, assign code A41.9, Sepsis, unspecified organism.
A code from subcategory R65.2, Severe sepsis, should not be assigned unless severe sepsis or an associated acute organ dysfunction is documented.

Gram-negative sepsis
A41.10 Sepsis due to unspecified staphylococcus
Staphylococcal sepsis
A41.2 Sepsis due to unspecified staphylococcus
Explanation: In both examples above the organism causing the sepsis is identified, therefore A41.9 Sepsis, unspecified organism, would not be appropriate as this code would not capture the highest degree of specificity found in the documentation. Do not use the additional code for severe sepsis unless documented as severe sepsis with acute organ dysfunction.

(i) Negative or inconclusive blood cultures and sepsis
Negative or inconclusive blood cultures do not preclude a diagnosis of sepsis in patients with clinical evidence of the condition; however, the provider should be queried.
(ii) Unsepsis
The term unsepsis is a nonspecific term. It is not to be considered synonymous with sepsis. It has no default code in the Alphabetic Index. Should a provider use this term, he/she must be queried for clarification.
(iii) Sepsis with organ dysfunction
If a patient has sepsis and associated acute organ dysfunction or multiple organ dysfunction (MODS), follow the instructions for coding severe sepsis.

(iv) Acute organ dysfunction that is not clearly associated with the sepsis
If a patient has sepsis and an acute organ dysfunction, but the medical record documentation indicates that the acute organ dysfunction is related to a medical condition other than the sepsis, do not assign a code from subcategory R65.2, Severe sepsis. An acute organ dysfunction must be associated with the sepsis in order to assign the severe sepsis code. If the documentation is not clear as to whether an acute organ dysfunction is related to the sepsis or another medical condition, query the provider.

Sepsis and acute respiratory failure due to COPD exacerbation
A41.9 Sepsis, unspecified organism
J44.1 Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with acute exacerbation
J96.00 Acute respiratory failure, unspecified whether due to hypoventilation or hyperventilation
Explanation: Although acute organ dysfunction is present in the form of acute respiratory failure, severe sepsis (R65.2) is not coded in this example, as the acute respiratory failure is attributed to the COPD exacerbation rather than the sepsis. Sequencing of these codes would be determined by the circumstances of the admission.

(b) Severe sepsis
The coding of severe sepsis requires a minimum of 2 codes: first a code for the underlying systemic infection, followed by a code from subcategory R65.2, Severe sepsis. If the causal organism is not documented, assign code A41.9, Sepsis, unspecified organism, for the infection. Additional codes for the associated acute organ dysfunction are also required.
Due to the complex nature of severe sepsis, some cases may require querying the provider prior to assignment of the codes.

2) Sepsis shock
(a) Sepsis shock generally refers to circulatory failure associated with severe sepsis, and therefore, it represents a type of acute organ dysfunction.
For cases of sepsis shock, the code for the systemic infection should be sequenced first, followed by code R65.21, Severe sepsis with septic shock or code T81.12, Postprocedural septic shock. Any additional codes for the other acute organ dysfunctions should also be assigned. As noted in the sequencing instructions in the Tabular List, the code for septic shock cannot be assigned as a principal diagnosis.

Sepsis with septic shock
A41.9 Sepsis, unspecified organism
R65.21 Severe sepsis with septic shock
Explanation: Documentation of septic shock automatically implies severe sepsis as it is a form of acute organ dysfunction. Septic shock is not coded as the principal diagnosis; it is always preceded by the code for the systemic infection.

3) Sequencing of severe sepsis
If severe sepsis is present on admission, and meets the definition of principal diagnosis, the underlying systemic infection should be assigned as principal diagnosis followed by the appropriate code from subcategory R65.2 as required by the sequencing rules in the Tabular List. A code from subcategory R65.2 can never be assigned as a principal diagnosis. When severe sepsis develops during an encounter (it was not present on admission), the underlying systemic infection and the appropriate code from subcategory R65.2 should also be assigned as secondary diagnoses.
Severe sepsis may be present on admission, but the diagnosis may not be confirmed until sometime after admission. If the documentation is not clear whether severe sepsis was present on admission, the provider should be queried.

4) Sepsis and severe sepsis with a localized infection
If the reason for admission is both sepsis or severe sepsis and a localized infection, such as pneumonia or cellulitis, a code(s) for the underlying systemic infection should be assigned as the secondary diagnosis. If the patient has severe sepsis, a code from subcategory R65.2 should also be assigned as a secondary diagnosis. If the patient is admitted with a localized infection, such as pneumonia, and sepsis/severe sepsis doesn’t develop until after admission, the localized infection should be assigned first, followed by the appropriate sepsis/severe sepsis codes.

Patient presents with acute renal failure due to severe sepsis from Pseudomonas pneumonia
A41.9 Sepsis, unspecified organism
J15.1 Pneumonia due to Pseudomonas
R65.20 Severe sepsis without septic shock
N17.9 Acute kidney failure, unspecified
Explanation: If all conditions are present on admission, the systemic infection (sepsis) is sequenced first followed by the codes for the localized infection (pneumonia), severe sepsis and any organ dysfunction. If only the pneumonia was present on admission with the sepsis and resulting renal failure developing later in the admission, then the pneumonia would be sequenced first.

5) Sepsis due to a postprocedural infection
(a) Documentation of causal relationship
As with all postprocedural complications, code assignment is based on the provider’s documentation of the relationship between the infection and the procedure.
(b) Sepsis due to a postprocedural infection
For such cases, the postprocedural infection code, such as T80.2, Infections following infusion, transfusion, and therapeutic injection, T81.4, Infection following a procedure, T88.8, Infection following immunization, or O86.8, Infection of obstetric surgical wound, should
be coded first, followed by the code for the specific infection. If the patient has severe sepsis, the appropriate code from subcategory R65.2 should also be assigned with the additional code(s) for any acute organ dysfunction.

(c) Postprocedural infection and postprocedural septic shock

In cases where a postprocedural infection has occurred and has resulted in severe sepsis the code for the precipitating complication such as code T81.4, Infection following a procedure, or OB68. Infection of obstetrical surgical wound should be coded first followed by code R65.28. Severe sepsis without septic shock. A code for the systemic infection should also be assigned.

If a postprocedural infection has resulted in postprocedural septic shock, the code for the precipitating complication such as code T81.4, Infection following a procedure, or OB68. Infection of obstetrical surgical wound should be coded first followed by code T81.12.

Postprocedural septic shock. A code for the systemic infection should also be assigned.

6) Sepsis and severe sepsis associated with a noninfectious process (condition)

In some cases a noninfectious process (condition), such as trauma, may lead to an infection which can result in sepsis or severe sepsis. If sepsis or severe sepsis is documented as associated with a noninfectious condition, such as a burn or serious injury, and this condition meets the definition for principal diagnosis, the code for the noninfectious condition should be sequenced first, followed by the code for the resulting infection. If severe sepsis is present, a code from subcategory R65.2 should also be assigned with any associated organ dysfunction(s) codes. It is not necessary to assign a code from subcategory R65.1, Systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS) of non-infectious origin, for these cases.

If the infection meets the definition of principal diagnosis, it should be sequenced before the non-infectious condition. When both the associated non-infectious condition and the infection meet the definition of principal diagnosis, either may be assigned as principal diagnosis. Only one code from category R65. Symptoms and signs specifically associated with systemic inflammation and infection, should be assigned. Therefore, when a non-infectious condition leads to an infection resulting in severe sepsis, assign the appropriate code from subcategory R65.2, Sepsis severe. Do not additionally assign a code from subcategory R65.1, Systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS) of non-infectious origin.

See Section 1.C.18. SIRS due to non-infectious process.

Patient admitted with multiple third-degree burns of upper arm develops severe M SSA sepsis with septic shock, three days into admission

T22.391A Burn of third degree of multiple sites of right shoulder and upper arm limb, except wrist and hand, initial encounter

A41.81 Sepsis due to Methicillin susceptible Staphylococcus aureus

R65.21 Severe sepsis with septic shock

Explanation: Sepsis is coded rather than SIRS from R65 because it is documented as a severe systemic infectious response with septic shock to a noninfectious condition. The code for the systemic infection is not used as the principal diagnosis because it was not present on admission. The patient was admitted for the burn injury.

7) Sepsis and septic shock complicating abortion, pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium

See Section 1.C.75. Sepsis and septic shock complicating abortion, pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium

8) Newborn sepsis

See Section 1.C.16. E. Bacterial sepsis of Newborn

a. Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) conditions

1) Selection and sequencing of MRSA codes

(a) Combination codes for MRSA infection

When a patient is diagnosed with an infection that is due to methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), and that infection has a combination code that includes the causal organism (e.g., sepsis, pneumonia), assign the appropriate combination code for the condition (e.g., code A41.82, Sepsis due to Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus or code E15.212, Pneumonia due to Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus). Do not assign code R65.2.

Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus infection as the cause of disease classified elsewhere, as an additional code, because the combination code includes the type of infection and the MRSA organism. Do not assign a code from subcategory Z16.11, Resistance to penicillin, as an additional diagnosis.

See Section 1.C.7. for instructions on coding and sequencing of sepsis and severe sepsis.

(b) Other codes for MRSA infection

When there is documentation of a current infection (e.g., wound infection, obstetric tract infection) due to MRSA, and that infection does not have a combination code that includes the causal organisms, assign the appropriate code to identify the condition along with code R65.2. Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus infection as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere for the MRSA infection. Do not assign a code from subcategory Z16.11, Resistance to penicillin.

(c) Methicillin susceptible Staphylococcus aureus (MSSA) and MRSA colonization

The condition or state of being colonized or carrying MSSA or MRSA is called colonization or carriage, while an individual person is described as being colonized or being a carrier. Colonization means that MSSA or MRSA is present on or in the body without necessarily causing illness. A positive MRSA colonization test might be documented by the provider as “MRSA screen positive” or “MRSA nasal swab positive”. Assign code 222.322, Carrier or suspected carrier of Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus, for patients documented as having MRSA colonization. Assign code 222.321, Carrier or suspected carrier of Methicillin susceptible Staphylococcus aureus, for patient documented as having MSSA colonization. Colonization is not necessarily indicative of a disease process or as the cause of a specific condition the patient may have unless documented as such by the provider.

(d) MRSA colonization and infection

If a patient is documented as having both MRSA colonization and infection during a hospital admission, code 222.322, Carrier or suspected carrier of Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus, and a code for the MRSA infection may both be assigned.

Zika virus infections

1) Code only confirmed cases

Code only a confirmed diagnosis of Zika virus (A92.5, Zika virus disease) as documented by the provider. This is an exception to the hospital inpatient guideline Section 11.6.2.

In this context, “confirmation” does not require documentation of the type of test performed; the physician’s diagnostic statement that the condition is confirmed is sufficient. This code should be assigned regardless of the stated mode of transmission.

If the provider documents “suspected”, “possible” or “probable” Zika, do not assign code A92.5. Assign a code(s) explaining the reason for encounter (such as fever, rash, or joint pain) or O86.828, Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable diseases.
Chapter 2. Neoplasms (C00-D49)

Chapter Specific Guidelines with Coding Examples

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General guidelines

Chapter 2 of the ICD-10-CM contains the codes for most benign and all malignant neoplasms. Certain benign neoplasms, such as prostatic adenomas, may be found in the specific body system chapters. To properly code a neoplasm it is necessary to determine from the record if the neoplasm is benign, in-situ, malignant, or of uncertain histologic behavior. If malignant, any secondary (metastatic) sites should also be determined.

Primary malignant neoplasms overlapping site boundaries

- A primary malignant neoplasm that overlaps two or more contiguous (next to each other) sites should be classified to the subcategory/code .8 (‘overlapping lesion’), unless the combination is specifically indexed elsewhere. For multiple neoplasms of the same site that are not contiguous such as tumors in different quadrants of the same breast, codes for each site should be assigned.

A 73-year-old white female with a large rapidly growing malignant tumor in the left breast extending from the upper outer-quadrant into the axillary tail

C50.812 Malignant neoplasm of overlapping sites of left female breast

Explanation: Because this is a single large tumor that overlaps two contiguous sites, a single code for overlapping sites is assigned.

A 52-year-old white female with two distinct lesions of the right breast, one (0.5 cm) in the upper outer quadrant and a second (1.5 cm) in the lower outer quadrant; path report indicates both lesions are malignant

C50.411 Malignant neoplasm of upper Outer-quadrant of right female breast

C50.511 Malignant neoplasm of lower Outer-quadrant of right female breast

Explanation: This patient has two distinct malignant lesions of right breast in adjacent quadrants. Because the lesions are not contiguous, two codes are reported.

Malignant neoplasm of ectopic tissue

Malignant neoplasms of ectopic tissue are to be coded to the site of origin. For example, ectopic pancreatic malignant neoplasms involving the stomach are coded to pancreas, unspecified (C25.9).

The neoplasm table in the Alphabetic Index should be referenced first. However, if the histological term is documented, that term should be referenced first, rather than going immediately to the Neoplasm Table. In order to determine which column in the Neoplasm Table is appropriate, for example, if the documentation indicates ‘adenoma,’ refer to the term in the Alphabetic Index to review the entries under this term and the instructional note to ‘see also neoplasm, by site, benign.’ The table provides the proper code based on the type of neoplasm and the site. It is important to select the proper column in the table that corresponds to the type of neoplasm. The Tabular List should then be referenced to verify that the correct code has been selected from the table and that a more specific site code does not exist.

See Section L2.1. Factors influencing health status and contact with health services, Status, for information regarding C25.8, codes for genetic susceptibility to cancer.

a. Treatment directed at the malignancy

If the treatment is directed at the malignancy, designate the malignancy as the principal diagnosis.

The only exception to this guideline is if a patient admission/encounter is solely for the administration of chemotherapy, immunotherapy or radiation therapy. Assign the appropriate C91.1 – code as the first-listed or principal diagnosis, and the diagnosis or problem for which the service is being performed as a secondary diagnosis.

b. Treatment of secondary site

When a patient is admitted because of a primary neoplasm with metastasis and treatment is directed toward the secondary site only, the secondary neoplasm is designated as the primary diagnosis even though the primary malignancy is still present.

Patient with primary prostate cancer with metastasis to lungs admitted for wedge resection of mass in right lung

C78.01 Secondary malignant neoplasm of right lung

C61 Malignant neoplasm of prostate

Explanation: Since the admission is for treatment of the lung metastasis, the secondary lung metastasis is sequenced before the primary prostate cancer.

c. Coding and sequencing of complications

Coding and sequencing of complications associated with the malignancies or with the therapy thereof are subject to the following guidelines:

1) Anemia associated with malignancy

When admission/encounter is for management of an anemia associated with the malignancy, and the treatment is only for anemia, the appropriate code for the malignancy is sequenced as the principal or first-listed diagnosis followed by the appropriate code for the anemia (such as code D63.8. Anemia in neoplastic disease).

Patient is admitted for treatment of anemia in advanced colon cancer

C18.9 Malignant neoplasm of colon, unspecified

D63.8 Anemia in neoplastic disease

Explanation: Even though the admission was solely to treat the anemia, this guideline indicates that the code for the malignancy is sequenced first.

2) Anemia associated with chemotherapy, immunotherapy and radiation therapy

When the admission/encounter is for management of an anemia associated with an adverse effect of the administration of chemotherapy, immunotherapy or radiation therapy and the only treatment is for the anemia, the anemia code is sequenced first followed by the appropriate codes for the neoplasm and the adverse effect (T45.1X. Adverse effect of antineoplastic and immunosuppressive drugs).

A 56-year-old Hispanic male with grade II follicular lymphoma involving multiple lymph node sites referred for blood transfusion to treat anemia due to chemotherapy

C82.18 Follicular lymphoma grade II, lymph nodes of multiple sites

T45.18A Adverse effect of antineoplastic and immunosuppressive drugs, initial encounter

Explanation: The code for the anemia is sequenced first followed by the code for the malignant neoplasm and lastly the code for the adverse effect.

When the admission/encounter is for management of an anemia associated with an adverse effect of radiotherapy, the anemia code should be sequenced first, followed by the appropriate neoplasm code and code T94.2. Radiological procedure and radiotherapy as the cause of abnormal reaction of the patient, or of later complication, without mention of misadventure at the time of the procedure.
A 55-year-old male with a large malignant rectal tumor has been receiving external radiation therapy to shrink the tumor prior to planned surgery. He is admitted today for a blood transfusion to treat anemia related to radiation therapy.

D44.89 Other specified anemia
C30 Malignant neoplasm of rectum
Y44.2 Radiological procedure and radiotherapy as the cause of abnormal reaction of the patient, or of later complication, without mention of misadventure at the time of the procedure

Exploration: The code for the anemia is sequenced first, followed by the code for the malignancy, and lastly the code for the abnormal reaction due to radiotherapy.

3) Management of dehydration due to the malignancy
When the admission/encounter is for management of dehydration due to the malignancy and only the dehydration is being treated (intravenous rehydration), the dehydration is sequenced first, followed by the codes(s) for the malignancy.

4) Treatment of a complication resulting from a surgical procedure
When the admission/encounter is for treatment of a complication resulting from a surgical procedure, designate the complication as the principal or first-listed diagnosis if treatment is directed at resolving the complication.

d. Primary malignancy previously excised
When a primary malignancy has been previously excised or eradicated from its site and there is no further treatment directed to that site and there is no evidence of any existing primary malignancy, a code from category Z85, Personal history of malignant neoplasm, should be used to indicate the former site of the malignancy. Any mention of extension, invasion, or metastasis to another site is coded as a secondary malignant neoplasm to that site. The secondary site may be the principal or first-listed with the Z85 code used as a secondary code.

History of breast cancer, left radical mastectomy 18 months ago with no current treatment; bronchoscopy with lung biopsy shows metastatic disease in the right lung
C70.81 Secondary malignant neoplasm of right lung
Z85.3 Personal history of malignant neoplasm of breast
Explanation: The patient has undergone a diagnostic procedure that revealed metastatic breast cancer in the right lung. The code for the secondary (metastatic) site is sequenced first followed by a personal history code to identify the former site of the primary malignancy.

e. Admissions/encounters involving chemotherapy, immunotherapy and radiation therapy
1) Episode of care involves surgical removal of neoplasm
When an episode of care involves the surgical removal of a neoplasm, primary or secondary site, followed by adjuvant chemotherapy or radiation treatment during the same episode of care, the code for the neoplasm should be assigned as principal or first-listed diagnosis.

2) Patient admission/encounter solely for administration of chemotherapy, immunotherapy and radiation therapy
If a patient admission/encounter is solely for the administration of chemotherapy, immunotherapy or radiation therapy assign code C31.8, Encounter for antineoplastic radiation therapy, or C31.11, Encounter for antineoplastic chemotherapy, or C31.12, Encounter for antineoplastic immunotherapy as the first-listed or principal diagnosis. If a patient receives more than one of these codes during the same admission more than one of these codes may be assigned, in any sequence. The malignancy for which the therapy is being administered should be assigned as a secondary diagnosis.

Patient is admitted for second round of rituximab and fludarabine for his chronic B cell lymphocytic leukemia
Z51.11 Encounter for antineoplastic chemotherapy
Z51.12 Encounter for antineoplastic immunotherapy
C91.10 Chronic lymphocytic leukemia of B-cell type not having achieved remission
Exploration: Rituximab is an antineoplastic immunotherapy while fludarabine is an antineoplastic chemotherapy. The two treatments are often used together. The admission was solely for the purpose of administering this treatment and either can be sequenced first, before the neoplastic condition.

3) Patient admitted for radiation therapy, chemotherapy or immunotherapy and develops complications
When a patient is admitted for the purpose of radiation therapy, immunotherapy or chemotherapy and develops complications such as uncontrolled nausea and vomiting or dehydration, the principal or first-listed diagnosis is Z51.8. Encounter for antineoplastic radiation therapy, or Z51.11. Encounter for antineoplastic chemotherapy, or Z51.12, Encounter for antineoplastic immunotherapy followed by any codes for the complications.

f. Admission/encounter to determine extent of malignancy
When the reason for admission/encounter is to determine the extent of the malignancy, or for a procedure such as paracentesis or thoracentesis, the primary malignancy or appropriate metastatic site is designated as the principal or first-listed diagnosis, even though chemotherapy or radiotherapy is administered.

Patient with left lung cancer with malignant pleural effusion admitted for paracentesis and initiation/assessment of chemotherapy
C34.92 Malignant neoplasm of unspecified part of left bronchus or lung
J91.8 Malignant pleural effusion
Z51.11 Encounter for antineoplastic chemotherapy
Exploration: The lung cancer is sequenced before the chemotherapy in this instance because the paracentesis for the malignant effusion is also being performed. An institutional note under the malignant effusion instructs that the lung cancer be sequenced first.

9. Symptoms, signs, and abnormal findings listed in Chapter 18 associated with neoplasms
Symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions listed in Chapter 18 characteristic of, or associated with, an existing primary or secondary site malignancy cannot be used to replace the malignancy as principal or first-listed diagnosis, regardless of the number of admissions or encounters for treatment and care of the neoplasm.
See Section I.C.21. Factors influencing health status and contact with health services, Encounter for prophylactic organ removal.

b. Admission/encounter for pain control/management
See Section I.C.3. Factors influencing health status and contact with health services, Encounter for prophylactic organ removal.

i. Malignancy in two or more noncontiguous sites
A patient may have more than one malignant tumor in the same organ. These tumors may represent different primaries or metastatic disease, depending on the site. Should the documentation be unclear, the provider should be queried as to the status of each tumor so that the correct codes can be assigned.

j. Disseminated malignant neoplasm, unspecified
Code C89.8. Disseminated malignant neoplasm, unspecified, is for use only in those cases where the patient has advanced metastatic disease and no known primary or secondary sites are specified. It should not be used in place of assigning codes for the primary site and all known secondary sites.

