

ICD-10 Documentation

Pocket Reference Card

Diagnosis codes support the Medical Necessity for the treatment being given. The following may help to remind you of additional details for the most accurate coding for your services.

General

- ⇒ **Specific anatomic site or details of condition** (right lower quadrant of abdomen, type 2 diabetes, subsequent STEMI of anterior wall, etc.)
- ⇒ **Laterality**—right, left, bilateral
- ⇒ **Episode of care**
 - Initial**—while patient is receiving active treatment for the condition (Example: surgical treatment, emergency department encounter, evaluation and treatment by new physician)
 - Subsequent**—after patient has received active treatment and is receiving routine care for condition during the healing or recovery phase (Example: cast change/removal, meds adjustment, aftercare)
 - Sequela**—for complications or conditions that arise as a direct result of a condition (Example: scar formation after a burn)
- ⇒ **Comorbid conditions affecting the current condition/care of the patient** (COPD, DM type I, homeless, tobacco exposure, pregnant, etc.)
- ⇒ **Pregnant patient** (document trimester for any condition)
- ⇒ **Degree of impairment** (blood alcohol level, severe, mild, etc.)
- ⇒ **When seeing patient in follow-up, especially injuries, specifically document original injury** (7th character for episode of care will be added to indicate phase of healing. This original code will follow the patient throughout treatment even for sequela.)
- ⇒ **Complications of Care**—be specific. Intraoperative or postprocedural? There must be a cause-and-effect relationship documented
- ⇒ **Infection?** Specify infectious organism, if known
- ⇒ **Sequela**—list current condition in addition to original injury/condition (7th character “S” will be added to original code to indicate sequela)
- ⇒ **External Causes** (MVA, fall on stairs, burn from..., exposure to..., etc.)

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Specialties

Orthopaedics

- ⇒ **Location?** Specific anatomical location
 - ⇒ **Laterality?** Right, Left, or Bilateral?
 - ⇒ **Fractures:**
 - ***Displaced or non-displaced?**
 - ***What type/kind of fracture?** (Torus, greenstick, comminuted, etc.)
 - ***Open or Closed?**