Patient who has had no medical care for many years is seen today and diagnosed with carcinomatosis
C89.8 Disseminated malignant neoplasm, unspecified
Exploration: Carcinomatosis NOS is an “Includes” note under this code. Should seldom be used but is available for use in cases such as this.
1. **Malignant neoplasm without specification of site**
   - Code C81.1, Malignant (primary) neoplasm, unspecified, equates to Cancer, unspecified. This code should not be used when no determination can be made as to the primary site of a malignancy. This code should rarely be used in the inpatient setting.
   - Patient has primary colon cancer with metastasis to rib and is evaluated for possible excision of portion of rib bone, C79.51 Secondary malignant neoplasm of bone
   - Patient with pancreatic cancer in own for initiation of FPN for cancer-related moderate protein-calorie malnutrition

2. **Sequence of neoplasm codes**
   - If the reason for the encounter is for treatment of a primary malignancy, assign the malignancy as the principal/listed diagnosis. The primary site is to be sequenced first, followed by any metastatic sites.
   - If the reason for the encounter is for treatment of a secondary malignancy, assign the malignancy as the principal/listed diagnosis. The primary site is to be sequenced first, followed by any metastatic sites.
   - Patient has primary colon cancer with metastasis to rib and is evaluated for possible excision of portion of rib bone, C79.51 Secondary malignant neoplasm of bone
   - Patient has primary breast cancer, C50.9 Breast cancer

3. **Malignant neoplasm in a pregnant patient**
   - When a pregnant woman has a malignant neoplasm, a code from subcategory C81.1, Malignant neoplasm complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium, should be sequenced first, followed by the appropriate code(s) from Chapter 2 to indicate the type of malignancy.
   - A 38-year-old pregnant female in second trimester evaluated for thyroid malignancy
   - Patient with pancreatic cancer in own for initiation of FPN for cancer-related moderate protein-calorie malnutrition

4. **Encounter for complication associated with a neoplasm**
   - When an encounter is for management of a complication associated with a neoplasm, such as dehydration, and the treatment is only for the complication, the complication is coded first, followed by the appropriate code(s) for the neoplasm.
   - Evaluation of painful hip leads to diagnosis of a metastatic bone lesion from an unknown primary neoplasm source
   - The exception to this guideline is anemia. When the admission/encounter is for management of an anemia associated with the malignancy, and the treatment is only for anemia, the appropriate code(s) for anemia is designated as the principal/listed diagnosis. The primary site is to be sequenced first, followed by any metastatic sites.
   - Patient with pancreatic cancer in own for initiation of FPN for cancer-related moderate protein-calorie malnutrition

5. **Complication from surgical procedure for treatment of a neoplasm**
   - When an encounter is for treatment of a complication resulting from a surgical procedure performed for the treatment of the neoplasm, designate the complication as the principal/listed diagnosis. See the guidance for the coding of a current malignancy versus a personal history of malignancy.
   - Pathological fracture from a neoplasm
   - Pathological fracture in neoplastic disease, should be sequenced first, followed by the code for the neoplasm.
   - Pathological fracture due to a neoplasm
   - Pathological fracture due to a neoplasm, should be sequenced first, followed by a code from M84.5 for the pathological fracture.

6. **Current malignancy versus personal history of malignancy**
   - When a primary malignancy has been excised but further treatment, such as an additional surgery for the malignancy, radiation therapy or chemotherapy is directed to that site, the primary malignancy code should be used until treatment is completed.
   - When a primary malignancy has been previously excised or eradicated from its site, there is no further treatment (of the malignancy) directed to that site, and there is no evidence of any existing primary malignancy, a code from category Z85, Personal history of malignant neoplasm, should be used to indicate the former site of the malignancy.

7. **Leukemia, multiple myeloma, and malignant plasma cell neoplasms in remission versus personal history**
   - The categories for leukemia, and category C91. Multiple myeloma and malignant plasma cell neoplasms, have codes indicating whether or not the leukemia has achieved remission. There are also codes Z63.6, Personal history of leukemia, and Z63.7, Personal history of other malignant neoplasms of lymphoid, hematopoietic and related tissues. If the documentation is unclear as to whether the leukemia has achieved remission, the provider should be queried.
   - Female patient with ongoing chemotherapy after right mastectomy for breast cancer
   - Female patient with ongoing chemotherapy after right mastectomy for breast cancer

8. **Aftercare following surgery for neoplasm**
   - See Section L.2.1, Factors influencing health status and contact with health services, Follow-up care, for completed treatment of a malignancy
   - Male patient with ongoing chemotherapy after right mastectomy for breast cancer

9. **Follow-up care for completed treatment of malignancy**
   - See Section L.2.1, Factors influencing health status and contact with health services, Follow-up care
   - Prophylactic organ removal for prevention of malignancy

10. **Malignant neoplasm associated with transplanted organ**
    - A malignant neoplasm of a transplanted organ should be coded as a transplant complication. Assign first the appropriate code from category T86.2, Complications of transplanted organs and tissue, followed by code C81.2, Malignant neoplasm associated with transplanted organ. Use an additional code for the specific malignancy.
Chapter 3. Diseases of the Blood and Blood-forming Organs

Guidelines and Examples

Chapter 3. Diseases of the Blood and Blood-forming Organs and Certain Disorders Involving the Immune Mechanism (D50–D89)

Chapter Specific Coding Guidelines and Examples
Reserved for future guideline expansion
Diabetes mellitus

The diabetes mellitus codes are combination codes that include the type of diabetes mellitus, the body system affected, and the complications affecting that body system. As many codes within a particular category as are necessary to describe all of the complications of the disease may be used. They should be sequenced based on the reason for a particular encounter. Assign as many codes from categories E08–E13 as needed to identify all of the associated conditions that the patient has.

1) Type of diabetes

The age of a patient is not the sole determining factor, though most type 1 diabetics develop the condition before reaching puberty. For this reason type 1 diabetes mellitus is also referred to as juvenile diabetes.

A 65-year-old patient is diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.

E10.9 Type 1 diabetes mellitus without complications

Explanation: Although most type 1 diabetics are diagnosed in childhood or adolescence, it can also begin in adults.

2) Type of diabetes mellitus not documented

If the type of diabetes mellitus is not documented in the medical record the default is E11.1, type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Office visit lists diabetes and hypertension on patient problem list.

E11.9 Type 2 diabetes mellitus without complications

I19 Essential (primary) hypertension

Explanation: Since the type of diabetes was not documented and no complications were noted, the default code is E11.9.

3) Diabetes mellitus and the use of insulin and oral hypoglycemics

If the documentation in a medical record does not indicate the type of diabetes but does indicate that the patient uses insulin, code E11.1 Type 2 diabetes mellitus, should be assigned. Code Z79.4 Long-term (current) use of insulin, or Z79.84, Long-term (current) use of oral hypoglycemic drugs, should also be assigned to indicate that the patient uses insulin or hypoglycemic drugs. Code Z79.4 should not be assigned if insulin is given temporarily to bring a type 2 patient’s blood sugar under control during an encounter.

Office visit lists chronic diabetes with daily insulin use on patient problem list.

E11.9 Type 2 diabetes mellitus without complications

Z79.4 Long term (current) use of insulin

Explanation: Do not assume that a patient on insulin must have type 1 diabetes. The default for diabetes without further specification defaults to type 2. Add the code for long term use of insulin.

4) Diabetes mellitus in pregnancy and gestational diabetes


Chapter Specific Guidelines with Coding Examples

Chapter 4. Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases

ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting

Assign as many codes from categories E08–E13 as needed to identify all of the associated conditions that the patient has.

Explain the following cases: 1) Underdose of insulin due to insulin pump failure 2) Overdose of insulin due to insulin pump failure

5) Complications due to insulin pump malfunction

(a) Underdose of insulin due to insulin pump failure

An underdose of insulin due to an insulin pump failure should be assigned a code from subcategory T85.6. Mechanical complication of other specified internal and external prosthetic devices, implants and grafts, that specifies the type of pump malfunction, as the principal or first-listed code followed by code T38.3X6, Underserviceing of insulin and oral hypoglycemic (antidiabetic) drugs. Additional codes for the type of diabetes mellitus and any associated complications due to the underserviceing should also be assigned.

A 24-year-old type 1 diabetic male treated in ED for hyperglycemia; insulin pump found to be malfunctioning and underserviceing.

T85.614A Breakdown (mechanical) of insulin pump, initial encounter

T38.3X6A Underserviceing of insulin and oral hypoglycemic (antidiabetic) drugs, initial encounter

E10.65 Type 1 diabetes mellitus with hyperglycemia

Explanation: The complication code for the mechanical breakdown of the pump is sequenced first, followed by the underserviceing code and type of diabetes with complication. Code all other diabetic complication codes necessary to describe the patient’s condition.

(b) Overdose of insulin due to insulin pump failure

The principal or first-listed code for an encounter due to an insulin pump malfunction resulting in an overdose of insulin, should also be T85.6. Mechanical complication of other specified internal and external prosthetic devices, implants and grafts, followed by code T38.3X1, Poisoning by insulin and oral hypoglycemic (antidiabetic) drugs, accidental (unintentional), initial encounter.

A 24-year-old type 1 diabetic male found down with diabetic coma, brought into ED and treated for hyperglycemia; insulin pump found to be malfunctioning and overdosering.

T85.614A Breakdown (mechanical) of insulin pump, initial encounter

T38.3X1A Poisoning by insulin and oral hypoglycemic (antidiabetic) drugs, accidental (unintentional), initial encounter

E10.641 Type 1 diabetes mellitus with hyperglycemia with coma

Explanation: The complication code for the mechanical breakdown of the pump is sequenced first, followed by the poisoning code and type of diabetes with complication. All the characters in the combination code must be used to form a valid code and to fully describe the type of diabetes, the hypoglycemia, and the coma.

6) Secondary diabetes mellitus

Codes under categories E08, Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition, E10, Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus, and E11, Specified diabetes mellitus, identify complications/manifestations associated with secondary diabetes mellitus. Secondary diabetes is always caused by another condition or event eg, cyclophosphamide, malignant neoplasm of pancreas, pancreatitis; adverse effect of drug, or poisoning.

(a) Secondary diabetes mellitus and the use of insulin or oral hypoglycemics

For patients who routinely use insulin or hypoglycemic drugs, code Z79.4 Long-term (current) use of insulin, or Z79.84, Long-term (current) use of oral hypoglycemic drugs, should also be assigned. Code Z79.4 should not be assigned if insulin is given temporarily to bring a patient’s blood sugar under control during an encounter.
### Guidelines and Examples

#### Chapter 4. Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases

**ICD-10-CM 2017**

#### (b) Assigning and sequencing secondary diabetes codes and its causes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E11.9</td>
<td>Type 2 diabetes mellitus without complications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z79.34</td>
<td>Long term (current) use of oral hypoglycemic drugs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Explanation:** Although the patient was given insulin for a short time during his hospital stay, the intent was only to maintain the patient’s glucose levels while off his regular oral hypoglycemic medication, not for long term use. No code is needed for long term use of insulin, but a Z code for long term use of an oral hypoglycemic should be added to identify the chronic use of this drug.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E11.42</td>
<td>Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic polyneuropathy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z79.4</td>
<td>Long term (current) use of insulin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Explanation:** Add the Z code for the long term use of insulin because the insulin is taken chronically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E89.1</td>
<td>Postprocedural hypoinsulinemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E13.9</td>
<td>Other specified diabetes mellitus without complications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z90.411</td>
<td>Acquired partial absence of pancreas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Explanation:** Sequence the postprocedural complication of the hypoinsulinemia due to the partial removal of the pancreas as the first-listed code, followed by the other specified diabetes (NEC) with or without complications and the partial or total acquired absence of the pancreas.

#### (ii) Secondary diabetes due to drugs

Secondary diabetes may be caused by an adverse effect of correctly administered medications, poisoning or sequelae of poisoning.

See section 1.C.18.a for coding of adverse effects and poisoning, and section 1.C.20 for external cause code reporting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E09.9</td>
<td>Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus without complications</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Initial encounter for corticosteroid-induced diabetes mellitus**

**Explanation:** If the diabetes is caused by an adverse effect of a drug, the diabetic condition is coded first. If it occurs from a poisoning or overdose, the poisoning code causing the diabetes is sequenced first.
Chapter 5. Mental, Behavioral and Neurodevelopmental Disorders (F01–F99)

Chapter Specific Guidelines with Coding Examples

The chapter specific guidelines from the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting have been provided below. Along with these guidelines are coding examples, contained in the shaded boxes, that have been developed to help illustrate the coding and for sequencing guidance found in these guidelines.

a. Pain disorders related to psychological factors

Assign code F45.41, for pain that is exclusively related to psychological disorders. As indicated by the Excludes 1 note under category G89, a code from category G89 should not be assigned with code F45.41.

Code F45.42, Pain disorders with related psychological factors, should be used with a code from category G89, Pain, not elsewhere classified, if there is documentation of a psychological component for a patient with acute or chronic pain.

See Section I.C.5, Pain.

b. Mental and behavioral disorders due to psychoactive substance use

1) In remission

Selection of codes for “in remission” for categories F10-F19, Mental and behavioral disorders due to psychoactive substance use (categories F10-F19 with -.21) requires the provider’s clinical judgment. The appropriate codes for “in remission” are assigned only on the basis of provider documentation (as defined in the Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting).

Medical history: Opioid dependence in remission

F11.21 Opioid dependence, in remission

Explanation: The “in remission” codes are assigned when the provider documents the remission.

2) Psychoactive substance use, abuse and dependence

When the provider documentation refers to use, abuse and dependence of the same substance (e.g. alcohol, opioid, cannabis, etc.), only one code should be assigned to identify the pattern of use based on the following hierarchy:

• If both use and abuse are documented, assign only the code for abuse
• If both abuse and dependence are documented, assign only the code for dependence
• If use, abuse and dependence are all documented, assign only the code for dependence

History and physical notes cannabis dependence; progress note says cannabis abuse

F12.28 Cannabis dependence, uncomplicated

Explanation: In the hierarchy, the dependence code is used if both abuse and dependence are documented.

Discharge summary says cocaine abuse; progress notes list cocaine use

F14.10 Cocaine abuse, uncomplicated

Explanation: In the hierarchy, the abuse code is used if both abuse and use are documented.

3) Psychoactive substance use

As with all other diagnoses, the codes for psychoactive substance use (F10.9-, F11.9-, F12.9-, F14.9-, F15.9-, F16.9-) should only be assigned based on provider documentation and when they meet the definition of a reportable diagnosis (see Section II, Reporting Additional Diagnoses). The codes are to be used only when the psychoactive substance use is associated with a mental or behavioral disorder, and such a relationship is documented by the provider.

ED reports that a 27-year-old female tripped and broke her right ankle. Her friends reported that they were drinking and dancing at a nightclub.

S82.891A Other fracture of right lower leg, initial encounter for closed fracture

W01.0XXA Fall on same level from slipping, tripping and stumbling, without subsequent striking against object, initial encounter

Y93.252 Music hall as the place of occurrence of the external cause

Y93.41 Activity, dancing

Explanation: Note that no code was added for alcohol use or abuse. Unless it is specifically associated with a diagnosis by provider documentation and meets the definition of a reportable diagnosis, it is not assigned. However, if the documentation from the provider stated: “The patient tripped, fell and fractured her right ankle while dancing due to her elevated blood alcohol, consistent with her ongoing alcohol abuse,” the following code would be added:

F10.10 Alcohol abuse, uncomplicated
Chapter Specific Guidelines with Coding Examples

The chapter specific guidelines from the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting have been provided below. Along with these guidelines are coding examples, contained in the shaded boxes, that have been developed to help illustrate the coding and for sequencing guidance found in these guidelines.

1. Dominant/nondominant side

Codes from category G81, Hemiplegia and hemiparesis, and subcategories G81.1, Monoplegia of lower limb, G81.2, Monoplegia of upper limb, and G81.3, Monoplegia, unspecified, identify whether the dominant or nondominant side is affected. Should the affected side be documented, but not specified as dominant or nondominant, and the classification system does not indicate a default, code selection is as follows:

- For ambidextrous patients, the default should be dominant.
- If the left side is affected, the default is non-dominant.
- If the right side is affected, the default is dominant.

2. Pain—Category G89

Codes in category G89, Pain, not elsewhere classified, may be used in conjunction with codes from other categories and chapters to provide more detail about acute or chronic pain and neoplasm-related pain, unless otherwise indicated below.

- When pain is not specified as acute or chronic, post-thoracotomy, posttraumatic, or neoplasm-related, do not assign codes from category G89.

A code from category G89 should not be assigned if the underlying (definitive) diagnosis is known, unless the reason for the encounter is pain control/management and not management of the underlying condition.

When an admission or encounter is for a procedure aimed at treating the underlying condition and a neurostimulator is inserted for pain control during the same admission/encounter, a code for the underlying condition should be assigned as the principal diagnosis and the appropriate pain code should be assigned as a secondary diagnosis.

(b) Use of category G89 codes in conjunction with site specific pain codes

(1) Assigning category G89 and site-specific pain codes

Codes from category G89 may be used in conjunction with codes that identify the site of pain (including codes from chapter 18) if the category G89 code provides additional information. For example, if the code describes the site of the pain, but does not fully describe whether the pain is acute or chronic, then both codes should be assigned.

Patient is seen to evaluate chronic left shoulder pain.

M25.512 Pain in left shoulder

G89.29 Other chronic pain

Explanation: No underlying condition has been determined yet so the pain would be the reason for the visit. The M25 code in this instance does not fully describe the condition as it does not represent that the pain is chronic. The G89 chronic pain code is assigned to provide specificity.

(2) Sequencing of category G89 codes with site-specific pain codes

The sequencing of category G89 codes with site-specific pain codes (including chapter 18 codes), is dependent on the circumstances of the encounter/admission as follows:

- If the encounter is for pain control/management, assign the code from category G89 followed by the code identifying the specific site of pain.
- If the encounter is for any other circumstances of the encounter/admission, assign the code from category G89.

Patient presents for a steroid injection for control of pain of chronic right knee due to degenerative joint disease.

G89.29 Other chronic pain

M17.11 Unilateral primary osteoarthritis, right knee

Explanation: Since the encounter is for control of pain, not treating the underlying condition, the pain code is sequenced first followed by the underlying condition. The M21 pain code is not necessary as the underlying condition code represents the specific site.

- When a patient is admitted for the insertion of a neurostimulator for pain control, assign the appropriate pain code as the principal or first-listed diagnosis. When an admission or encounter is for a procedure aimed at treating the underlying condition and a neurostimulator is inserted for pain control during the same admission/encounter, a code for the underlying condition should be assigned as the principal diagnosis and the appropriate pain code should be assigned as a secondary diagnosis.

### Management of acute, traumatic right knee pain

G89.11 Acute pain due to trauma

M25.514 Pain in right knee

Explanation: The reason for the encounter is to manage or control the pain, not to treat or evaluate an underlying condition. The G89 pain code is assigned as the principal diagnosis but in this instance does not fully describe the condition as it does not include the site and laterality. The M25 code is added to provide this information.

- If the encounter is for any other reason except pain control or pain management, and a related definitive diagnosis has not been established (confirmed) by the provider, assign the code for the specific site of pain first, followed by the appropriate code from category G89.
2) Pain due to devices, implants and grafts
See Section I.C.19. Pain due to medical devices

3) Postoperative Pain
The provider’s documentation should be used to guide the coding of postoperative pain, as well as Section III. Reporting Additional Diagnoses and Section IV. Diagnostic Coding and Reporting in the Outpatient Setting. The default for post-thoracotomy and other postoperative pain not specified as acute or chronic is the code for the acute form.

Routine or expected postoperative pain immediately after surgery should not be coded.

(a) Postoperative pain not associated with specific postoperative complication
Postoperative pain not associated with a specific postoperative complication is assigned to the appropriate postoperative pain code in category G89.

(b) Postoperative pain associated with specific postoperative complication
Postoperative pain associated with a specific postoperative complication (such as pain and wound onset) is assigned to the appropriate code(s) found in Chapter 19. Injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes. If appropriate, use additional code(s) from category G89 to identify acute or chronic pain (G89.18 or G89.28).

4) Chronic pain
Chronic pain is classified to subcategory G89.2. There is no time frame defining when pain becomes chronic pain. The provider’s documentation should be used to guide use of these codes.

5) Neoplasm related pain
Code G89.3 is assigned to pain documented as being related, associated or due to cancer, primary or secondary malignancy, or tumor. This code is assigned regardless of whether the pain is acute or chronic. This code may be assigned as the principal or first-listed code when the stated reason for the admission/encounter is documented as pain control/pain management. The underlying neoplasm should be reported as an additional diagnosis.

(a) Neoplasm related pain (acute)(chronic)
G89.3 Neoplasm related pain (acute)(chronic)

Explanation: Since the encounter was for pain medication management, the pain, rather than the neoplasm, was the reason for the encounter and is sequenced first. This “neoplasm-related pain” code includes both acute and chronic pain.

When the reason for the admission/encounter is management of the neoplasm and the pain associated with the neoplasm is also documented, code G89.3 may be assigned as an additional diagnosis. It is not necessary to assign an additional code for the site of the pain. See Section I.C.2 for instructions on the sequencing of neoplasms for all other stated reasons for the admission/encounter (except for pain control/pain management).

5) Neoplasm related pain
Code G89.3 is assigned to pain documented as being related, associated or due to cancer, primary or secondary malignancy, or tumor. This code is assigned regardless of whether the pain is acute or chronic. This code may be assigned as the principal or first-listed code when the stated reason for the admission/encounter is documented as pain control/pain management. The underlying neoplasm should be reported as an additional diagnosis.

(a) Neoplasm related pain (acute)(chronic)
G89.3 Neoplasm related pain (acute)(chronic)

Explanation: Since the encounter was for pain medication management, the pain, rather than the neoplasm, was the reason for the encounter and is sequenced first. This “neoplasm-related pain” code includes both acute and chronic pain.

Pain medication adjustment for chronic pain from bone metastasis
G09.3 Neoplasm related pain (acute)(chronic)

Explanation: When acute or chronic is not documented, default to acute. The use of “unexpected, extreme” and the increase of medication dosage indicate that the pain was more than routine or expected.

Patient with lung cancer presents with acute hip pain and is evaluated and found to have iliac bone metastasis
C79.51 Secondary malignant neoplasm of bone
C34.90 Malignant neoplasm of unspecified part of unspecified bronchus or lung
G09.3 Neoplasm related pain (acute)(chronic)

Explanation: The reason for the encounter was the evaluation and diagnosis of the bone metastasis, whose code would be assigned as first-listed, followed by codes for the primary neoplasm and the pain due to the iliac bone metastasis.

6) Chronic pain syndrome
Central pain syndrome (G89.8) and chronic pain syndrome (G89.4) are different than the term “chronic pain,” and therefore codes should only be used when the provider has specifically documented this condition. See Section I.C.5. Pain disorders related to psychological factors
Chapter Specific Guidelines with Coding Examples

Chapter 7. Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa


Chapter 7. Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa (H00–H59)

Chapter Specific Guidelines with Coding Examples

The chapter specific guidelines from the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting have been provided below. Along with these guidelines are coding examples, contained in the shaded boxes, that have been developed to help illustrate the coding and for sequencing guidance found in these guidelines.

a. Glaucoma

1) Assigning glaucoma codes

Assign as many codes from category H40. Glaucoma, as needed, to identify the type of glaucoma, the affected eye, and the glaucoma stage.

2) Bilateral glaucoma with same type and stage

When a patient has bilateral glaucoma and both eyes are documented as being the same type and stage, and there is a code for bilateral glaucoma, report only the code for the type of glaucoma, bilateral, with the seventh character for the stage.

Bilateral severe stage pigmentary glaucoma

H40.1333 Pigmentary glaucoma, bilateral, severe stage

Explanation: In this scenario, the patient has the same type and stage of glaucoma in both eyes. As this type of glaucoma has a code for bilateral, assign only the code for the bilateral glaucoma with the seventh character for the stage.

When a patient has bilateral glaucoma and both eyes are documented as being the same type and stage, and the classification does not provide a code for bilateral glaucoma, report only the code for the type of glaucoma, bilateral, with the seventh character for the stage.

Bilateral open-angle glaucoma, not specified as to type and stage indeterminate in both eyes

H40.18X4 Unspecified open-angle glaucoma, indeterminate stage

Explanation: In this scenario, the patient has glaucoma of the same type and stage of both eyes, but there is no code specifically for bilateral glaucoma. Only one code is assigned with the appropriate seventh character for the stage.

3) Bilateral glaucoma stage with different types or stages

When a patient has bilateral glaucoma and each eye is documented as having a different type or stage, and the classification distinguishes laterality, assign the appropriate code for each eye rather than the code for bilateral glaucoma.

Bilateral chronic angle-closure glaucoma; right eye is documented as mild stage and left eye as moderate stage

H40.2211 Chronic angle-closure glaucoma, right eye, mild stage

H40.2222 Chronic angle-closure glaucoma, left eye, moderate stage

Explanation: In this scenario the patient has the same type of glaucoma in both eyes, but each eye is at a different stage. Because the subcategory for this condition identifies laterality, one code is assigned for the right eye and one code is assigned for the left eye, each with the appropriate seventh character for the stage appended.

When a patient has bilateral glaucoma and each eye is documented as having a different type, and the classification does not distinguish laterality (i.e. subcategories H40.10, H40.11 and H40.20), assign one code for each type of glaucoma with the appropriate seventh character for the stage.

Bilateral open-angle glaucoma, not specified as to type; the right eye is documented to be in mild stage and the left eye as being in moderate stage

H40.10X2 Unspecified open-angle glaucoma, mild stage

H40.10X1 Unspecified open-angle glaucoma, moderate stage

Explanation: In this scenario the patient has the same type of glaucoma in each eye but each eye is at a different stage, and the classification does not distinguish laterality. A code for each type of glaucoma is assigned, each with the appropriate seventh character for the stage.

When a patient has bilateral glaucoma and each eye is documented as having the same type, but different stage, and the classification does not distinguish laterality (i.e. subcategories H40.10, H40.11 and H40.20), assign a code for the type of glaucoma for each eye with the seventh character for the specific glaucoma stage documented for each eye.

Bilateral open-angle glaucoma, not specified as to type; the right eye is documented to be in mild stage and the left eye as being in moderate stage

H40.18X1 Unspecified open-angle glaucoma, mild stage

H40.18X2 Unspecified open-angle glaucoma, moderate stage

Explanation: In this scenario the patient has the same type of glaucoma in each eye but each eye is at a different stage, and the classification does not distinguish laterality at this subcategory level. Two codes are assigned; both codes represent the same type of glaucoma but each has a different seventh character identifying the appropriate stage for each eye.

4) Patient admitted with glaucoma and stage evolves during the admission

If a patient is admitted with glaucoma and the stage progresses during the admission, assign the code for highest stage documented.

Patient admitted with mild low-tension glaucoma of the right eye, which progresses to moderate stage during the patient's stay

H40.1212 Low-tension glaucoma, right eye, moderate stage

Explanation: When the glaucoma stage progresses during an admission, assign only the code for the highest stage documented.

5) Indeterminate stage glaucoma

Assignment of the seventh character “4” for “indeterminate stage” should be based on the clinical documentation. The seventh character “4” is used for glaucomas whose stage cannot be clinically determined. This seventh character should not be confused with the seventh character “4”, unspecified, which should be assigned when there is no documentation regarding the stage of the glaucoma.
Chapter 8. Diseases of the Ear and Mastoid Process (H60–H95)

Chapter Specific Coding Guidelines and Examples
Reserved for future guideline expansion.
Chapter 9. Diseases of the Circulatory System

Chapter Specific Guidelines with Coding Examples

The chapter specific guidelines from the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting have been provided below. Along with these guidelines, are coding examples, contained in the shaded boxes, that have been developed to help illustrate the coding and for sequencing guidance found in these guidelines.

a. Hypertension

The classification presumes a causal relationship between hypertension and heart involvement and between hypertension and kidney involvement, as the two conditions are linked by the term “with” in the Alphabetic Index. These conditions should be coded as related even in the absence of provider documentation explicitly linking them, unless the documentation clearly states the conditions are unrelated.

For hypertension and conditions not specifically linked by relational terms such as “with,” “associated with” or “due to,” in the classification, provider documentation must link the conditions in order to code them as related.

1) Hypertension with heart disease

Hypertension with heart conditions classified to I00- or I14.1-I51.8, are assigned to a code from category I11, Hypertensive heart disease. Use an additional code from category I58. Heart failure, to identify the type of heart failure in those patients with heart failure.

The same heart conditions (I50.0, I14.1-I51.9) with hypertension are coded separately if the provider has specifically documented a different cause. Sequence according to the circumstances of the admission/encounter.

Patient is admitted in left heart failure. Patient also has a history of hypertension managed by medication.

I11.0 Hypertensive heart disease with heart failure

I50.1 Left ventricular failure

Explanation: Without a diagnostic statement to the contrary, hypertension and heart failure have an assumed causal relationship, and a combination code should be used. Additional code to identify the type of heart failure (I50.1) should also be provided.

2) Hypertensive chronic kidney disease

Assign codes from category I12, Hypertensive chronic kidney disease, when both hypertension and a condition classifiable to category III, Chronic kidney disease (CKD), are present. CKD should not be coded as hypertensive if the physician has specifically documented a different cause.

The appropriate code from category III8 should be used as a secondary code with a code from category I12 to identify the stage of chronic kidney disease.


If a patient has hypertensive chronic kidney disease and acute renal failure, an additional code for the acute renal failure is required.

Patient is admitted with stage IV chronic kidney disease (CKD). The patient also has documented hypertension secondary to primary hyperparathyroidism.

I18.4 Chronic kidney disease, stage 4 (severe)

I10 Essential (primary) hypertension

E21.0 Primary hyperparathyroidism

Explanation: A combination code describing a relationship between hypertension and CKD is not used due to the physician documentation identifying the primary hyperparathyroidism as the cause for the hypertension.

3) Hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease

Assign codes from combination category I11, Hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease, when there is hypertension with both heart and kidney involvement. If heart failure is present, assign an additional code from category I58 to identify the type of heart failure.

The appropriate code from category III8, Chronic kidney disease, should be used as a secondary code with a code from category I13 to identify the stage of chronic kidney disease.


The codes in category I13, Hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease, are combination codes that include hypertension, heart disease and chronic kidney disease. The includes note at I13 specifies that the conditions included at I11 and I12 are included together in I13. If a patient has hypertension, heart disease and chronic kidney disease, then a code from I11 should be used, not individual codes for hypertension, heart disease and chronic kidney disease.

For patients with both acute renal failure and chronic kidney disease, an additional code for acute renal failure is required.

Hypertensive heart disease with congestive heart failure and stage 2 chronic kidney disease

I13.0 Hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease with heart failure and stage 1 through stage 4 chronic kidney disease, or unspecified chronic kidney disease

I58.9 Heart failure, unspecified

N18.2 Chronic kidney disease, stage 2 (mild)

Explanation: Combination codes in category I13 are used to report conditions classifiable to both categories I11 and I12. Do not report conditions classifiable to I11 and I12 separately. Use additional codes to report type of heart failure and stage of CKD.

4) Hypertensive cerebrovascular disease

For hypertensive cerebrovascular disease, first assign the appropriate code from categories I66-169, followed by the appropriate hypertension code.

Rupture of cerebral aneurysm caused by malignant hypertension

I66.8 Other nontraumatic subarachnoid hemorrhage

I10 Essential (primary) hypertension

Explanation: Hypertensive cerebrovascular disease requires two codes: the appropriate I66-169 code followed by the appropriate hypertension code.

5) Hypertensive retinopathy

Subcategory H35.0, Background retinopathy and retinal vascular changes, is used to include the retinal involvement of the hypertensive disease to include the systemic hypertension. The sequencing is based on the reason for the encounter.

Hypertensive retinopathy of the right eye

H35.031 Hypertensive retinopathy, right eye

I10 Essential (primary) hypertension

Explanation: Hypertensive retinopathy requires two codes: the appropriate subcategory H35.0 code and a code for the hypertension.

6) Hypertension, secondary

Secondary hypertension is due to an underlying condition. Two codes are required: one to identify the underlying etiology and one from category I15 to identify the hypertension. Sequencing of codes is determined by the reason for admission/encounter.

Renovascular hypertension due to renal artery athroclerosis

I15.0 Renovascular hypertension

I70.1 Atherosclerosis of renal artery

Explanation: Secondary hypertension requires two codes: a code to identify the etiology and the appropriate I15 code.

7) Hypertension, transient

Assign code I86.3B, Elevated blood pressure reading without diagnosis of hypertension, unless patient has an established diagnosis of hypertension. Assign code O13.3, Gestational (pregnancy-induced) hypertension without significant proteinuria, or O14.5, Pre-eclampsia, for transient hypertension of pregnancy.

8) Hypertension, controlled

This diagnostic statement usually refers to an existing state of hypertension under control by therapy. Assign the appropriate code from categories I18.0-115, Hypertensive diseases.

9) Hypertension, uncontrolled

Uncontrolled hypertension may refer to untreated hypertension or hypertension not responding to current therapeutic regimen. In either
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case, assign the appropriate code from categories I18.8-18.13, Hypertensive diseases.

10) Hypertensive Crisis

Assign a code from category I16, Hypertensive crisis, for documented hypertensive urgency, hypertensive emergency or unspecified hypertensive crisis. Code also any identified hypertensive disease (I18.15). The sequencing is based on the reason for the encounter.

b. Atherosclerotic coronary artery disease and angina

ICD-10-CM has combination codes for atherosclerotic heart disease with angina pectoris. The subcategories for these codes are I25.11, Atherosclerotic heart disease of native coronary artery with angina pectoris and I25.7, Atherosclerosis of coronary artery bypass graft(s) and coronary artery of transplanted heart with angina pectoris.

When using one of these combination codes it is not necessary to use an additional code for angina pectoris. The code assumed in a patient with both atherosclerosis and angina pectoris, unless the documentation indicates the angina is due to something other than the atherosclerosis.

If a patient with coronary artery disease is admitted due to an acute myocardial infarction (AMI), the AMI should be sequenced before the coronary artery disease.

See Section I.C.9 Acute myocardial infarction (AMI)

Patient is being seen for specific angina pectoris. She also has a documented history of progressive coronary artery disease of the native vessels.

I25.111 Atherosclerotic heart disease of native coronary artery with angina pectoris with documented spasm

Explanation: Report the combination code for atherosclerotic heart disease (coronary artery disease with angina pectoris). A causal relationship is assumed in a patient with both atherosclerosis and angina pectoris, unless the documentation indicates the angina is due to something other than the atherosclerosis. When using one of these combination codes, it is not necessary to use an additional code for angina pectoris.

Proper code assignment depends on whether it was an infarction or hemorrhage and whether it occurred intraoperatively or postoperatively. If it was a cerebral hemorrhage, code assignment depends on the type of procedure performed.

Embolic cerebral infarction of the right middle cerebral artery that occurred during hip replacement surgery. The surgery documented as due to the surgery.

I67.81 Intraoperative cerebrovascular infarction during other surgery

I63.411 Cerebral infarction due to embolism of right middle cerebral artery

Explanation: Code assignment for intraoperative or postprocedural cerebrovascular accident is based on the provider’s documentation of a causal and effect relationship between the medical intervention and the cerebrovascular accident in order to assign a code for intraoperative or postoperative cerebrovascular accident.

Proper code assignment depends on whether it was an infarction or hemorrhage and whether it occurred intraoperatively or postoperatively. If it was a cerebral hemorrhage, code assignment depends on the type of procedure performed.

4. Sequela of cerebrovascular disease

1) Category I69, Sequelae of cerebrovascular disease

Category I69 is used to indicate conditions classifiable to categories I68.9-87 as the causes of sequelae (neurologic deficits), themselves classified elsewhere. These “late effects” include neurologic deficits that persist after initial onset of conditions classifiable to categories I68.9-87. The neurologic deficits caused by cerebrovascular disease may be present from the onset or may arise at any time after the onset of the condition classifiable to categories I68.9-87.

Codes from category I69, Sequelae of cerebrovascular disease, that specify hemiplegia, hemiparesis and monoplegia identify whether the dominant or non-dominant side is affected. Should the affected side be documented, but not specified as dominant or non-dominant, the classification system does not indicate a default, code selection is as follows:

- For ambidextrous patients, the default should be dominant.

- If the left side is affected, the default is non-dominant.

- If the right side is affected, the default is dominant.

2) Codes from category I69 with codes from I25.3

Codes from category I69 may be assigned on a health care record with codes from I68.8-87. If the patient has a current cerebrovascular disease and deficits from an old cerebrovascular disease.

3) Codes from category I69 and personal history of transient ischemic attack (TIA) and cerebrovascular infarction (Z8A.73)

Codes from category I69 should not be assigned if the patient does not have neurologic deficit.

See Section I.C.7.4 History (of) for use of personal history codes

e. Acute myocardial infarction (AMI)

1) ST elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) and non ST elevation myocardial infarction (NSTEMI)

The ICD-10-CM codes for acute myocardial infarction (AMI) identify the site, such as anterolateral wall or true posterior wall. Subcategories I21.4 and I21.3 are used for ST elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI). Code I21.4, Non-ST elevation (NSTEMI) myocardial infarction, is used for non ST elevation myocardial infarction (NSTEMI) and nontransmural MIs.

If NSTEMI evolves to STEMl due to thrombolytic therapy, it is still coded as STEMl.

Acute inferior (STEMI) evolved from STEMI

I21.19 ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction involving other coronary artery of inferior wall

Explanation: If an NSTEMI evolves to a STEMl, report only the STEMI code.

For encounters occurring while the myocardial infarction is equal to, or less than, four weeks old, including transfers to another acute setting or a postacute setting, and the myocardial infarction meets the definition for “other diagnoses” (see Section III, Reporting Additional Diagnoses), codes from category I21 may continue to be reported. For encounters after the 4 week time frame the patient is still receiving care related to the myocardial infarction, the appropriate aftercare code should be assigned, rather than a code from category I21. For old or healed myocardial infarctions not requiring further care, code I25.3, Old myocardial infarction, may be assigned.

2) Acute myocardial infarction, unspecified

Code I21.1, ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of unspecified site, is the default for unspecified acute myocardial infarction. If only STEMl or transmural MI without the site is documented, assign code I21.3.

3) AMI documented as nontransmural or subendocardial but site provided

If an AMI is documented as nontransmural or subendocardial, but the site is provided, it is still coded as a subendocardial AMI.

See Section I.C.21.3 for information on coding status post administration of tPA in a different facility within the last 24 hours.

Acute inferior subendocardial myocardial infarction (NSTEMI)

I21.4 Non-ST elevation (NSTEMI) myocardial infarction

Explanation: An AMI documented as subendocardial or nontransmural is coded as such (I21.4, I21.2, I21.3), even if the site of infarction is specified.

4) Subsequent acute myocardial infarction

A code from category I22, Subsequent ST elevation (STEMI) and non ST elevation (NSTEMI) myocardial infarction, is to be used when a patient who has an AMI has a new AMI within the 4 week time frame of the initial AMI. A code from category I22 must be used in conjunction with a code from category I21. The sequencing of the I22 and I21 codes depends on the circumstances of the encounter.

Acute inferior STEMl status post acute NSTEMI two weeks ago

I22.1 Subsequent ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of inferior wall

I21.4 Non-ST elevation (NSTEMI) myocardial infarction

Explanation: A code from category I22, Subsequent ST elevation (STEMI) and non ST elevation (NSTEMI) myocardial infarction, is to be used when a patient who has suffered an AMI has a new AMI within the four weeks of the initial one. Category I22 is never reported alone. The guidelines for assigning the correct I22 code are the same as those for reporting the initial MI (I21). Sequencing is determined by the circumstances of the encounter.
Chapter 10. Diseases of the Respiratory System

Chapter Specific Guidelines with Coding Examples

The chapter specific guidelines from the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting have been provided below. Along with these guidelines, are coding examples, contained in the shaded boxes, that have been developed to help illustrate the coding and for sequencing guidance found in these guidelines.

a. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma

1) Acute exacerbation of chronic obstructive bronchitis and asthma

The codes in categories J44 and J45 distinguish between uncomplicated cases and those in acute exacerbation. An acute exacerbation is a worsening or a decompensation of a chronic condition. An acute exacerbation is not equivalent to an infection superimposed on a chronic condition, though an exacerbation may be triggered by an infection.

Exacerbation of moderate persistent asthma with status asthmaticus J44.42

Exacerbation: Category J44 Asthma includes severity-specific subcategories and fifth-character codes to distinguish between uncomplicated cases, those in acute exacerbation, and those with status asthmaticus.

b. Acute respiratory failure

1) Acute respiratory failure as principal diagnosis

A code from subcategory J96.0, Acute respiratory failure, or subcategory J96.2, Acute and chronic respiratory failure, may be assigned as a principal diagnosis when it is the condition established after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning the admission to the hospital, and the selection is supported by the Alphabetic Index and Tabular List. However, chapter-specific coding guidelines (such as poisoning, hypoxia or hypercapnia) that designate the severity and the presence of hypoxia and hypercapnia, such as J96.01, Acute respiratory failure with hypoxia, or J96.21, Acute and chronic respiratory failure, with hypoxia, should be assigned in these situations.

Acute respiratory failure due to accidental oxycodone overdose J42.2 Acute pulmonary edema due to streptococcus

J96.01 Acute respiratory failure with hypoxia

Exacerbation: Chapter J96 classifies respiratory failure with combination codes that designate the severity and the presence of hypoxia and hypercapnia. Code J96.01 is sequenced as the first-listed diagnosis, as the reason for the admission. Respiratory failure may be assigned as a principal diagnosis when it is the condition established after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning the admission to the hospital and the selection is supported by the Alphabetic Index and Tabular List.

2) Acute respiratory failure as secondary diagnosis

Respiratory failure may be listed as a secondary diagnosis if it occurs after admission, or if it is present on admission but does not meet the definition of principal diagnosis.

Acute respiratory failure due to accidental oxycodone overdose T40.2XA Poisoning by other opioids, accidental (unintentional), initial encounter

J96.00 Acute respiratory failure, unspecified whether with hypoxia or hypercapnia

Explanations: Respiratory failure may be assigned as a principal diagnosis when it is the condition established after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning the admission to the hospital, and the selection is supported by the Alphabetic Index and Tabular List. However, chapter-specific coding guidelines, such as poisoning, that provide sequencing direction take precedence. When coding a poisoning or reaction to the improper use of a medication (e.g. overdose, wrong substance given or taken in error, wrong route of administration), first assign the appropriate code from categories T36–T58. Use additional code(s) for all manifestations of the poisoning. In this instance, the respiratory failure is a manifestation of the poisoning and is sequenced as a secondary diagnosis.

Acute pneumococcal pneumonia with subsequent development of acute respiratory failure J13 Pneumonia due to Streptococcus pneumoniae

J96.00 Acute respiratory failure, unspecified whether with hypoxia or hypercapnia

Explanations: Acute respiratory failure may be listed as a secondary diagnosis if it occurs after admission, or if it is present on admission but does not meet the definition of principal diagnosis.

Acute pneumococcal pneumonia and acute respiratory failure, both present on admission J51.00 Acute pneumococcal pneumonia and acute respiratory failure, both present on admission

J96.00 Acute respiratory failure, unspecified whether with hypoxia or hypercapnia

J13 Pneumonia due to Streptococcus pneumoniae

Explanations: When a patient is admitted with respiratory failure and another acute condition, such as a bacterial pneumonia, the principal diagnosis will not be the same in every situation. This applies whether the other acute condition is a respiratory or nonrespiratory condition. Selection of the principal diagnosis will be dependent on the circumstances of admission. If both the respiratory failure and the other acute condition are equally responsible for occasioning the admission to the hospital, and there are no chapter-specific sequencing rules, the guideline regarding two or more diagnoses that equally meet the definition for principal diagnosis (Section II, C.) may be applied in these situations.

If the documentation is not clear as to whether acute respiratory failure and another condition are equally responsible for occasioning the admission, query the provider for clarification.

Acute pneumococcal pneumonia and acute respiratory failure, both present on admission J51.00 Acute pneumococcal pneumonia and acute respiratory failure, both present on admission

J96.00 Acute respiratory failure, unspecified whether with hypoxia or hypercapnia

J13 Pneumonia due to Streptococcus pneumoniae

Explanations: When a patient is admitted with respiratory failure and another acute condition, such as a bacterial pneumonia, the principal diagnosis will not be the same in every situation. This applies whether the other acute condition is a respiratory or nonrespiratory condition. The principal diagnosis depends on the circumstances of admission.

C. Influenza due to certain identified influenza viruses

Code only confirmed cases of influenza due to certain identified influenza viruses (category J80), and due to other identified influenza virus (category J89). This is an exception to the hospital inpatient guideline Section II, H. (Uncertain Diagnosis).

In this context, “confirmation” does not require documentation of positive laboratory testing specific for avian or other novel influenza A or other identified influenza virus. However, coding should be based on the provider’s diagnostic statement that the patient has avian influenza, or other novel influenza A, or category J89, or has another particular identified strain of influenza, such as H1N1 or H3N2, but not identified as novel or variant, for category J88.

Acute respiratory failure due to novel influenza A (H1N1) J96.00 Acute respiratory failure, unspecified whether with hypoxia or hypercapnia

Explanations: When a patient is admitted with respiratory failure and another acute condition, such as a bacterial pneumonia, the principal diagnosis will not be the same in every situation. This applies whether the other acute condition is a respiratory or nonrespiratory condition. The principal diagnosis depends on the circumstances of admission.

Acute respiratory failure due to accidental oxycodone overdose T40.2XA Poisoning by other opioids, accidental (unintentional), initial encounter

J96.00 Acute respiratory failure, unspecified whether with hypoxia or hypercapnia

Explanations: Respiratory failure may be assigned as a principal diagnosis when it is the condition established after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning the admission to the hospital, and the selection is supported by the Alphabetic Index and Tabular List. However, chapter-specific coding guidelines, such as poisoning, that provide sequencing direction take precedence. When coding a poisoning or reaction to the improper use of a medication (e.g. overdose, wrong substance given or taken in error, wrong route of administration), first assign the appropriate code from categories T36–T58. Use additional code(s) for all manifestations of the poisoning. In this instance, the respiratory failure is a manifestation of the poisoning and is sequenced as a secondary diagnosis.

Acute pneumococcal pneumonia with subsequent development of acute respiratory failure J13 Pneumonia due to Streptococcus pneumoniae

J96.00 Acute respiratory failure, unspecified whether with hypoxia or hypercapnia

Explanations: Acute respiratory failure may be listed as a secondary diagnosis if it occurs after admission, or if it is present on admission but does not meet the definition of principal diagnosis.

Acute pneumococcal pneumonia and acute respiratory failure, both present on admission J51.00 Acute pneumococcal pneumonia and acute respiratory failure, both present on admission

J96.00 Acute respiratory failure, unspecified whether with hypoxia or hypercapnia

J13 Pneumonia due to Streptococcus pneumoniae

Explanations: When a patient is admitted with respiratory failure and another acute condition, such as a bacterial pneumonia, the principal diagnosis will not be the same in every situation. This applies whether the other acute condition is a respiratory or nonrespiratory condition. The principal diagnosis depends on the circumstances of admission.

C. Influenza due to certain identified influenza viruses

Code only confirmed cases of influenza due to certain identified influenza viruses (category J80), and due to other identified influenza virus (category J89). This is an exception to the hospital inpatient guideline Section II, H. (Uncertain Diagnosis).

In this context, “confirmation” does not require documentation of positive laboratory testing specific for avian or other novel influenza A or other identified influenza virus. However, coding should be based on the provider’s diagnostic statement that the patient has avian influenza, or other novel influenza A, or category J89, or has another particular identified strain of influenza, such as H1N1 or H3N2, but not identified as novel or variant, for category J88.

Acute respiratory failure due to novel influenza A (H1N1) J96.00 Acute respiratory failure, unspecified whether with hypoxia or hypercapnia

Explanations: When a patient is admitted with respiratory failure and another acute condition, such as a bacterial pneumonia, the principal diagnosis will not be the same in every situation. This applies whether the other acute condition is a respiratory or nonrespiratory condition. The principal diagnosis depends on the circumstances of admission.
If the provider records “suspected” or “possible” or “probable”avian influenza, or novel influenza, or other identified influenza, then the appropriate influenza code from category J11, Influenza due to unidentified influenza virus, should be assigned. A code from category J10, Influenza due to certain identified influenza viruses, should not be assigned nor should a code from category J18, Influenza due to other identified influenza virus.

Influenza due to avian influenza virus with pneumonia
J09.31 Influenza due to identified novel influenza A virus with pneumonia

Explanation: Codes in category J09 Influenza due to certain identified influenza viruses should be assigned only for confirmed cases. “Confirmation” does not require positive laboratory testing of a specific influenza virus but does need to be based on the provider’s diagnostic statement, which should not include terms such as “possible,” “probable,” or “suspected.”

4. Ventilator associated pneumonia

1) Documentation of ventilator associated pneumonia

As with all procedural or postprocedural complications, code assignment is based on the provider’s documentation of the relationship between the condition and the procedure.

Code J95.851, Ventilator associated pneumonia, should be assigned only when the provider has documented ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP). An additional code to identify the organism (e.g., Pseudomonas aeruginosa, code B96.5) should also be assigned. Do not assign an additional code from categories J12-J18 to identify the type of pneumonia.

Code J95.851 should not be assigned for cases where the patient has pneumonia and is on a mechanical ventilator and the provider has not specifically stated that the pneumonia is ventilator associated pneumonia. If the documentation is unclear as to whether the patient has a pneumonia that is a complication attributable to the mechanical ventilator, query the provider.

2) Ventilator associated pneumonia develops after admission

A patient may be admitted with one type of pneumonia (e.g., code J13, Pneumonia due to Streptococcus pneumoniae) and subsequently develop VAP. In this instance, the principal diagnosis would be the appropriate code from categories J12-J18 for the pneumonia diagnosed at the time of admission. Code J95.851, Ventilator associated pneumonia, would be assigned as an additional diagnosis when the provider has also documented the presence of ventilator associated pneumonia.

Patient with pneumonia due to Avian influenza virus with pneumonia
J09.X1

Patient with pneumonia due to identified novel influenza A virus with pneumonia

Influenza due to avian influenza virus with pneumonia
J09.31

Influenza due to identified novel influenza A virus with pneumonia
J09.31

Patient with pneumonia due to Klebsiella pneumoniae develops superimposed MRSA ventilator-associated pneumonia

J15.0 Pneumonia due to Klebsiella pneumoniae

J95.851 Ventilator associated pneumonia

B95.62 Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus infection as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere

Explanation: Code assignment for ventilator-associated pneumonia is based on the provider’s documentation of the relationship between the condition and the procedure and is reported only when the provider has documented ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP).

A patient may be admitted with one type of pneumonia and subsequently develop VAP. In this example, the principal diagnosis code describes the pneumonia diagnosed at the time of admission, with code J95.851 Ventilator associated pneumonia, assigned as secondary.
Chapter 11. Diseases of the Digestive System (K00–K95)

Chapter Specific Coding Guidelines and Examples
Reserved for future guideline expansion.
Chapter 12. Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue

Guidelines and Examples

Chapter 12. Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue

12. Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Guidelines and Examples

Chapter Specific Guidelines with Coding Examples

The chapter specific guidelines from the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting have been provided below. Along with these guidelines are coding examples, contained in the shaded boxes, that have been developed to help illustrate the coding and/or sequencing guidance found in these guidelines.

a. Pressure ulcer stage codes

1) Pressure ulcer stages

Codes from category L89. Pressure ulcer: Identify the site of the pressure ulcer as well as the stage of the ulcer. The ICD-10-CM classifies pressure ulcer stages based on severity, which is designated by stages 1-4, unspecified stage and unstageable. Assign as many codes from category L89 as needed to identify all the pressure ulcers the patient has, if applicable.

- Stage 4 pressure ulcer: Right heel, 9 × 18 cm that involves the muscle and fascia; stage 2 pressure ulcer of left elbow

L89.014 Pressure ulcer of right heel, stage 4
L89.022 Pressure ulcer of left elbow, stage 2

Explanation: Patient has a right heel pressure ulcer documented as stage 4 and a left elbow pressure ulcer documented as stage 2. Combination codes from category L89 Pressure ulcer: Identify the site of the pressure ulcer as well as the stage. Assign as many codes from category L89 as needed to identify all the pressure ulcers the patient has.

2) Unstageable pressure ulcers

Assignment of the code for unstageable pressure ulcer (L89.–) should be based on the clinical documentation. These codes are used for pressure ulcers whose stage cannot be clinically determined (e.g., the ulcer is covered by eschar or has been treated with a skin or muscle graft) and pressure ulcers that are documented as deep tissue injury but not documented as due to trauma. This code should not be confused with the codes for unspecified stage (L89.–). When there is no documentation regarding the stage of the pressure ulcer, assign the appropriate code for unstageable (L89.–).

- Pressure ulcer of the right lower back documented as unstageable due to the presence of thick eschar covering the ulcer

L89.130 Pressure ulcer of right lower back, unstageable

Explanation: Codes for unstable pressure ulcers are assigned when the stage cannot be clinically determined (e.g., the ulcer is covered by eschar or has been treated with a skin or muscle graft).

3) Documented pressure ulcer stage

Assignment of the pressure ulcer stage code should be guided by clinical documentation of the stage of documentation of the terms found in the Alphabetic Index. For clinical terms describing the stage that are not found in the Alphabetic Index, and there is no documentation of the stage, the provider should be queried.

Left heel pressure ulcer with partial thickness skin loss involving the dermis

L89.622 Pressure ulcer of left heel, stage 2

Explanation: Code assignment for the pressure ulcer stage should be guided by either the clinical documentation of the stage or the documentation of terms found in the Alphabetic Index. The clinical documentation describing the left heel pressure ulcer “partial thickness skin loss involving the dermis” matches the ICD-10-CM index parenthetical description for stage 2 “ablation, blister, partial thickness skin loss involving epidermis and/or dermis.”

4) Patients admitted with pressure ulcers documented as healed

No code is assigned if the documentation states that the pressure ulcer is completely healed.

- Patient receiving follow-up examination of a completely healed pressure ulcer of the foot

Z09 Encounter for follow-up examination after completed treatment for conditions other than malignant neoplasm

Z07.2 Personal history of diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue

Explanation: Assign only codes for the reason the encounter and the personal history of the pressure ulcer. Personal history code Z07.2 includes conditions classifiable to L89–L99 such as pressure ulcer. No code is assigned for a pressure ulcer documented as completely healed.

5) Patients admitted with pressure ulcers documented as healing

Pressure ulcers described as healing should be assigned the appropriate pressure ulcer stage code based on the documentation in the medical record. If the documentation does not provide information about the stage of the healing pressure ulcer, assign the appropriate code for unspecified stage.

- If the documentation is unclear as to whether the patient has a current new pressure ulcer or if the patient is being treated for a healing pressure ulcer, query the provider.

For ulcers that were present on admission but healed at the time of discharge, assign the code for the site and stage of the pressure ulcer at the time of admission.

- Healing stage 2 sacral pressure ulcer, resolved at time of discharge

L89.152 Pressure ulcer of sacral region, stage 2

Explanation: Although completely healed upon discharge, the pressure ulcer required observation and/or treatment and should be coded based on the site and stage upon admission.

6) Patient admitted with pressure ulcer evolving into another stage during the admission

If a patient is admitted with a pressure ulcer at one stage and it progresses to a higher stage, two separate codes should be assigned: one code for the site and stage of the ulcer on admission and a second code for the same ulcer site and the highest stage reported during the stay.

- Stage 3 right hip pressure ulcer worsened during admission to a stage 4

L89.213 Pressure ulcer of right hip, stage 3
L89.214 Pressure ulcer of right hip, stage 4

Explanation: A pressure ulcer that progresses from a lower stage to a higher stage is assigned two codes, one for the documented stage upon admission and one for the documented stage at discharge.
Chapter Specific Guidelines with Coding Examples

The chapter specific guidelines from the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting have been provided below. Along with these guidelines, are coding examples, contained in the shaded boxes, that have been developed to help illustrate the coding and for sequencing guidance found in these guidelines.

a. Site and laterality

Most of the codes within Chapter 13 have site and laterality designations. The site represents the bone, joint or the muscle involved. For some conditions where more than one bone, joint or muscle is usually involved, such as osteoarthritis, there is a multiple sites code available. For categories where no multiple site code is provided and more than one bone, joint or muscle is involved, multiple codes should be used to indicate the different sites involved.

b. Acute traumatic versus chronic or recurrent musculoskeletal conditions

Many musculoskeletal conditions are a result of previous injury or trauma to a site, or are recurrent conditions. Bone, joint or muscle conditions that are the result of a healed injury are usually found in chapter 13. Recurrent bone, joint or muscle conditions are also usually found in chapter 13. Any current acute injury should be coded to the appropriate injury code from chapter 19. Chronic or recurrent conditions should generally be coded with a code from chapter 13. If it is difficult to determine from the documentation in the record which code is best to describe a condition, query the provider.

Acute traumatic bucket handle tear of right medial meniscus

S83.211A Bucket-handle tear of medial meniscus, current injury, right knee, initial encounter

Explanation: Any current, acute injury is not coded in chapter 13. It should instead be coded to the appropriate injury code from chapter 19.

Old bucket handle tear of right medial meniscus

M23.203 Derangement of unspecified medial meniscus due to old tear or injury, right knee

Explanation: Chronic or recurrent conditions should generally be coded with a code from chapter 13.

c. Coding of pathologic fractures

7th character A is for use as long as the patient is receiving active treatment for the fracture. While the patient may be seen by a new or different provider over the course of treatment for a pathologic fracture, assignment of the 7th character is based on whether the patient is undergoing active treatment and not whether the provider is seeing the patient for the first time.

Pathologic fracture of left foot, unknown cause, currently under active treatment by a follow-up provider

M84.475A Pathological fracture, left foot, initial encounter for fracture

Explanation: Seventh character A is for use as long as the patient is receiving active treatment for a pathologic fracture. Examples of active treatment are surgical treatment, emergency department encounter, evaluation, and continuing treatment by the same or a different physician.

The seventh character is based on whether the patient is undergoing active treatment and not whether the provider is seeing the patient for the first time.

7th character D is to be used for encounters after the patient has completed active treatment. The other 7th characters, listed under each subclass in the Tabular List, are to be used for subsequent encounters for routine care of fractures during the healing and recovery phase as well as treatment of problems associated with the healing, such as malunions, nonunions, and sequestra.

The codes under category M80 identify the site of the fracture, not the osteoporosis.

1) Osteoporosis without pathological fracture

Category M81: Osteoporosis without current pathological fracture, is for use for patients with osteoporosis who do not currently have a pathologic fracture due to the osteoporosis, even if they have had a fracture in the past. For patients with a history of osteoporosis fractures, status code Z87.310, Personal history of (healed) osteoporosis fractures, should follow the code from M81.

M81.0 Age-related osteoporosis without current pathological fracture

Z87.310 Personal history of (healed) osteoporosis fracture

Explanation: Category M81 is used for patients with osteoporosis who do not currently have a pathologic fracture due to the osteoporosis. To report a previous (healed) fracture, status code Z87.310, Personal history of (healed) osteoporosis fracture, should follow the code from M81.

2) Osteoporosis with current pathological fracture

Category M80: Osteoporosis with current pathological fracture, is for patients who have a current pathological fracture at the time of an encounter. The codes under M80 identify the site of the fracture. A code from category M80, not a traumatic fracture code, should be used for any patient with known osteoporosis who suffers a fracture, even if the patient had a minor fall or trauma, if that fall or trauma would not usually break a normal, healthy bone.

Disuse osteoporosis with current fracture of right shoulder sustained lifting a grocery bag, initial encounter

M88.811A Other osteoporosis with current pathological fracture, right shoulder, initial encounter for fracture

Explanation: A code from category M80, not a traumatic fracture code, should be used for any patient with known osteoporosis who suffers a fracture, even if the patient had a minor fall or trauma, if that fall or trauma would not usually break a normal, healthy bone.
Muscle/Tendon Table

ICD-10-CM categorizes certain muscles and tendons in the upper and lower extremities by their action (e.g., extension, flexion), their anatomical location (e.g., posterior, anterior), and/or whether they are intrinsic or extrinsic to a certain anatomical area. The Muscle/Tendon Table is provided at the beginning of chapters 13 and 19 as a resource to help users when code selection depends on one or more of these characteristics. Please note that this table is not all-inclusive, and proper code assignment should be based on the provider’s documentation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body Region</th>
<th>Muscle</th>
<th>Extensor Tendon</th>
<th>Flexor Tendon</th>
<th>Other Tendon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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### Chapter 13. Diseases of the Musculoskeletal System and Connective Tissue

#### Guidelines and Examples

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Chapter Specific Guidelines with Coding Examples

The chapter specific guidelines from the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting have been provided below. Along with these guidelines are coding examples, contained in the shaded boxes, that have been developed to help illustrate the coding and/or sequencing guidance found in these guidelines.

a. Chronic kidney disease

1) Stages of chronic kidney disease (CKD)

The ICD-10-CM classifies CKD based on severity. The severity of CKD is designated by stages 1–5. Stage 2, code N18.2, equates to mild CKD; stage 3, code N18.3, equates to moderate CKD; and stage 4, code N18.4, equates to severe CKD. Code N18.6, End stage renal disease (ESRD), is assigned when the provider has documented end-stage renal disease (ESRD).

If both a stage of CKD and ESRD are documented, assign code N18.6 only.

2) Chronic kidney disease and kidney transplant status

Patients who have undergone kidney transplant may still have some form of chronic kidney disease (CKD) because the kidney transplant may not fully restore kidney function. Therefore, the presence of CKD alone does not constitute a transplant complication. Assign the appropriate N18 code for the patient's stage of CKD and code Z94.0, Kidney transplant status.

3) Chronic kidney disease with other conditions

Patients with CKD may also suffer from other serious conditions, most commonly diabetes mellitus and hypertension. The sequencing of the CKD code in relationship to codes for other contributing conditions is based on the conventions in the Tabular List.

Type 1 diabetic chronic kidney disease, stage 2

E10.22 Type 1 diabetes mellitus with diabetic chronic kidney disease

N18.2 Chronic kidney disease, stage 2 (mild)

Explanation: Patients with CKD may also suffer from other serious conditions such as diabetes mellitus. The sequencing of the CKD code in relationship to codes for other contributing conditions is based on the conventions in the Tabular List. Diabetic CKD code E10.22 includes an instructional note to "Use additional code to identify stage of chronic kidney disease (N18.1–N18.6)," thus providing sequencing direction.

Type 1 diabetic chronic kidney disease, stage 2

E10.22 Type 1 diabetes mellitus with diabetic chronic kidney disease

N18.2 Chronic kidney disease, stage 2 (mild)

Explanation: Patients with CKD may also suffer from other serious conditions such as diabetes mellitus. The sequencing of the CKD code in relationship to codes for other contributing conditions is based on the conventions in the Tabular List. Diabetic CKD code E10.22 includes an instructional note to "Use additional code to identify stage of chronic kidney disease (N18.1–N18.6)," thus providing sequencing direction.

Patient with residual chronic kidney disease stage 1 after kidney transplant

N18.1 Chronic kidney disease, stage 1

Z94.0 Kidney transplant status

Explanation: Patients who have undergone kidney transplant may still have some form of chronic kidney disease (CKD) because the kidney transplant may not fully restore kidney function. Therefore, the presence of CKD alone does not constitute a transplant complication. Assign the appropriate N18 code for the patient's stage of CKD and code Z94.0 Kidney transplant status.
Chapter Specific Guidelines with Coding Examples

The chapter specific guidelines from the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting are as follows. All codes that are coding examples, contained in the shaded boxes, that have been developed to help illustrate the coding and for sequencing guidance found in these guidelines.

1) Codes from Chapter 15 and sequencing priority
   a. General rules for obstetric cases
   b. Selection of OB principal or first-listed diagnosis

2) Chapter 15 codes used only on the maternal record
   a. General rules for obstetric cases
   b. Selection of OB principal or first-listed diagnosis

3) Final character for trimester

4) Selection of trimester for inpatient admissions that encompass more than one trimester

5) Unspecified trimester

6) 7th character for fetus identification

b. Selection of OB principal or first-listed diagnosis

1) Routine outpatient prenatal visits
   a. General rules for obstetric cases
   b. Selection of OB principal or first-listed diagnosis

2) Supervision of high-risk pregnancy
   a. General rules for obstetric cases
   b. Selection of OB principal or first-listed diagnosis

Patient admitted at 27 6/7 weeks’ gestation for hemochromatosis from partial placenta previa; three days after admission at 28 1/7 weeks’ gestation, she developed gestational hypertension.

O44.32 Partial placenta previa with hemorrhage, second trimester
O13.3 Gestational (pregnancy induced) hypertension without significant proteinuria, third trimester
Z3A.27 27 weeks gestation of pregnancy

Explanation: The patient presented with hemochromatosis from partial placenta previa while still in her 27th week, which falls within the second trimester. The gestational hypertension did not occur until three days after admission, putting the patient in her 28th week of pregnancy or what is considered to be the third trimester. The weeks of gestation captured by a code from category Z3A should represent only the gestational weeks upon admission.

5) Unspecified trimester

Each category that includes codes for trimester has a code for “unspecified trimester.” The “unspecified trimester” code should rarely be used, such as when the documentation in the record is insufficient to determine the trimester and it is not possible to obtain clarification.

6) 7th character for fetus identification

Where applicable, a 7th character is to be assigned for certain categories (O31, O32, O33.1-O33.6, O35, O36, O40, O41, O46.1, O46.2, O46.4, and O49) to identify the fetus for which the complication codes apply. Assign 7th character “B”:

- For single-gestations
- When the documentation in the record is insufficient to determine the fetus affected and it is not possible to obtain clarification.
- When it is not possible to clinically determine which fetus is affected.

Maternal patient with twin gestations is seen after ultrasound identifies fetus B to be in breech presentation.

O32.1XX2 Maternal care for breech presentation, fetus 2

Explanation: The documentation indicates that although there are two fetuses, only one fetus is determined to be in breech presentation. Whether fetus 2 or fetus B is used, the coder can assign the seventh character of 2 to identify the second fetus as the one in breech.
3) Episodes when no delivery occurs
In episodes when no delivery occurs, the principal diagnosis should correspond to the condition that complicates the pregnancy which necessitated the encounter. Should more than one complication exist, all of which are treated or monitored, any of the complications codes may be sequenced.

4) When a delivery occurs
When an obstetric patient is admitted and delivers during that admission, the condition that prompted the admission should be sequenced as the principal diagnosis. If multiple conditions prompted the admission, sequence the one most related to the delivery as the principal diagnosis. A code for any complication of the delivery should be assigned as an additional diagnosis. In cases of cesarean delivery, if the patient was admitted with a condition that resulted in the performance of a cesarean procedure, that condition should be selected as the principal diagnosis. If the reason for the admission was unrelated to the condition resulting in the cesarean delivery, the condition related to the reason for the admission should be selected as the principal diagnosis.

Maternal patient with diet-controlled gestational diabetes was admitted at 38 weeks’ gestation in obstructed labor due to footling presentation; cesarean performed for the malpresentation
O04.8X8 Obstructed labor due to other malposition and malpresentation, not applicable or unspecified
O24.240 Gestational diabetes mellitus in childbirth, diet controlled
Z3A.38 38 weeks gestation of pregnancy
Z37.0 Single live birth
Explanation: The obstructed labor necessitated the cesarean procedure.

At 39 weeks’ gestation, a maternal patient presents with hemorrhage with coagulation defect; the next day the patient goes into labor and eventually delivers via cesarean section due to arrested active phase of labor.
O04.803 Antepartum hemorrhage with coagulation defect, unspecified, third trimester
O02.1 Secondary uterine inertia
Z3A.39 39 weeks gestation of pregnancy
Z37.0 Single live birth
Explanation: The patient was admitted because of the antepartum hemorrhage with coagulation defect. The arrested active phase, although the reason for the cesarean delivery, did not develop until later into the stay.

5) Outcome of delivery
A code from category Z27. Outcome of delivery, should be included on every maternal record when a delivery has occurred. These codes are not to be used on subsequent records or on the newborn record.

c. Pre-existing conditions versus conditions due to the pregnancy
Certain categories in Chapter 15 distinguish between conditions of the mother that existed prior to pregnancy (pre-existing) and those that are a direct result of pregnancy. When assigning codes from Chapter 15, it is important to assess if a condition was pre-existing prior to pregnancy or developed during or due to the pregnancy in order to assign the correct code. Categories that do not distinguish between pre-existing and pregnancy-related conditions may be used for either. It is unacceptable to use codes specifically for the puerperium with codes complicating pregnancy and childbirth if a condition arises postpartum during the delivery encounter.

d. Pre-existing hypertension in pregnancy
Category O16. Pre-existing hypertension complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium, includes codes for hypertensive heart and hypertensive chronic kidney disease. Major complications of hypertension that includes hypertensive heart disease or hypertensive chronic kidney disease, it is necessary to add a secondary code from the appropriate hypertension category to specify the type of heart failure or chronic kidney disease. See Section I.C.8 Hypertension.

f. HIV infection in pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium
During pregnancy, childbirth or the puerperium, a patient admitted because of an HIV-related illness should receive a principal diagnosis from subcategory O98.7, Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium, followed by the code(s) for the HIV-related illness(es).

A patient is seen for spotting 15 weeks into her pregnancy; the doctors also suspect fetal hydrocephalus. She is admitted with oral thrush
O98.711 Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease complicating pregnancy, first trimester
B20 Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease
B37.0 Candidal stomatitis
Z3A.13 13 weeks gestation of pregnancy
Explanation: Because oral thrush is an HIV-related condition, this patient is now considered to have HIV disease. An obstetrics code indicating that HIV is complicating the pregnancy is coded first, followed by B20 for HIV disease as well as a code for the oral thrush.

h. Long term use of insulin and oral hypoglycemics
Code Z79.84, Long term (current) use of insulin, or code Z79.84, Long term (current) use of oral hypoglycemic drugs, should also be assigned if the diabetes mellitus is being treated with insulin or oral medications. If the patient is treated with both oral medications and insulin, only the code for insulin-controlled should be assigned.

i. Gestational (pregnancy induced) diabetes
Diabetes mellitus in pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium, first, followed by the appropriate diabetes code(s) (E08-E13) from Chapter 4.

A previously asymptomatic HIV patient who is 13 weeks pregnant is admitted with oral thrush
O98.711 Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease complicating pregnancy, first trimester
B20 Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease
B37.0 Candidal stomatitis
Z3A.13 13 weeks gestation of pregnancy
Explanation: Because oral thrush is an HIV-related condition, this patient is now considered to have HIV disease. An obstetrics code indicating that HIV is complicating the pregnancy is coded first, followed by B20 for HIV disease as well as a code for the oral thrush.

j. Diabetes mellitus in pregnancy
Diabetes mellitus is a significant complicating factor in pregnancy. Pregnant women who are diabetic should be assigned a code from category O24. Diabetes mellitus in pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium, first, followed by the appropriate diabetes code(s) (E88-E93) from Chapter 4.

A patient is seen for spotting 15 weeks into her pregnancy; the doctors also suspect fetal hydrocephalus.
O98.711 Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease complicating pregnancy, first trimester
B20 Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease
B37.0 Candidal stomatitis
Z3A.13 13 weeks gestation of pregnancy
Explanation: Because oral thrush is an HIV-related condition, this patient is now considered to have HIV disease. An obstetrics code indicating that HIV is complicating the pregnancy is coded first, followed by B20 for HIV disease as well as a code for the oral thrush.
Chapter 15. Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium

Guidelines and Examples

No other code from category O24, Diabetes mellitus in pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium, should be used with a code from O24.4. The codes under subcategory O24.4 include diet controlled, insulin controlled, and controlled by oral hypoglycemic drugs. If a patient with gestational diabetes is treated with both diet and insulin, only the code for insulin-controlled is required. If a patient with gestational diabetes is treated with both diet and oral hypoglycemic medications, only the code for "controlled by oral hypoglycemic drugs" is required. Code Z79.4, Long-term (current) use of insulin or code Z79.64, Long-term (current) use of oral hypoglycemic drugs, should not be assigned with codes from subcategory O24.4.

An abnormal glucose tolerance in pregnancy is assigned a code from subcategory O98.81, Abnormal glucose complicating pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium.

j. Sepsis and septic shock complicating abortion, pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium

When assigning a chapter 15 code for sepsis complicating abortion, pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium, a code for the specific type of infection should be assigned as an additional diagnosis. If severe sepsis is present, a code from subcategory R65.2, Severe sepsis, and code(s) for associated organ dysfunction(s) should also be assigned as additional diagnoses.

k. Puerperal sepsis

Code O85.0, Puerperal sepsis, should be assigned with a secondary code to identify the causal organism (e.g., for a bacterial infection, assign a code from category A19). Bacterial infection in conditions classified elsewhere. A code from category A48, Streptococcal sepsis, or A41, Other sepsis, should not be used for puerperal sepsis. If applicable, use additional codes to identify severe sepsis (R65.2-) and any associated acute organ dysfunction.

l. Alcohol and tobacco use during pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium

1) Alcohol use during pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium

Codes under subcategory O98.31, Alcohol use complicating pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium, should be assigned for any pregnancy case when a mother uses alcohol during the pregnancy or postpartum. A secondary code from category F18, Alcohol-related disorders, should also be assigned to identify manifestations of the alcohol use.

2) Tobacco use during pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium

Codes under subcategory O98.33, Smoking (tobacco) complicating pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium, should be assigned for any pregnancy case when a mother uses any type of tobacco product during the pregnancy or postpartum. A secondary code from category F17, Nicotine dependence, should also be assigned to identify the type of nicotine dependence.

m. Poisoning, toxic effects, adverse effects and underdosings in a pregnant patient

A code from subcategory O98.2, Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes complicating pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium, should be sequenced first, followed by the appropriate injury, poisoning, toxic effect, adverse effect or underdosage code, and then the additional code(s) that specify the condition caused by the poisoning, toxic effect, adverse effect or underdosage.

See Section I.C.19. Adverse effects, poisoning, underdosings and toxic effects.

Patient admitted with accidental carbon monoxide poisoning from a gas heating unit; the patient is 18 weeks pregnant

O98.212 Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes complicating pregnancy, second trimester

T58.11X5 Toxic effect of carbon monoxide from utility gas, accidental (unintentional), initial encounter

Z3A.18 18 weeks gestation of pregnancy

Explanation: Although the carbon monoxide poisoning is the reason the patient was admitted, a code from the obstetrics chapter must be sequenced first. Chapter 15 codes have sequencing priority over codes from other chapters.

n. Normal delivery, code O80

1) Encounter for full-term uncomplicated delivery

Code O80 should be assigned when a woman is admitted for a full-term normal delivery and delivers a single, healthy infant without any complications antepartum, during the delivery, or postpartum during the delivery episode. Code O80 is always a principal diagnosis. It is not to be used if any other code from chapter 15 is needed to describe a current complication of the antepartum, delivery, or peripartum period. Additional codes from other chapters may be used with code O80 if they are not related to or are in any way complicating the pregnancy.

2) Uncomplicated delivery with resolved antepartum complication

Code O80 may be used if the patient had a complication at some point during the pregnancy, but the complication is not present at the time of the admission for delivery.

Patient presented at 37 weeks gestation and delivers a healthy newborn; patient had abnormal glucose levels in her first trimester, which have since resolved

O06 Encounter for full-term uncomplicated delivery

Z37.0 Single live birth

Explanation: The abnormal glucose levels during the first trimester cannot be coded if they are not affecting the patient’s current pregnancy. Without additional complications associated with the pregnancy, following the delivery, code O80 is appropriate.

3) Outcome of delivery for O80

Z37.0 Single live birth, is the only outcome of delivery code appropriate for use with O80.

o. The peripartum and postpartum periods

1) Peripartum and postpartum periods

The postpartum period begins immediately after delivery and continues for six weeks following delivery. The peripartum period is defined as the last month of pregnancy to five months postpartum.

2) Peripartum and postpartum complication

A peripartum complication is any complication occurring within the six-week period.

3) Pregnancy-related complications after 6-week period

Chapter 15 codes may also be used to describe pregnancy-related complications after the peripartum or postpartum period if the provider documents that a condition is pregnancy-related.

Patient admitted for varicose veins. She had a baby boy three months ago; the varicose veins started to appear one month ago. The doctor attributes the patient's pregnancy as the cause of the varicose veins, which continue to be painful and bother the patient. She is seeking surgical relief.

O87.4 Varicose veins of the lower extremity in the puerperium

Explanation: Although the varicose veins occurred several months after the delivery of the newborn, the doctor attributed the varicose veins to pregnancy and therefore a code from chapter 15 is appropriate.

4) Admission for routine postpartum care following delivery outside hospital

When the mother delivers outside the hospital prior to admission and is admitted for routine postpartum care and no complications are noted, code Z3A.0, Encounter for care and examination of mother immediately after delivery, should be assigned as the principal diagnosis.
5) Pregnancy associated cardiomyopathy

Pregnancy associated cardiomyopathy, code O90.3, is unique in that it may be diagnosed in the third trimester of pregnancy but may continue to progress months after delivery. For this reason, it is referred to as peripartum cardiomyopathy. Code O90.3 is only for use when the cardiomyopathy develops as a result of pregnancy in a woman who did not have pre-existing heart disease.

6. Code O94, Sequelae of complication of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium

1) Code O94

Code O94, Sequelae of complication of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium, is for use in those cases when an initial complication of a pregnancy develops a sequelae requiring care or treatment at a future date.

2) After the initial postpartum period

This code may be used at any time after the initial postpartum period.

3) Sequencing of code O94

This code, like all sequela codes, is to be sequenced following the code describing the sequelae of the complication.

7. Termination of pregnancy and spontaneous abortions

1) Abortion with liveborn fetus

When an attempted termination of pregnancy results in a liveborn fetus, assign code Z33.2, Encounter for elective termination of pregnancy and a code from category Z37, Outcome of Delivery.

2) Retained products of conception following an abortion

Subsequent encounters for retained products of conception following a spontaneous abortion or elective termination of pregnancy are assigned the appropriate code from category O03, Spontaneous abortion, or codes O07.4, Failed attempted termination of pregnancy without complication and Z33.2, Encounter for elective termination of pregnancy. This advice is appropriate even when the patient was discharged previously with a discharge diagnosis of complete abortion.

8. Abuse in a pregnant patient

For suspected or confirmed cases of abuse of a pregnant patient, a code(s) from subcategories O9A.3, Physical abuse complicating pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium, O9A.4, Sexual abuse complicating pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium, and O9A.6, Psychological abuse complicating pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium, should be sequenced first, followed by the appropriate codes (if applicable) to identify any associated current injury due to physical abuse, sexual abuse, and the perpetrator of abuse.

See Section I.C.19. Adult and child abuse, neglect and other maltreatment.

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Patient was seen two days ago for complete spontaneous abortion but returns today for urinary tract infection (UTI) with ultrasound showing retained products of conception O03.38 Urinary tract infection following incomplete spontaneous abortion

Explanation: Although the diagnosis from the patient’s previous stay indicated that the patient had a complete abortion, it is now determined that there were actually retained products of conception (POC). An abortion with retained POC is considered incomplete and in this case resulted in the patient developing a UTI.
Chapter Specific Guidelines with Coding Examples

The chapter specific guidelines from the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting have been provided below. Along with these guidelines are coding examples, contained in the shaded boxes, that have been developed to help illustrate the coding and for sequencing guidance found in these guidelines.

For coding and reporting purposes the perinatal period is defined as before birth through the 28th day following birth. The following guidelines are provided for reporting purposes:

a. General perinatal rules:

1) Use of Chapter 16 codes

Codes in this chapter are never used for the maternal record. Codes from Chapter 15, the obstetric chapter, are never permitted on the newborn record. Chapter 16 codes may be used throughout the life of the patient if the condition is still present.

2) Principal diagnosis for birth record

When coding the birth episode in a newborn record, assign a code from category Z38. Liveborn infants according to place of birth and type of delivery, as the principal diagnosis. A code from category Z38 is assigned only once, to a newborn at the time of birth. If a newborn is transferred to another institution, a code from category Z38 should not be used at the receiving hospital. A code from category Z38 is used only on the newborn record, not on the mother’s record.

Newborn delivered via vaginal delivery in Rural Hospital A, experienced meconium aspiration resulting in pneumonia. Rural Hospital A is not equipped to handle the extensive respiratory therapy this baby needs and transfers the patient to Metropolis Hospital B, where the pneumonia resolves and the newborn is eventually discharged. Rural Hospital A

Z38.00 Single liveborn infant, delivered vaginally
P24.01 Meconium aspiration with respiratory symptoms
Metropolis Hospital B

Z38.00 Meconium aspiration with respiratory symptoms
Explanation: A code from category Z38 is a one-time use only code. The hospital that actually delivered the newborn, in this case Rural Hospital A, can append a code from category Z38 but for the delivery admission only. Once the patient is transferred or discharged, the Z38 category no longer applies for that patient.

The reason for the transfer to Metropolis Hospital B was for the respiratory symptoms (pneumonia) the newborn was exhibiting secondary to aspirating meconium.

3) Use of codes from other chapters with codes from Chapter 16

Codes from other chapters may be used with codes from chapter 16 if the codes from the other chapters provide more specific detail. Codes for signs and symptoms may be assigned when a definitive diagnosis has not been established. The reason for the encounter is a perinatal condition, the code from chapter 16 should be sequenced first.

4) Use of Chapter 16 codes after the perinatal period

Should a condition originate in the perinatal period, and continue throughout the life of the patient, the perinatal code should continue to be used regardless of the patient’s age.

A 7-year-old patient with history of birth injury that resulted in Erb’s palsy is seen for subcapsular release
P14.0 Erb’s paralysis due to birth injury
Explanation: Although in this instance Erb’s palsy is specifically related to a birth injury, it has not resolved and continues to be a health concern. A perinatal code is appropriate even though this patient is beyond the perinatal period.

5) Birth process or community acquired conditions

If a newborn has a condition that may be either due to the birth process or community acquired and the documentation does not indicate which it is, the default is due to the birth process and the code from Chapter 16 should be used. If the condition is community acquired, a code from Chapter 16 should not be assigned.

6) Code all clinically significant conditions

All clinically significant conditions noted on routine newborn examination should be coded. A condition is clinically significant if it requires:
clinical evaluation; or
therapeutic treatment; or
diagnostic procedures; or
extended length of hospital stay; or
increased nursing care and/or monitoring; or
has implications for future health care needs

Note: The perinatal guidelines listed above are the same as the general coding guidelines for "additional diagnoses," except for the final point regarding implications for future health care needs. Codes should be assigned for conditions that have been specified by the provider as having implications for future health care needs.

b. Observation and evaluation of newborns for suspected conditions not found

1) Assign a code from category Z05. Observation and evaluation of newborns and infants for suspected conditions ruled out, to identify those instances when a healthy newborn is evaluated for a suspected condition that is determined after study not to be present. Do not use a code from category Z05 when the patient has identified signs or symptoms of a suspected problem; in such cases code the sign or symptom.

2) A code from category Z05 may also be assigned as a principal or first-listed code for readmissions or encounters when the code from category Z38 code no longer applies. Codes from category Z05 are for use only for healthy newborns and infants for which no condition after study is found to be present.

3) Z05 on a birth record

A code from category Z05 is to be used as a secondary code after the code from category Z38. Liveborn infants according to place of birth and type of delivery.

Newborn delivered vaginally in Rural Hospital A, previous ultrasound results showed what appeared to be an abnormality of the right kidney. Kidney function tests were performed and ultrasounds taken and any genitourinary conditions ruled out.

Z38.00 Single liveborn infant, delivered vaginally
P25.6 Observation and evaluation of newborn for suspected genitourinary condition ruled out

Explanation: The newborn had no signs or symptoms of kidney or other genitourinary condition but was evaluated after delivery due to the abnormal prenatal ultrasound findings. A 2-digit code describing the type and place of birth should be coded first, followed by a Z05 category code for the work performed to rule out a suspected genitourinary condition.

c. Coding additional perinatal diagnoses

1) Assigning codes for conditions that require treatment

Assign codes for conditions that require treatment or further investigation, prolong the length of stay, or require resource utilization.
Chapter 16. Certain Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period

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2) Codes for conditions specified as having implications for future health care needs

Assign codes for conditions that have been specified by the provider as having implications for future health care needs.

Note: This guideline should not be used for adult patients.

2. Prematurity and fetal growth retardation

Providers utilize different criteria in determining prematurity. A code for prematurity should not be assigned unless it is documented. Assignment of codes in categories P05, Disorders of newborn related to slow fetal growth and fetal malnutrition, and P07, Disorders of newborn related to short gestation and low birth weight, not elsewhere classified, should be based on the recorded birth weight and estimated gestational age. Codes from category P05 should not be assigned with codes from category P07. When both birth weight and gestational age are available, two codes from category P07 should be assigned, with the code for birth weight sequenced before the code for gestational age.

3. Low birth weight and immaturity status

Codes from category P07, Disorders of newborn related to short gestation and low birth weight, not elsewhere classified, are for use for a child or adult who was premature or had a low birth weight as a newborn and this is affecting the patient’s current health status.

See Section I.C.1. Factors influencing health status and contact with health services, Status.

4) Stillbirth

Code P95, Stillbirth, is only for use in institutions that maintain separate records for stillbirths. No other code should be used with P95. Code P95 should not be used on the mother’s record.

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A 35-year-old patient, who weighed 659 grams at birth, is seen for heart disease documented as being a consequence of the low birth weight

I51.9 Heart disease, unspecified

P07.02 Extremely low birth weight newborn, 500–749 grams

Explanation: A code from subcategories P07.0- and P07.1- is appropriate, regardless of the age of the patient, as long as the documentation provides a clear link between the patient’s current illness and the low birth weight.

A full-term infant develops severe sepsis 24 hours after discharge from the hospital and is readmitted; cultures identified E. coli as the infective agent

P36.4 Sepsis of newborn due to Escherichia coli

R85.20 Sepsis without septic shock

Explanation: Even though this newborn was discharged and could have acquired E. coli from his/her external environment, due to the lack of documentation specifying specifically how this pathogen was acquired, the default is to code the E. coli sepsis as congenital. A code from chapter 1, “Certain Infectious and Parasitic Diseases,” is not required because the perinatal sepsis code identifies both the sepsis and the bacteria causing the sepsis.

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An abnormal noise was heard in the left hip of a post-term newborn during a physical examination. The pediatrician would like to follow the patient after discharge as a hip click can be an early sign of hip dysplasia. The newborn was delivered via cesarean at 41 weeks.

Z38.01 Single liveborn infant, delivered by cesarean

P08.21 Post-term newborn

R29.4 Clicking hip

Explanation: The abnormal hip noise or click is appended as a secondary diagnosis not only because it is an abnormal finding upon examination, but also due to its potential to be part of a bigger health issue. The hip dysplasia has not yet been diagnosed and does not warrant a code at this time.

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A 45-year-old patient, who weighed 659 grams at birth, is seen for heart disease documented as being a consequence of the low birth weight

I51.9 Heart disease, unspecified

P07.82 Extremely low birth weight newborn, 500–749 grams

Explanation: A code from subcategories P07.0- and P07.1- is appropriate, regardless of the age of the patient, as long as the documentation provides a clear link between the patient’s current illness and the low birth weight.

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Bacterial sepsis of newborn

Category P36, Bacterial sepsis of newborn, includes congenital sepsis. If a perinate is documented as having sepsis without documentation of congenital or community acquired, the default is congenital and a code from category P36 should be assigned. If the P36 code includes the causal organism, an additional code from category B95, Staphylococcus, Streptococcus, and Enterococcus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere, or B96, Other bacterial agents as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere, should not be assigned. If the P36 code does not include the causal organism, assign an additional code from category B96. If applicable, use additional codes to identify severe sepsis (R65.2-) and any associated acute organ dysfunction.

A full-term infant develops severe sepsis 24 hours after discharge from the hospital and is readmitted; cultures identified E. coli as the infective agent

P36.4 Sepsis of newborn due to Escherichia coli

R85.20 Sepsis without septic shock

Explanation: Even though this newborn was discharged and could have acquired E. coli from his/her external environment, due to the lack of documentation specifying specifically how this pathogen was acquired, the default is to code the E. coli sepsis as congenital. A code from chapter 1, “Certain Infectious and Parasitic Diseases,” is not required because the perinatal sepsis code identifies both the sepsis and the bacteria causing the sepsis.

Bacterial sepsis of newborn

Category P36, Bacterial sepsis of newborn, includes congenital sepsis. If a perinate is documented as having sepsis without documentation of congenital or community acquired, the default is congenital and a code from category P36 should be assigned. If the P36 code includes the causal organism, an additional code from category B95, Staphylococcus, Streptococcus, and Enterococcus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere, or B96, Other bacterial agents as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere, should not be assigned. If the P36 code does not include the causal organism, assign an additional code from category B96. If applicable, use additional codes to identify severe sepsis (R65.2-) and any associated acute organ dysfunction.

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A full-term infant develops severe sepsis 24 hours after discharge from the hospital and is readmitted; cultures identified E. coli as the infective agent

P36.4 Sepsis of newborn due to Escherichia coli

R85.20 Sepsis without septic shock

Explanation: Even though this newborn was discharged and could have acquired E. coli from his/her external environment, due to the lack of documentation specifying specifically how this pathogen was acquired, the default is to code the E. coli sepsis as congenital. A code from chapter 1, “Certain Infectious and Parasitic Diseases,” is not required because the perinatal sepsis code identifies both the sepsis and the bacteria causing the sepsis.

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A 45-year-old patient, who weighed 659 grams at birth, is seen for heart disease documented as being a consequence of the low birth weight

I51.9 Heart disease, unspecified

P07.82 Extremely low birth weight newborn, 500–749 grams

Explanation: A code from subcategories P07.0- and P07.1- is appropriate, regardless of the age of the patient, as long as the documentation provides a clear link between the patient’s current illness and the low birth weight.

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Bacterial sepsis of newborn

Category P36, Bacterial sepsis of newborn, includes congenital sepsis. If a perinate is documented as having sepsis without documentation of congenital or community acquired, the default is congenital and a code from category P36 should be assigned. If the P36 code includes the causal organism, an additional code from category B95, Staphylococcus, Streptococcus, and Enterococcus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere, or B96, Other bacterial agents as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere, should not be assigned. If the P36 code does not include the causal organism, assign an additional code from category B96. If applicable, use additional codes to identify severe sepsis (R65.2-) and any associated acute organ dysfunction.

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A full-term infant develops severe sepsis 24 hours after discharge from the hospital and is readmitted; cultures identified E. coli as the infective agent

P36.4 Sepsis of newborn due to Escherichia coli

R85.20 Sepsis without septic shock

Explanation: Even though this newborn was discharged and could have acquired E. coli from his/her external environment, due to the lack of documentation specifying specifically how this pathogen was acquired, the default is to code the E. coli sepsis as congenital. A code from chapter 1, “Certain Infectious and Parasitic Diseases,” is not required because the perinatal sepsis code identifies both the sepsis and the bacteria causing the sepsis.
Chapter 17. Congenital Malformations, Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities

Chapter Specific Guidelines with Coding Examples

The chapter specific guidelines from the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting have been provided below. Along with these guidelines are coding examples, contained in the shaded boxes, that have been developed to help illustrate the coding and/or sequencing guidance found in these guidelines.

Assign an appropriate code(s) from categories Q00-Q99, Congenital malformations, deformations, and chromosomal abnormalities when a malformation/deformation or chromosomal abnormality is documented. A malformation/deformation or chromosomal abnormality may be the principal/first-listed diagnosis on a record or a secondary diagnosis.

When a malformation/deformation or chromosomal abnormality does not have a unique code assignment, assign additional code(s) for any manifestations that may be present.

When the code assignment specifically identifies the malformation/deformation or chromosomal abnormality, manifestations that are inherent components of the anomaly should not be coded separately.

Additional codes should be assigned for manifestations that are not inherent components.

Codes from Chapter 17 may be used throughout the life of the patient. If a congenital malformation or deformity has been corrected, a personal history code should be used to identify the history of the malformation or deformity.

Although present at birth, malformations may not be identified until later in life. Whenever the condition is diagnosed by the physician, it is appropriate to assign a code from the range Q86–Q90.

Newborn with anencephaly delivered vaginally in hospital

Q00.0 Anencephaly

Explanation: For the birth admission, the appropriate code from category Z38, Liveborn infants, according to place of birth and type of delivery, should be sequenced as the principal diagnosis, followed by any congenital anomaly codes, Q00–Q99.

8-day-old infant with tetralogy of Fallot and pulmonary stenosis

Q21.3 Tetralogy of Fallot

Explanation: Pulmonary stenosis is inherent in the disease process of tetralogy of Fallot. When the code assignment specifically identifies the malformation/deformation or chromosomal abnormality, manifestations that are inherent components of the anomaly should not be coded separately.

7-month-old infant with Down syndrome and common atrioventricular canal

Q90.9 Down syndrome, unspecified

Q21.2 Atrioventricular septal defect

Explanation: While a common atrioventricular canal is often associated with patients with Down syndrome, this manifestation is not an inherent component and may be reported separately. When the code assignment specifically identifies the anomaly, manifestations that are inherent components of the condition should not be coded separately. Additional codes should be assigned for manifestations that are not inherent components.

Three-year-old with history of corrected ventricular septal defect

Z87.74 Personal history of (corrected) congenital malformations of heart and circulatory system

Explanation: If a congenital malformation or deformity has been corrected, a personal history code should be used to identify the history of the malformation or deformity.

Forty-year-old man with headaches diagnosed with congenital arteriovenous malformation by brain scan

Q28.2 Arteriovenous malformation of cerebral vessels

Explanation: Although present at birth, malformations may not be identified until later in life. Whenever the condition is diagnosed by the physician, it is appropriate to assign a code from the range Q86–Q90.

Newborn with anencephaly delivered vaginally in hospital

Z38.00 Single liveborn infant, delivered vaginally

Q00.0 Anencephaly

Explanation: For the birth admission, the appropriate code from category Z38, Liveborn infants, according to place of birth and type of delivery, should be sequenced as the principal diagnosis, followed by any congenital anomaly codes, Q00–Q99.
Chapter Specific Guidelines with Coding Examples

The chapter specific guidelines from the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting have been provided below. Along with these guidelines are coding examples, contained in the shaded boxes, that have been developed to help illustrate the coding and/or sequencing guidance found in these guidelines.

Chapter 18 includes symptoms, signs, abnormal results of clinical or other investigative procedures, and ill-defined conditions regarding which no diagnosis classifiable elsewhere is recorded. Signs and symptoms that point to a specific diagnosis have been assigned to a category in other chapters of the classification.

a. Use of symptom codes

Codes that describe symptoms and signs are acceptable for reporting purposes when a related definitive diagnosis has not been established (confirmed) by the provider.

Abdominal pain of unknown origin
R87.0 Chest pain, unspecified

Explanation: Codes that describe symptoms such as chest pain are acceptable for reporting purposes when the provider has not established (confirmed) a related definitive diagnosis.

b. Use of a symptom code with a definitive diagnosis code

Codes for signs and symptoms may be reported in addition to a related definitive diagnosis when the sign or symptom is not routinely associated with that diagnosis, such as the various signs and symptoms associated with complex syndromes. The definitive diagnosis code should be sequenced before the symptom code.

Systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS)
R07.9 Fracture of vault of skull, initial encounter for closed fracture

Explanation: Codes for signs or symptoms may be reported in addition to a related definitive diagnosis if the sign or symptom is not previously documented.

c. Combination codes that include symptoms

ICD-10-CM contains a number of combination codes that identify both the definitive diagnosis and common symptoms of that diagnosis. When using one of these combination codes, an additional code should not be assigned for the symptom.

Acute gastritis with hemorrhage
E29.81

Explanation: When a combination code identifies both the definitive diagnosis and the symptom, an additional code should not be assigned for the symptom.

d. Repeated falls

Code R29.6, Repeated falls, is for use for encounters when a patient has recently fallen and the reason for the fall is being investigated.

Code Z91.81, History of falling, is for use when a patient has fallen in the past and is at risk for future falls. When appropriate, both codes E29.81 and Z91.81 may be assigned together.

e. Coma scale

The coma scale codes (R42.2) can be used in conjunction with traumatic brain injury codes, acute cerebrovascular disease or sequelae of cerebrovascular disease codes. These codes are primarily for use by trauma registrars, but they may be used in any setting where this information is collected. The coma scale may also be used to assess the status of the central nervous system for either non-trauma conditions, such as monitoring patients in the intensive care unit regardless of medical condition. The coma scale codes should be sequenced after the diagnosis code(s).

These codes, one from each subcategory, are needed to complete the scale. The 7th character indicates when the scale was recorded. The 7th character should match for all three codes.

At a minimum, report the initial score documented on presentation at your facility. This may be a score from the emergency medicine technician (EMT) or in the emergency department. If desired, a facility may choose to capture multiple coma scale scores.

Assign code R40.24, Glasgow coma scale, total score, when only the total score is documented in the medical record and not the individual scores.

f. Functional quadriplegia

Functional quadriplegia (code R53.2) is the lack of ability to use one’s limbs or to ambulate due to extreme debility. It is not associated with neurologic deficit or injury, and code R53.2 should not be used for cases of neurologic quadriplegia. It should only be assigned if functional quadriplegia is specifically documented in the medical record.

g. SIRS due to non-infectious process

The systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS) can develop as a result of certain non-infectious disease processes, such as trauma, malignant neoplasm, or pancreatitis. When SIRS is documented with a noninfectious condition, and no subsequent infection is documented, the code for the underlying condition, such as an injury, should be assigned, followed by code R65.1, Systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS) of non-infectious origin without acute organ dysfunction, or code R65.11, Systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS) of non-infectious origin with acute organ dysfunction. If an associated acute organ dysfunction is documented, the appropriate code(s) for the specific type of organ dysfunction(s) should be assigned in addition to code R65.11. If acute organ dysfunction is documented, but it cannot be determined if the acute organ dysfunction is associated with SIRS or due to another condition (e.g., directly due to the trauma), the provider should be queried.
h. Death NOS

Code R99, Ill-defined and unknown cause of mortality, is only for use in the very limited circumstance when a patient who has already died is brought into an emergency department or other healthcare facility and is pronounced dead upon arrival. It does not represent the discharge disposition of death.

i. NIHSS stroke scale

The NIH stroke scale (NIHSS) codes (R29.7--) can be used in conjunction with acute stroke codes (I63) to identify the patient’s neurological status and the severity of the stroke. The stroke scale codes should be sequenced after the acute stroke diagnosis code(s).

At a minimum, report the initial score documented. If desired, a facility may choose to capture multiple stroke scale scores.

See Section I.B.14. for information concerning the medical record documentation that may be used for assignment of the NIHSS codes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS) due to acute gallstone pancreatitis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K85.10 Biliary acute pancreatitis without necrosis or infection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R65.10 Systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS) of noninfectious origin without acute organ dysfunction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Explanation: When SIRS is documented with a noninfectious condition without subsequent infection documented, the code for the underlying condition such as pancreatitis should be assigned followed by the appropriate code for SIRS of noninfectious origin, either with or without associated organ dysfunction.
Chapter 19. Injury, Poisoning and Certain Other Consequences of External Causes

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Chapter 19. Injury, Poisoning and Certain Other Consequences of External Causes (S00–T88)

Chapter Specific Guidelines with Coding Examples

The chapter specific guidelines from the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting have been provided. Among these guidelines are coding examples, contained in the shaded boxes, that have been developed to help illustrate the coding and/or sequencing guidance found in these guidelines.

a. Application of 7th characters in Chapter 19

Most categories in chapter 19 have a 7th character requirement for each applicable code. Most categories in this chapter have three 7th character values (with the exception of fractures). A, initial encounter, D, subsequent encounter and S, sequela. Categories for traumatic fractures have additional 7th character values. While the patient may be seen by a new or different provider over the course of treatment for an injury, assignment of the 7th character is based on whether the patient is undergoing active treatment and not whether the provider is seeing the patient for the first time.

For complication codes, active treatment refers to treatment for the condition described by the code, even though it may be related to an earlier precipitating problem. For example, code T84.50XA, infection and inflammatory reaction due to unspecified internal joint prosthesis, initial encounter, is used when active treatment is provided for the infection, even though the condition relates to the prosthetic device, implant or graft that was placed at a previous encounter.

7th character “A”, initial encounter is used for each encounter where the patient is receiving active treatment for the condition.

Patient admitted after fall from a skateboard onto the sidewalk, x-rays identify a nondisplaced fracture to the distal pole of the right scaphoid bone. The patient is placed in a cast.

S62.014A Nondisplaced fracture of distal pole of navicular (scaphoid) bone of right wrist, initial encounter for closed fracture

V08.131A Fall from skateboard, initial encounter

Y93.511 Activity, roller skating (inline) and skateboarding

Y99.9 Other external cause status

Explanation: This fracture would be coded with a seventh character A for initial encounter because the patient received x-rays to identify the site of the fracture and treatment was rendered; this would be considered active treatment.

7th character “D” subsequent encounter is used for encounters after the patient has completed active treatment of the condition and is receiving routine care for the condition during the healing or recovery phase.

Patient admitted after fall from a skateboard onto the sidewalk resulted in casting of the right arm. X-rays are taken to evaluate how well the nondisplaced fracture to the distal pole of the right scaphoid bone is healing. The physician feels the fracture is healing appropriately; no adjustments to the cast are made.

S62.014D Nondisplaced fracture of distal pole of navicular (scaphoid) bone of right wrist, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing

V08.131D Fall from skateboard, subsequent encounter

Explanation: This fracture would be coded with a seventh character D for subsequent encounter, whether the same physician who provided the initial cast application or a different physician is now seeing the patient. Although the patient received x-rays, the intent of the x-rays was to assess how the fracture was healing. There was no active treatment rendered and the visit is therefore considered a subsequent encounter.

The aftercare 2 codes should not be used for aftercare for conditions such as injuries or poisonings, where 7th characters are provided to identify subsequent care. For example, for aftercare of an injury, assign the acute injury code with the 7th character “D” subsequent to the injury code.

7th character “D”, sequela, is for use for complications or conditions that arise as a direct result of a condition, such as scar formation after a burn.

The scars are sequelae of the burn. When using 7th character “D”, it is necessary to select the injury code that precipitated the burn and the code for the sequela itself. The “S” is added only to the injury code, not the sequela code. The 7th character “D” identifies the injury responsible for the sequela. The specific type of sequela (e.g. scar) is sequenced first, followed by the injury code.

See Section I.B.10 Sequelae (Late Effects)

Patient with a history of a nondisplaced fracture to the distal pole of the right scaphoid bone due to a fall from a skateboard is admitted for evaluation of arthritis to the right wrist that has developed as a consequence of the traumatic fracture.

M12.531 Traumatic arthropathy, right wrist

S62.014S Nondisplaced fracture of distal pole of navicular (scaphoid) bone of right wrist, sequela

V08.131S Fall from skateboard, sequela

Explanation: The code identifying the specific sequela condition (traumatic arthritis) should be coded first followed by the injury that instigated the development of the sequela (fracture). The scaphoid fracture injury code is given a 7th character S for sequela to represent its role as the inciting injury. The fracture has healed and is not being managed or treated on this admit and therefore is not applicable as a first listed or principal diagnosis. However, it is directly related to the development of the arthritis and should be appended as a secondary code to signify this cause and effect relationship.

b. Coding of injuries

When coding injuries, assign separate codes for each injury unless a combination code is provided, in which case the combination code is assigned. Code T07. Unspecified multiple injuries should not be assigned in the sequent setting unless information for a more specific code is not available. Traumatic injury codes (S00-T14.9) are not to be used for complications or conditions that are coded in a more detailed manner elsewhere.

1) Superficial injuries

Superficial injuries such as abrasions or contusions are not coded when associated with more severe injuries of the same site.

2) Primary injury with damage to nerves/blood vessels

When a primary injury results in minor damage to peripheral nerves or blood vessels, the primary injury is sequenced first with additional code(s) for injuries to nerves and spinal cord (such as category S84), and/or injury to blood vessels (such as category S11), when the primary injury is to the blood vessels or nerves, that injury should be sequenced first.

c. Coding of traumatic fractures

The principles of multiple coding of injuries should be followed in coding fractures. Fractures of specified sites are coded individually by site in accordance with both the provisions within categories S02, S12, S22, S32, S42, S49, S52, S59, S62, S72, S79, S82, S89, S92 and the level of detail furnished by medical record content.
Burn of third degree of right palm, initial encounter

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A fracture not indicated as open or closed should be coded to closed. A fracture not indicated whether displaced or not displaced should be coded to displaced.

More specific guidelines are as follows:

1) Initial vs. subsequent encounter for fractures

Traumatic fractures are coded using the appropriate 7th character for initial encounter (A, B, C) for each encounter where the patient is receiving active treatment for the fracture. The appropriate 7th character for initial encounter should also be assigned for a patient who delayed seeking treatment for the fracture or onset of active care.

Fractures are coded using the appropriate 7th character for subsequent care for encounters after the patient has completed active treatment of the fracture and is receiving routine care for the fracture during the healing or recovery phase.

Care for complications of surgical treatment for fracture repairs during the healing or recovery phase should be coded with the appropriate complication codes.

Care of complications of fractures, such as malunion and nonunion, should be reported with the appropriate 7th character for subsequent care with nonunion (K, M, N) or subsequent care with malunion (P, Q, R).

Malunion/nonunion: The appropriate 7th character for initial encounter should also be assigned for a patient who delayed seeking treatment for the fracture or nonunion.

Female patient fell during a forest hiking excursion almost six months ago and until recently did not feel she needed to seek medical attention for her left ankle pain; x-rays show nonunion of lateral malleolus and surgery has been scheduled

S82.62XA Displaced fracture of lateral malleolus of left fibula, initial encounter for closed fracture

W01.88XA Fall on same level from slipping, tripping and stumbling without subsequent striking against object, initial encounter

Y92.82I Forest place as site of occurrence of the external cause

Y93.91 Activity, walking, marching and hiking

Y99.8 Other external cause status Explanation: A seventh character of A is used for the lateral malleolus nonunion fracture to signify that the fracture is receiving active treatment. The delayed care for the fracture has resulted in a nonunion, but capturing the nonunion in the seventh character is trumped by the provision of active care.

The open fracture designations in the assignment of the 7th character for fractures of the forearm, humerus and lower leg, including ankle, are based on the Gustilo open fracture classification. When the Gustilo classification type is not specified for an open fracture, the 7th character for open fracture type is 1 or it should be assigned (E, H, M, Q).

A code from category M80, not a traumatic fracture code, should be used for any patient with known osteoporosis who suffers a fracture, even if the patient had a minor fall or trauma, if that fall or trauma would not usually break a normal, healthy bone.

See Section I.C.1. Osteoporosis. The aftercare 2 codes should not be used for aftercare for traumatic fractures. For aftercare of a traumatic fracture, assign the acute fracture code with the appropriate 7th character.

2) Multiple fractures sequencing

Multiple fractures are sequenced in accordance with the severity of the fractures.

d. Coding of burns and corrosions

The ICD-10-CM makes a distinction between burns and corrosions. The burn codes are for thermal burns, except sunburns, that come from a heat source, such as a fire or hot sun. The burn codes are also for burns resulting from electricity and radiation. Corrosions are burns due to chemicals. The guidelines are the same for burns and corrosions.

Current burns (T20–T25) are classified by depth, extent and by agent (X codes): Burn are classified by depth as first degree (erythema), second degree (blistering), and third degree (full-thickness involvement). Burns of the eye and internal organs (T04-T12) are classified by site, but not by degree.

1) Sequencing of burn and related condition codes

Sequence the code that reflects the highest degree of burn when more than one burn is present.

a. When the reason for the admission or encounter is for treatment of external multiple burns, sequence first the code that reflects the burn of the highest degree.

b. When a patient has both internal and external burns, the circumstances of admission govern the selection of the principal diagnosis or first-listed diagnosis.

c. When a patient is admitted for burn injuries and other related conditions such as smoke inhalation and/or respiratory failure, the circumstances of admission govern the selection of the principal or first-listed diagnosis.

Patient admitted with minor first-degree burns to multiple sites of her right and left hands as well as severe smoke inhalation. While she was sleeping at home, a candle on her dresser hit the bedroom curtains on fire.

T59.811A Toxic effect of smoke, accidental (unintentional), initial encounter

J78.5 Respiratory conditions due to smoke inhalation

T22.191A Burn of first degree of multiple sites of right wrist and hand, initial encounter

T22.192A Burn of first degree of multiple sites of left wrist and hand, initial encounter

X88.8XXA Exposure to other specified smoke, fire and flames, initial encounter

Y92.883 Bedroom of unspecified non-institutional (private) residence as the place of occurrence of the external cause

Y93.84 Activity, sleeping Explanation: Based on the documentation, the inhalation injury is more severe than the first-degree burns and is sequenced first. The burns to the hands are appended as secondary diagnoses.

2) Burns of the same local site

Clasify burns of the same local site (three-digit category level, T20-T26) but of different degrees to the subcategory identifying the highest degree recorded in the diagnosis.

10-year-old male patient is admitted for third-degree burns of his right palm and second-degree burns of multiple right fingers; right thumb not affected

T22.351A Burn of third degree of right palm, initial encounter Explanation: Although there is a code for second-degree burns of multiple fingers, not including the thumb (T22.131-), this code falls in the same three-digit category that the third-degree burn of the right hand falls under (T22.3). Only the subcategory identifying the highest degree is captured when different burn degrees are classified to a single category.

Patient is admitted with third-degree burns of the scalp as well as second-degree burns to the back of the right hand

T20.35LA Burn of third degree of scalp (any part), initial encounter

T23.261A Burn of second degree of back of right hand, initial encounter Explanation: Since burns to the hand and scalp are classified to different three-digit categories, both burns may be reported as they represent distinct sites.

3) Non-healing burns

Non-healing burns are coded as acute burns. Necrosis of burned skin should be coded as a non-healed burn.

4) Infected burn

For any documented infected burn site, use an additional code for the infection.

5) Assign separate codes for each burn site

When coding burns, assign separate codes for each burn site. Category T30, Burn and corrosion, body region unspecified is extremely vague and should rarely be used.

6) Burns and corrosions classified according to extent of body surface involved

Assign codes from category T31. Burns classified according to extent of body surface involved, or T32, Corrosions classified according to extent of body surface involved.
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body surface involved, when the site of the burn is not specified or when there is a need for additional data. It is advisable to use category T31 as an additional code only when needed for reporting purposes. A provider should include the number of body surface involved when there is mention of a third-degree burn involving 20 percent or more of the body surface.

Categories T31 and T32 are based on the classic “rule of nines” in estimating body surface involved: head and neck are assigned nine percent, each arm nine percent, each leg 18 percent, the anterior trunk 18 percent, posterior trunk 18 percent, and genitalia one percent. Providers may change these percentage assignments where necessary to accommodate infants and children who have proportionally large heads than adults, and patients who have large buttocks, thighs, or abdomen that involve burns.

Patient seen for dressing change after he accidentally spilled acid on himself two days ago. The second-degree burns to his right thigh, covering about 3 percent of his body surface, are healing appropriately.

T34.211D Toxic effect of corrosive acids and acid-like substances, accidental (unintentional), subsequent encounter.

T24.611D Corrosion of second degree of right thigh, subsequent encounter.

T32.0 Corrosions involving less than 10% of body surface.

1) Do not code directly from the Table of Drugs

Do not code directly from the Table of Drugs and Chemicals. Use as many codes as necessary to describe completely all drugs, medicinal or biological substances.

2) Use as many codes as necessary to describe

Use as many codes as necessary to describe completely all drugs, medicinal or biological substances.

3) If the same code would describe the causative agent

If the same code would describe the causative agent for more than one adverse reaction, poisoning, toxic effect or underdosing, assign the code only once.

4) If more than one drug, medicinal or biological substances

If more than one drug, medicinal or biological substances are reported, code each individually unless a combination code is listed in the Table of Drugs and Chemicals. For underdosing, assign the code from categories T36-T50. The poisoning code has an associated intent as the nature of the adverse effect is tachycardia, delirium, gastrointestinal hemorrhaging, vomiting, hypokalemia, hepatic, renal failure, or respiratory failure.

A child presents with respiratory failure.

5) The occurrence of drug toxicity is classified in ICD-10-CM as follows:

When coding an adverse effect of a drug that has been correctly prescribed and properly administered, assign the appropriate code for the nature of the adverse effect followed by the appropriate code for the adverse effect of the drug (T36-T56). The code for the drug should have a fifth character “5” (for example T36.85-). Examples of the nature of an adverse effect are tachycardia, delirium, gastrointestinal hemorrhaging, vomiting, hypokalemia, hepatic, renal failure, or respiratory failure.

6) Sequelae with a late effect code and current burn

The occurrence of sequelae associated with a burn may be assigned on the same record as the current burn. A provider may still exist with sequelae of a healed burn or corrosion.

7) Encounters for treatment of sequelae of burns

Encounters for the treatment of the late-effects of burns or corrosions (i.e., scars or joint contractures) should be coded with a burn or corrosion code with the 7th character “S” for sequelae.

T24.611D Corrosion of second degree of right thigh, subsequent encounter.

Patient seen for stomach pain and jaundice, indicated by laboratory test results. The patient is being seen for management of a current ulcer, initial encounter.

T12.012D Ulcer of the esophagus, initial encounter.

8) Sequelae with a late effect code and current burn

When appropriate, both a code for a current burn or corrosion with 7th character “S” or “5” and a burn or corrosion code with 7th character “5” may be assigned on the same record (when both a current burn and sequelae of an old burn exist). Burns and corrosions do not heal at the same rate and a current burn may still exist with sequelae of a healed burn or corrosion.

T24.611D Corrosion of second degree of right thigh, subsequent encounter.

See Section I.A.18 Sequelae (Late Effects)

a. Adverse effects, poisoning, underdosing and toxic effects

Examples of poisoning include:

(i) Error was made in drug prescription

Errors made in drug prescription or in the administration of the drug by provider, nurse, patient, or other person.

(ii) Overdose of a drug intentionally taken

If an overdose of a drug was intentionally taken or administered and resulted in drug toxicity, it would be coded as a poisoning.

(iii) Nonprescribed drug taken with correctly prescribed and properly administered drug

If a nonprescribed drug or medicinal agent was taken in combination with a correctly prescribed and properly administered drug, any drug toxicity or other reaction resulting from the interaction of the two drugs would be classified as a poisoning.

(iv) Interaction of drug(s) and alcohol

When a reaction results from the interaction of a drug(s) and alcohol, this would be classified as poisoning.

See Section I.C.4, if poisoning is the result of insulin pump malfunctions.

b. Underdosing

Examples of underdosing include:

(i) Dosage error

Errors made in drug prescription or in the administration of the drug by provider, nurse, patient, or other person.

(ii) Underdosing

Errors made in drug prescription or in the administration of the drug by provider, nurse, patient, or other person.

(iii) Overdose of a drug intentionally taken

If an overdose of a drug was intentionally taken or administered and resulted in drug toxicity, it would be coded as a poisoning.

(iv) Nonprescribed drug taken with correctly prescribed and properly administered drug

If a nonprescribed drug or medicinal agent was taken in combination with a correctly prescribed and properly administered drug, any drug toxicity or other reaction resulting from the interaction of the two drugs would be classified as a poisoning.

(v) Interaction of drug(s) and alcohol

When a reaction results from the interaction of a drug(s) and alcohol, this would be classified as poisoning.

See Section I.C.4, if poisoning is the result of insulin pump malfunctions.

(c) Underdosing

Underdosing refers to taking less of a medication than is prescribed by a provider or manufacturer’s instruction. For underdosing, assign the code from categories T36-T50 (fifth or sixth character “6”). The poisoning code has an associated intent as the nature of the adverse effect is tachycardia, delirium, gastrointestinal hemorrhaging, vomiting, hypokalemia, hepatic, renal failure, or respiratory failure.

The patient is being seen for management of a current ulcer, initial encounter.

T12.012D Ulcer of the esophagus, initial encounter.

See Section I.A.18 Sequelae (Late Effects)
Chronic atrial fibrillation
Chronic kidney disease, stage 2 (mild)

...encephalopathy, as confirmed (T74.-). It is coded as suspected if it is documented as suspected.

...not fully restore kidney function. Code T86.1- should be assigned for documented complications of a kidney transplant, such as transplant failure or rejection or other transplant complication. Code T86.1- should not be assigned for post kidney transplant patients who have chronic kidney (CKD) unless a transplant complication such as transplant failure or rejection is documented. If the documentation is unclear as to whether the patient has a complication of the transplant, query the provider.

...complications and rejection of transplanted organs. Two codes are required to fully describe a transplant complication: the appropriate code from category T86 and a secondary code that identifies the complication.

...the patient has prior to the transplant.

...renal transplant status.

...the donor kidney, but who does not have a complication such as failure or rejection, see section LC.14. Chronic kidney disease and kidney transplant status.

...failure or rejection, see section LC.14. Chronic kidney disease and kidney transplant status.

...the breast implant, the complication code is sequenced first. The T code does not describe the site or type of pain, so additional codes may be appended to indicate that the patient is experiencing chronic pain in the breast.

...implant complications

...complications other than kidney

...undergo kidney implant may still have some form of chronic kidney disease (CKD) because the kidney transplant may not fully restore kidney function. Code T86.1- should be assigned for documented complications of a kidney transplant, such as transplant failure or rejection or other transplant complication. Code T86.1- should not be assigned for post kidney transplant patients who have chronic kidney (CKD) unless a transplant complication such as transplant failure or rejection is documented. If the documentation is unclear as to whether the patient has a complication of the transplant, query the provider.

...complications and rejection of transplanted organs. Two codes are required to fully describe a transplant complication: the appropriate code from category T86 and a secondary code that identifies the complication.

...complications for both complications and rejection of the transplanted organs. A transplant complication code is only assigned if the complication affects the function of the transplanted organ. Two codes are required to fully describe a transplant complication: the appropriate code from category T86 and a secondary code that identifies the complication.

...the patient has prior to the transplant.

...renal transplant status.

...the donor kidney, but who does not have a complication such as failure or rejection, see section LC.14. Chronic kidney disease and kidney transplant status.

...the transplant, query the provider.

...complications and rejection of transplanted organs. Two codes are required to fully describe a transplant complication: the appropriate code from category T86 and a secondary code that identifies the complication.

...complications and rejection of the transplanted organs. A transplant complication code is only assigned if the complication affects the function of the transplanted organ. Two codes are required to fully describe a transplant complication: the appropriate code from category T86 and a secondary code that identifies the complication.

...complications and rejection of transplanted organs. Two codes are required to fully describe a transplant complication: the appropriate code from category T86 and a secondary code that identifies the complication.

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**Muscle/Tendon Table**

ICD-10-CM categorizes certain muscles and tendons in the upper and lower extremities by their action (e.g., extension, flexion), their anatomical location (e.g., posterior, anterior), and/or whether they are intrinsic or extrinsic to a certain anatomical area. The Muscle/Tendon Table is provided at the beginning of chapters 13 and 19 as a resource to help users when code selection depends on one or more of these characteristics. Please note that this table is not all-inclusive, and proper code assignment should be based on the provider’s documentation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body Region</th>
<th>Muscle</th>
<th>Extensor Tendon</th>
<th>Flexor Tendon</th>
<th>Other Tendon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shoulder</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotator cuff</td>
<td>Posterior deltoid</td>
<td>Internal rotator</td>
<td>Supraspinatus</td>
<td>Subscapularis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Inferior rotator</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenodesis</td>
<td></td>
<td>Teres major</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Teres minor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Upper arm**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Muscle</th>
<th>Extensor Tendon</th>
<th>Flexor Tendon</th>
<th>Other Tendon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biceps brachii — long head</td>
<td>Brachialis</td>
<td>Flexor carpi radialis</td>
<td>Supinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biceps brachii — short head</td>
<td>Brachialis</td>
<td>Flexor carpi radialis</td>
<td>Supinator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Forearm**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Muscle</th>
<th>Extensor Tendon</th>
<th>Flexor Tendon</th>
<th>Other Tendon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pronator quadratus</td>
<td>Pronator quadratus</td>
<td>Pronator teres</td>
<td>Supinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pronator teres</td>
<td>Pronator teres</td>
<td>Pronator teres</td>
<td>Supinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flexors</td>
<td>Flexor digitorum profundus</td>
<td>Flexor digitorum profundus</td>
<td>Flexor digitorum profundus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flexor digitorum superficialis</td>
<td>Flexor digitorum superficialis</td>
<td>Flexor digitorum superficialis</td>
<td>Flexor digitorum superficialis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flexor carpi radialis</td>
<td>Flexor carpi radialis</td>
<td>Flexor carpi radialis</td>
<td>Flexor carpi radialis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extensor carpi radialis brevis</td>
<td>Extensor carpi radialis brevis</td>
<td>Extensor carpi radialis brevis</td>
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<td>Flexor hallucis brevis</td>
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Chapter 20. External Causes of Morbidity

Guidelines and Examples

Chapter Specific Guidelines with Coding Examples

The chapter specific guidelines from the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting, have been provided below. All of the codes in these guidelines are coding examples, contained in the shaded boxes, that have been developed to help illustrate the coding and for sequencing guidance found in these guidelines.

The external causes of morbidity codes should never be sequenced as the first-listed or principal diagnosis.

External cause codes are intended to provide data for injury research and evaluation of injury prevention strategies. These codes capture how the injury or health condition happened (cause), the intent (unintentional or accidental); or intentional, such as suicide or assault, the place where the event occurred the activity of the patient at the time of the event, and the person’s status (e.g., civilian, military).

There is no national requirement for mandatory ICD-10-CM external cause code reporting. Unless a provider is subject to a state-based external cause code reporting mandate or these codes are required by a particular payer, reporting of ICD-10-CM codes in Chapter 20, External Causes of Morbidity, is not required. In the absence of a mandatory reporting requirement, providers are encouraged to voluntarily report external cause codes, as they provide valuable data for injury research and evaluation of injury prevention strategies.

a. General external cause coding guidelines

1) Used with any code in the range of A00.0–T88.9, Z00–Z99

An external cause code may be used with any code in the range of A00.0–T88.9, Z00–Z99, classification that is a health condition due to an external cause. Though they are most applicable to injuries, they are also valid for use with such things as infections or diseases due to an external source, and other health conditions, such as a heart attack that occurs during strenuous physical activity.

Actinic reticuloid due to tanning bed use

L57.1 Actinic reticuloid

W89.1XA Exposure to tanning bed, initial encounter

Explanation: An external cause code may be used with any code in the range of A00.0–T88.9, Z00–Z99, classifications that describe health conditions due to an external cause. Code W89.1 Exposure to tanning bed requires a seventh character of A to report this initial encounter, with a placeholder X for the fifth and sixth characters.

2) External cause code used for length of treatment

Assign the external cause code, with the appropriate 7th character (initial encounter, subsequent encounter or sequela) for each encounter for which the injury or condition is being treated.

Most categories in chapter 20 have a 7th character requirement for each applicable code. Most categories in this chapter have three 7th character values: A, initial encounter; D, subsequent encounter and S, sequela. While the patient may be seen by a new or different provider over the course of treatment for an injury or condition, assignment of the 7th character for external cause should match the 7th character of the code assigned for the associated injury or condition for the encounter.

3) Use the full range of external cause codes

Use the full range of external cause codes to completely describe the cause, the intent, the place of occurrence, and if applicable, the activity of the patient at the time of the event, and the patient’s status, for all injuries, and other health conditions due to an external cause.

4) Assign as many external cause codes as necessary

Assign as many external cause codes as necessary to fully explain each cause. If only one external code can be recorded, assign the code most related to the principal diagnosis.

5) The selection of the appropriate external cause code

The selection of the appropriate external cause code is guided by the Alphabetic Index of External Causes and by Inclusion and Exclusion notes in the Tabular List.

6) External cause code can never be a principal diagnosis

An external cause code can never be a principal (first-listed) diagnosis.

7) Combination external cause codes

Certain of the external cause codes combination codes that identify sequential events that result in an injury, such as a fall which results in striking against an object. The injury may be due to either event or both.

The combination external cause code used should correspond to the sequence of events regardless of which caused the most serious injury.

Toddler tripped and fell while reaching and stuck his head on a table, sustaining a scalp contusion

S80.83XA Contusion of scalp, initial encounter

W01.19AXA Fall on same level from slipping, tripping and stumbling with subsequent striking against furniture, initial encounter

Explanation: Combination external cause codes identify sequential events that result in an injury, such as a fall resulting in striking against an object. The injury may be due to either event or both.

8) No external cause code needed in certain circumstances

No external cause code from Chapter 20 is needed if the external cause and intent are included in a code from another chapter (e.g. T36.81I–Poisoning by penicillins, accidental (unintentional)).

b. Place of occurrence guideline

Codes from category Y92. Place of occurrence of the external cause, are secondary codes for use after other external cause codes to identify the location of the patient at the time of injury or other condition.

Generally, a place of occurrence code is assigned only once, at the initial encounter for treatment. However, in the rare instance that a new injury occurs during hospitalization, an additional place of occurrence code may be assigned. No 7th characters are used for Y92.

Do not use place of occurrence code Y92.9 if the place is not stated or not applicable.

A farmer was working in his barn and sustained a foot contusion when the horse stepped on his foot

S90.32XA Contusion of left foot, initial encounter

W55.19XA Other contact with horse, initial encounter

Y92.71 Barn as the place of occurrence of the external cause

Explanation: A place-of-occurrence code from category Y92 is assigned at the initial encounter to identify the location of the patient at the time the injury occurred.

A ranch hand who was grooming a horse sustained a foot contusion when the horse stepped on his left foot

S90.32XA Contusion of left foot, initial encounter

W55.19XA Other contact with horse, initial encounter

Y93.11 Activity and grooming and shearing an animal

Explanation: One activity code from category Y93 is assigned at the initial encounter only to describe the activity of the patient at the time the injury occurred.

The activity code is not used only once, at the initial encounter for treatment. Only one code from Y93 should be recorded on a medical record. The activity codes are not applicable to poisonings, adverse effects, readmissions or sequela.

Do not assign Y93.9, Unspecified activity, if the activity is not stated.

A code from category Y93 is appropriate for use with external cause and intent codes if identifying the activity provides additional information about the event.

A ranch hand who was grooming a horse sustained a foot contusion when the horse stepped on his left foot

S90.32XA Contusion of left foot, initial encounter

W55.19XA Other contact with horse, initial encounter

Y93.11 Activity, grooming and shearing an animal

Explanation: One activity code from category Y93 is assigned at the initial encounter only to describe the activity of the patient at the time the injury occurred.

A ranch hand who was grooming a horse sustained a foot contusion when the horse stepped on his left foot

S90.32XA Contusion of left foot, initial encounter

W55.19XA Other contact with horse, initial encounter

Y93.11 Activity, grooming and shearing an animal

Explanation: One activity code from category Y93 is assigned at the initial encounter only to describe the activity of the patient at the time the injury occurred.

A ranch hand who was grooming a horse sustained a foot contusion when the horse stepped on his left foot

S90.32XA Contusion of left foot, initial encounter

W55.19XA Other contact with horse, initial encounter

Y93.11 Activity, grooming and shearing an animal

Explanation: One activity code from category Y93 is assigned at the initial encounter only to describe the activity of the patient at the time the injury occurred.

A ranch hand who was grooming a horse sustained a foot contusion when the horse stepped on his left foot

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Guidelines and Examples

Chapter 20. External Causes of Morbidity

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1. **Sequela (late effects) of external cause guidelines**
   1) **Sequela external cause codes**
      These codes should be used when the injury has been documented.
      A sequela external cause code should never be used with a related current nature of injury code.
   2) **Sequela external cause code with a related current injury**
      A sequela external cause code should never be used with a related current nature of injury code.
   3) **Use of sequela external cause codes for subsequent visits**
      Use a late effect external cause code for subsequent visits when a late effect of the initial injury is being treated. Do not use a late effect external cause code for subsequent visits for follow-up care (e.g., to assess healing, to receive rehabilitative therapy of the injury when no late effect of the injury has been documented.

2. **External cause status**
   A code from category Y39 should not be assigned. Suspected cases should be classified as assaulit.

3. **Code Y38, Terrorism, secondary effects**
   Assign code Y38.9, Terrorism, secondary effects, for conditions occurring subsequent to the terrorist event. This code should not be assigned for conditions that are due to the initial terrorist act.
   It is acceptable to assign code Y38.9 with another code from Y38 if there is an injury due to the terrorist event and an injury that is a subsequent result of the terrorist event.

4. **External cause status**
   A code from category Y99. External cause status, should be assigned whenever any other external cause code is assigned for an encounter, including an Activity code, except for the events noted below. Assign a code from category Y99. External cause status, to indicate the work status of the person at the time the event occurred. The status code indicates whether the event occurred during military activity, whether a non-military person was at work, whether an individual including a student or volunteer was involved in a non-work activity. A code from category Y99, External cause status, should be assigned, when applicable, with other external cause codes, such as transport accidents and falls. The external cause status codes are not applicable to poisonings, adverse events, misadventures or late effects.
   Do not assign a code from category Y99 if no other external cause codes (cause, activity) are applicable for the encounter.

5. **Unknown or undetermined intent guideline**
   If the intent (accident, self-harm, assault) of the cause of an injury or other condition is unknown or unspecified, code the intent as incidental. All transport accident categories assume incidental intent.
   1) **Use of undetermined intent**
      External cause codes for events of undetermined intent are only for use if the documentation in the record specifies that the intent cannot be determined.
Chapter 21. Factors Influencing Health Status and Contact with Health Services

Chapter Specific Guidelines with Coding Examples

The chapter specific guidelines from the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting have been provided below. Along with these guidelines are coding examples, contained in the shaded boxes, that have been developed to help illustrate the coding and/or sequencing guidance found in these guidelines.

Note: The chapter specific guidelines provide additional information about the use of Z codes in any healthcare setting.

a. Use of Z codes in any healthcare setting

Z codes are for use in any healthcare setting. Z codes may be used as either a first-listed (principal diagnosis code in the inpatient setting) or secondary code, depending on the circumstances of the encounter. Certain Z codes may only be used as first-listed or principal diagnosis.

b. Z codes indicate a reason for an encounter

Z codes are procedure codes that accompany a Z code to describe any procedure performed.

c. Categories of Z codes

1) Contact/exposure

Category Z22 indicates contact with, and suspected exposure to, communicable diseases. These codes are for patients who do not show any signs or symptoms of a disease but are suspected to have been exposed to it by close personal contact with an infected individual or are in an area where a disease is epidemic. Category Z27. Other contact with and (suspected) exposures hazardous to health indicates contact with and suspected exposures hazardous to health. Contact/exposure codes may be used as a first-listed code to explain an encounter for testing, or, more commonly, as a secondary code to identify a potential risk.

2) Infections and vaccinations

Code Z22.0 is for encounters for inoculations and vaccinations. It indicates that a patient is being seen to receive a prophylactic inoculation against a disease. Procedure codes are required to identify the actual administration of the injection and the type (or) the immunizations given. Code Z23.0 may be used as a secondary code if the inoculation is given as a routine part of preventive health care, such as a well-baby visit.

3) Status

Status codes indicate that a patient is either a carrier of a disease or has the sequelae or residual of a past disease or condition. This includes such things as the presence of prostatic or mechanical devices resulting from past treatment. A status code is informative, because the status may affect the course of treatment and its outcome. A status code is distinct from a history code. The history code indicates that the patient no longer has the condition.

A status code should not be used with a diagnosis code from one of the body system chapters, if the diagnosis code includes the information provided by the status code. For example, code Z20.1, Heart transplant status, should not be used with a code from subcategory TR6.2, Complications of heart transplant. The status code does not provide additional information. The complication code indicates that the patient is a heart transplant patient.

For encounters for weaning from a mechanical ventilator, assign a code from subcategory J96.1, Chronic respiratory failure, followed by code Z29.11, Dependence on (ventilator) status.

The status Z codes/categories are:

214 Genetic carrier
Genetic carrier status indicates that a person carries a gene, assumes risks for a particular disease, which may be passed to offspring who may develop that disease. The person does not have the disease and is not at risk of developing the disease.

215 Genetic susceptibility to disease
Genetic susceptibility indicates that a person has a gene that increases the risk of that person developing the disease. Codes from category 215 should not be used as principal or first-listed codes. If the patient has the condition to which he/she is susceptible, and that condition is the reason for the encounter, the code for the current condition should be sequenced first. If the patient is being seen for follow-up after completed treatment for this condition, and the condition no longer exists, a follow-up code should be sequenced first, followed by the appropriate personal history and genetic susceptibility codes. If the purpose of the encounter is genetic counseling associated with preventive management, code Z31.1, Encounter for genetic counseling, should be assigned as the first-listed code, followed by a code from category Z21. Additional codes should be assigned for any applicable family or personal history.

216 Resistance to antimicrobial drugs
This code indicates that a patient has a condition that is resistant to antimicrobial drug treatment. Sequence the infection code first.

217 Estrogen receptor status

218 Retained foreign body fragments

219 Hormone sensitivity/malignancy status

221 Asymptomatic HIV infection status
This code indicates that a patient has tested positive for HIV but has manifested no signs or symptoms of the disease.

222 Carrier of infectious disease
Carrier status indicates that a person harbors the specific organism of a disease without manifest symptoms and is capable of transmitting the infection.

223.1 Underwent radiation therapy

233.1 Pregnant state, incidental
This code is a secondary code only for use when the pregnancy is no way complicating the reason for visit. Otherwise, a code from the obstetric chapter is required.

266 Do not resuscitate
This code may be used when it is documented by the provider that a patient is do not resuscitate status at any time during the stay.

267 Blood type

268 Body mass index (BMI)
As with all other secondary diagnosis codes, the BMI codes should be assigned only when the information the code represents is not already provided in a primary code. This category is a non-factor such as height and weight. Use code Z69.0, Body mass index (BMI), for this purpose.

274.01 Bed confinement status

276.82 Awaiting organ transplant status

278 Other specified health status
Code Z27.6, Physical restraint status, may be used when it is documented by the provider that a patient has been put in restraints during the current encounter. Please note that this code should not be reported when it is documented by the provider that a patient is temporarily restrained during a procedure.

279 Long term (current) drug therapy
Codes from this category indicate a patient’s continuous use of a prescribed drug (including such things as aspirin therapy) for a prolonged time.
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the long-term treatment of a condition or for prophylactic use. It is not for use for patients who have addictions to drugs. This subcategory is not for use for medications for detoxification or maintenance programs to prevent withdrawal symptoms in patients with drug dependence (e.g., methadone maintenance for opiate dependence). Assign the appropriate code for the drug dependence.

Assign a code from Z79 if the patient is receiving a medication for an extended period as a prophylactic measure (such as for the prevention of deep vein thrombosis) or as treatment of a chronic condition (such as anticoagulant therapy) that requires a lengthy course of treatment (such as cancer). Do not assign a code from category Z79 for medication being administered for a brief period of time to treat an acute illness or injury (such as a brief course of antibiotics to treat acute bronchitis).

Z88 Allergy status to drugs, medications and biological substances

Except: Z88.9, Allergy status to unspecified drugs, medications and biological substances status.

Z90 Acquired absence of limbs

Z91 Acquired absence of organs, not elsewhere classified

Z92 Status post administration of tPA (rtPA) in a different facility within the last 24 hours prior to admission to a current facility

Assign code Z92.8, Status post administration of tPA (rtPA) in a different facility within the last 24 hours prior to admission to current facility, as a secondary diagnosis when a patient is received by transfer into a facility and documentation indicates they were administered tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) within the last 24 hours prior to admission to the current facility.

This guideline applies even if the patient is still receiving the tPA at the time they are received into the current facility. The appropriate code for the condition for which the tPA was administered (such as cerebrovascular disease or myocardial infection) should be assigned first.

Code Z92.82 is only applicable to the receiving facility record and not to the transferring facility record.

Z93 Artificial opening status

Z94 Transplanted organ and tissue status

Z95 Presence of cardiac and vascular implants and grafts

Z96 Presence of other functional implants

Z97 Presence of other devices

Z98 Other postprocedural states

Assign code Z98.85, Transplanted organ removal status, to indicate that a transplanted organ has been previously removed. This code should not be assigned for the encounter in which the transplanted organ is removed. The complication necessitating removal of the transplant organ should be assigned for that encounter.

See section C.10.9 for information on the coding of organ transplant complications.

Z99 Dependence on enabling machines and devices, not elsewhere classified

Note: Categories Z98-299 and Z92-99 are for use only if there are no complications or malfunctions of the organ or tissue replaced, the amputation site or the equipment on which the patient is dependent.

4) History (df)

There are three types of history codes, personal and family. Personal history codes explain a patient’s past medical condition that no longer exists and is not receiving any treatment, but that has the potential for recurrence, and therefore may require continued monitoring. Family history codes are for use when a patient has a family member(s) who has had a particular disease that causes the patient to be at higher risk of also contracting the disease.

Personal history codes may be used in conjunction with follow-up codes and family history codes may be used in conjunction with screening codes to explain the need for a test or procedure. History codes are also used to explain the reason for the test.

Family history codes may be used in conjunction with follow-up codes.

The patient had no signs or symptoms of any prostate-related illness prior to the screening. The prostate-specific antigen (PSA) screening code is appropriately used as the first-listed code to signify that this was for routine screening. The elevated PSA is reported as a secondary diagnosis to reflect that an abnormal lab value was found as a result of the screening procedure.

Z82 Family history of certain disabilities and chronic diseases (leading to disability)

Z83 Family history of other specific disorders

Z84 Family history of other conditions

Z85 Personal history of malignancy neoplasm

Z86 Personal history of certain other diseases

Z87 Personal history of other diseases and conditions

Z89 Personal history of psychological trauma, not elsewhere classified

Z90 Personal history of self-harm

Z91 Other specified personal risk factors, not elsewhere classified

Except: Z91.83, Wandering in diseases classified elsewhere

Z92 Personal history of drug dependence

Except: Z92.8, Status post administration of tPA (rtPA) in a different facility within the last 24 hours prior to admission to a current facility

5) Screening

Screening is the testing for disease or disease precursors in seemingly well individuals so that early detection and treatment can be provided for those who test positive for the disease (e.g., screening mammogram).

The testing of a person to rule out or confirm a suspected diagnosis because the patient has some sign or symptom is a diagnostic examination, not a screening. In these cases, the sign or symptom is used to explain the reason for the test.

A screening code may be a first-listed code if the reason for the visit is specifically the screening exam. It may also be used as an additional code if the screening is done during an office visit for other health problems. A screening code is not necessary if the screening is inherent to a routine examination, such as a pap smear done during a routine pelvic examination.

Should a condition be discovered during the screening then the code for the condition may be assigned as an additional diagnosis.

Z93 Artificial opening status

Z94 Transplanted organ and tissue status

Z95 Presence of cardiac and vascular implants and grafts

Z96 Presence of other functional implants

Z97 Presence of other devices

Z98 Other postprocedural states

Assign code Z98.85, Transplanted organ removal status, to indicate that a transplanted organ has been previously removed. This code should not be assigned for the encounter in which the transplanted organ is removed. The complication necessitating removal of the transplant organ should be assigned for that encounter.

See section C.10.9 for information on the coding of organ transplant complications.

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Personal history codes may be used in conjunction with follow-up codes and family history codes may be used in conjunction with screening codes to explain the need for a test or procedure. History codes are also used to explain the reason for the test.

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The patient had no signs or symptoms of any prostate-related illness prior to the screening. The prostate-specific antigen (PSA) screening code is appropriately used as the first-listed code to signify that this was for routine screening. The elevated PSA is reported as a secondary diagnosis to reflect that an abnormal lab value was found as a result of the screening procedure.

The Z code indicates that a history/risk exam is planned. A procedure code is required to confirm that the screening was performed.

The screening Z codes/categorizations:

Z91.5 Encounter for screening for malignant neoplasm of prostate

Z90.20 Elevated prostate specific antigen (PSA)

Z97.10 Exploration: The patient had no signs or symptoms of any prostate-related illness prior to coming in for the screening. The screening code is appropriately used as the first-listed code to signify that this was for routine screening. The elevated PSA is reported as a secondary diagnosis to reflect that an abnormal lab value was found as a result of the screening procedure.

4) History (df)

There are three observation Z codes categories. They are for use in very limited circumstances when a person is being observed for a suspected condition that is ruled out. The observation codes are not for use if an injury or illness or any signs or symptoms related to the suspected condition are present. In such cases the diagnosis/symptom code is used with the corresponding external cause code.

The observation codes are to be used as principal diagnosis only. The only exception to this is when the principal diagnosis is required to be a code from category Z38, Liveborn infants according to place of birth and type of delivery. Then a code from category Z05, Encounter for observation and evaluation of newborn for suspected diseases and conditions ruled out, is sequenced after the Z38 code. Additional codes may be used in addition to the observation code but only if they are unrelated to the suspected condition being observed.

Codes from subcategory Z88.7, Encounter for suspected maternal and fetal conditions ruled out, may be either used as a first-listed or as an additional code assignment depending on the case. They are for use in very limited circumstances on a maternal record when an encounter is for a suspected maternal or fetal condition that is ruled out during that
encounter (for example, a maternal or fetal condition may be suspected due to an abnormal test result). These codes should not be used when the condition is confirmed. In these cases, the confirmed condition should be coded. In addition, these codes are not for use if an illness or any signs or symptoms related to the suspected condition or problem are present. In such cases the diagnosis/symptom code is used.

Additional codes may be used in addition to the code from subcategory Z03.7, but only if they are unrelated to the suspected condition being evaluated.

Codes from subcategory Z03.7 may not be used for encounters for antenatal screening of mother. See section I.C.21. Screening.

For encounters for suspected fetal condition that are inconclusive following testing and evaluation, assign the appropriate code from category O31-O36, O40 or O41.

The observation Z code categories:

- Z03 Encounter for medical observation for suspected disease and conditions ruled out
- Z04 Encounter for examination and observation for other reasons except Z06-Z09
- Z05 Encounter for observation and evaluation of newborn for suspected diseases and conditions ruled out

7) Aftercare

Aftercare visit codes cover situations when the initial treatment of a disease has been performed and the patient requires continued care during the healing or recovery phase, or for the long-term consequences of the disease. The aftercare Z code should not be used if treatment is directed at a current, acute disease. The diagnosis code is to be used in these cases. Exceptions to this rule are codes Z25.1; Encounter for antineoplastic radiation therapy, and codes from subcategory Z25.1.1, Encounter for antineoplastic chemotherapy and immunotherapy. These codes are to be first-listed, followed by the diagnosis code when a patient’s encounter is solely to receive radiation therapy, chemotherapy, or immunotherapy for the treatment of a neoplasm. If the reason for the encounter is more than one type of antineoplastic therapy, code Z25.1 and a code from subcategory Z25.1.1 may be assigned together, in which case one of these codes would be reported as a secondary diagnosis.

The aftercare Z codes should also not be used for aftercare for injuries. For aftercare of an injury, assign the acute injury code with the appropriate 7th character for the subsequent encounter.

The aftercare codes are generally first-listed to explain the specific reason for the encounter. An aftercare code may be used as an additional code when some type of aftercare is provided in addition to the reason for admission and no diagnosis code is applicable. An example of this would be the closure of a colostomy during an encounter for treatment of another condition.

Aftercare codes should be used in conjunction with other aftercare codes or diagnosis codes to provide better detail on the specifics of an aftercare encounter visit, unless otherwise directed by the classification. Should a patient receive multiple types of antineoplastic therapy during the same encounter, code Z25.1.1, Encounter for antineoplastic chemotherapy and immunotherapy, may be used together on a record. The sequencing of multiple aftercare codes depends on the circumstances of the encounter.

Certain aftercare Z code categories need a secondary diagnosis code to describe the resolving condition or sequelae. For others, the condition is included in the code title.

Additional Z code aftercare category terms include fitting and adjustment, and attention to artificial openings.

Status Z codes may be used with aftercare Z codes to indicate the nature of the aftercare. For example, code Z25.1.1. Presence of aortocoronary bypass graft, may be used with code Z48.812, Encounter for surgical aftercare following surgery on the circulatory system, to indicate the surgery for which the aftercare is being performed. A status code should not be used when the aftercare code indicates the type of status, such as using Z48.8, Encounter for attention to tracheostomy, with Z09.1, Tracheostomy status.

The aftercare Z code categories:

- Z42 Encounter for plastic and reconstructive surgery following medical procedure or healed injury
- Z43 Encounter for attention to artificial openings
- Z44 Encounter for fitting and adjustment of external prosthetic device
- Z45 Encounter for adjustment and management of implanted device

8) Follow-up

The follow-up code categories are used to explain continuing surveillance following completed treatment of a disease, condition, or injury. They imply that the condition has been fully treated and no longer exists. They should not be continued with aftercare codes, or injury codes with a 7th character for a subsequent encounter, that explain ongoing care of a healing condition or its sequelae. Follow-up codes may be used in conjunction with history codes to provide the full picture of the healed condition and its treatment. The follow-up code is sequenced first, followed by the history code.

A follow-up code may be used to explain multiple visits. Should a condition be found to have recurred on the follow-up visit, then the diagnosis code for the condition should be assigned in place of the follow-up code.

The follow-up Z code categories:

- Z88 Encounter for follow-up examination after completed treatment for malignant neoplasm
- Z89 Encounter for follow-up examination after completed treatment for conditions other than malignant neoplasm
- Z90 Encounter for follow-up examination after completed treatment for conditions other than malignant neoplasm

Follow-up for patient several months after completing a regimen of IV antibiotics for recurrent pneumonia, lungs are clear and pneumonia is resolved.

Z89 Encounter for follow-up examination after completed treatment for conditions other than malignant neoplasm

Follow-up for patient several months after completing a regimen of IV antibiotics for recurrent pneumonia; pneumonia has recurred, and code 287 describes the condition that has now resolved.

J18.9 Pneumonia, unspecified organism

Explanation: Since the follow-up exam for pneumonia determined that the pneumonia was re activated or recurred, code 289 Encounter for follow-up examination after completed treatment for conditions other than malignant neoplasm is not used. Instead the first-listed code describes the pneumonia.

9) Donor

Codes in category Z52. Donors of organs and tissues, are used for living individuals who are donating blood or other body tissue. These codes are only for individuals donating for others, not for self-donations. They are not used to identify cadaveric donations.

10) Counseling

Counseling codes are used when a patient or family member receives assistance in the aftermath of an illness or injury, or when support is required in coping with family or social problems. They are not used in conjunction with a diagnosis code when the counseling component of care is considered integral to standard treatment.

The counseling Z codes/categorics:

- Z36.0 Encounter for general counseling and advice on contraception
- Z31.5 Encounter for genetic counseling
- Z31.6- Encounter for general counseling and advice on abortion
- Z32.2 Encounter for childbirth instruction
- Z32.3 Encounter for childcare instruction
- Z69 Encounter for mental health services for victims and perpetrator of abuse

Counseling related to sexual attitude, behavior and orientation.

7T1 Persons encountering health services for other counseling and medical advice, not elsewhere classified

7T6.81 Expectant mother prebirth pediatrician visit
### Guidelines and Examples

#### Chapter 21. Factors Influencing Health Status and Contact with Health Services

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 21: Factors Influencing Health Status and Contact with Health Services</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>11) Encounters for obstetrical and reproductive services</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See Section I.C.15. Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Puerperium, for further instruction on the use of these codes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>2 codes for pregnancy are for use in those circumstances when none of the problems or complications included in the codes from the Obstetrics chapter exist (a routine prenatal visit or postpartum care). Codes in category Z23.4, Encounter for supervision of normal pregnancy, are always first-listed and are not to be used with any other code from the OB chapter.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Codes in category Z23.4, Weeks of gestation, may be assigned to provide additional information about the pregnancy. Category Z23.4 codes should not be assigned for pregnancies with abortive outcomes (categories O00-O08), elective termination of pregnancy (code Z23.32), nor for postpartum conditions, as category Z24.6 is not applicable to these conditions. The date of the admission should be used to determine weeks of gestation for inpatient admissions that encompass more than one gestational week.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The outcome of delivery, category Z27.3, should be included on all maternal delivery records. It is always a secondary code. Codes in category Z27.3 should not be used on the newborn record.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>2 codes for family planning (contraceptive) or procreative management and counseling should be included on an obstetric record either during the pregnancy or the postpartum stage, if applicable.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Z codes/categories for obstetrical and reproductive services: Z23A Encounter for contraceptive management</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>12) Newborns and infants</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See Section I.C.16. Newborn (Perinatal) Guidelines, for further instruction on the use of these codes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Newborn Z codes/categories: Z26.1 Encounter for routine child health examination</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>13) Routine and administrative examinations</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Z codes allow for the description of encounters for routine examinations, such as, a general check-up, or, examinations for administrative purposes, such as, pre-employment physical. The codes are not to be used if the examination is for diagnosis of a suspected condition or for treatment purposes. In such cases the diagnosis code is used. During a routine exam, should a diagnosis or condition be discovered, it should be coded as an additional code. Pre-existing and chronic conditions and history codes may also be included as additional codes as long as the examination is for administrative purposes and not focused on any particular condition.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Some of the codes for routine health examinations distinguish between &quot;with&quot; and &quot;without&quot; abnormal findings. Code assignment depends on the information that is known at the time the encounter is being coded. For example, if no abnormal findings were found during the examination, but the encounter is being coded before test results are back, it is acceptable to assign the code for &quot;without abnormal findings.&quot; When assigning a code for &quot;with abnormal findings,&quot; additional code(s) should be assigned to identify the specific abnormal finding(s).</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>12-month-old boy admitted for well-child visit; pediatrician notices an abnormal finding (eczema) was documented, a code for this condition may also be appended.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **L08.9 Dermatitis, unspecified** |
| **Explanation: The Z code identifying that this is a routine well-child visit is reported first. Because an abnormal finding (eczema) was documented, a code for this condition may also be appended.** |

| **The Z codes/categories for routine and administrative examinations:** |
| **Z20 Encounter for general examination without complaint, suspected or reported diagnosis** |
| **Z21 Encounter for other special examination without complaint, suspected or reported diagnosis** |
| **Z22 Encounter for administrative examination** |
| **Z23.8 Encounter for pregnancy test** |

### Miscellaneous Z codes

The miscellaneous Z codes capture a number of other health care encounters that do not fall into one of the other categories. Certain of these codes identify the reason for the encounter; others are for use as additional codes that provide useful information on circumstances that may affect a patient’s care and treatment.

**Prophylactic organ removal**

For encounters specifically for prophylactic removal of an organ (such as prophylactic removal of breasts due to a genetic susceptibility to cancer or a family history of cancer), the principal or first-listed code should be a code from category Z48. Encounter for prophylactic surgery, followed by the appropriate codes to identify the associated risk factor (such as genetic susceptibility or family history). If the patient has a malignancy of one site and is having prophylactic removal at another site to prevent either a new primary malignancy or metastatic disease, a code for the malignancy should also be assigned in addition to a code from subcategory Z48.8. Encounter for prophylactic surgery for risk factors related to malignant neoplasms. A Z48.0 code should not be assigned if the patient is having organ removal for treatment of a malignancy, such as the removal of the testes for the treatment of prostate cancer.

**Miscellaneous Z codes/categories:**

| **Z23 Implantation not carried out** |
| **Z29 Encounter for other prophylactic measures** |
| **Z40 Encounter for contraceptive management** |
| **Z41 Encounter for procedures for purposes other than remedying health state** |
| **Z42 Encounter for procedures for purposes other than remedying health state, unspecified** |
| **Z51 Persons encountering health services for specific procedures and treatment, not carried out** |
| **Z55 Problems related to education and literacy** |
| **Z56 Problems related to employment and unemployment** |
| **Z57 Occupational exposure to risk factors** |
| **Z58 Problems related to physical environment** |
| **Z59 Problems related to housing and economic circumstances** |
| **Z60 Problems related to social environment** |
| **Z62 Problems related to care provider dependency** |
| **Z63 Other problems related to primary support group, including family, friends, and neighbors** |
| **Z64 Problems related to certain psychosocial circumstances** |
| **Z65 Problems related to other psychosocial circumstances** |
| **Z66 Problems related to lifestyle** |

**Note:** These codes should be assigned only when the documentation specifies that the patient has an associated problem.

| **Z67 Problems related to life management difficulty** |
| **Z74 Problems related to care provider dependency** |
| **Z75 Problems related to medical facilities and other health care** |
| **Z76.0 Encounter for issue of repeat prescription** |
| **Z76.3 Healthy person accompanying sick person** |
| **Z76.4 Other border to healthcare facility** |
| **Z76.5 Malingerer [conscious simulation]** |
| **Z76.81 Expectant mother prebirth pediatrician visit** |
| **Z79.83 Expectant mother ante- or postnatal pediatrician visit** |

**15) Non-specific Z codes**

Certain Z codes are non-specific, or potentially redundant with other codes in the classification, that there can be little justification for their use in the inpatient setting. Their use in the outpatient setting should be...
limited to those instances when there is no further documentation to
permit more precise coding. Otherwise, any sign or symptom or any other
reason for visit that is captured in another code should be used.
Non-specific Z codes/categories:

280.9 Encounter for administrative examinations, unspecified
284.9 Encounter for examination and observation for unspecified
reason
213.9 Encounter for screening, unspecified
241.9 Encounter for procedure for purposes other than remedying
health state, unspecified
252.9 Donor of unspecified organ or tissue
286.19 Personal history of other mental and behavioral disorders
288.9 Allergy status to unspecified drugs, medicaments and
biological substances status
292.8 Personal history of contraception

16) Z codes that may only be principal/first-listed diagnosis
The following Z codes/categories may only be reported as the
principal/first-listed diagnosis, except when there are multiple
encounters on the same day and the medical records for the encounters
are combined:

280 Encounter for general examination without complaint,
suspected or reported diagnosis
Except: 280.6
281 Encounter for other special examination without complaint,
suspected or reported diagnosis
282 Encounter for administrative examination
283 Encounter for medical observation for suspected diseases and
conditions ruled out
284 Encounter for examination and observation for other reasons
231.81 Encounter for male factor infertility in female patient
231.83 Encounter for assisted reproductive fertility procedure cycle
231.84 Encounter for fertility preservation procedure
236 Encounter for supervision of normal pregnancy
239 Encounter for maternal postpartum care and examination
238 Liveborn infants according to place of birth and type of delivery
242 Encounter for plastic and reconstructive surgery following
medical procedure or healed injury
251.0 Encounter for antineoplastic radiation therapy
251.1- Encounter for antineoplastic chemotherapy and
immunotherapy
252 Donors of organs and tissues
Except: 252.9, Donor of unspecified organ or tissue
276.1 Encounter for health supervision and care of foundling
276.2 Encounter for health supervision and care of other healthy
infant and child
290.12 Encounter for respirator (ventilator) dependence during power
failure

Female patient seen at 32 weeks gestation to check the progress of
her first pregnancy
Z34.03 Encounter for supervision of normal first pregnancy,
third trimester

Z34.32 32 weeks gestation of pregnancy
Explanation: Category Z34 is appropriate as a first-listed diagnosis.
Category Z34 helps to clarify at which point in the pregnancy the
patient was provided supervision.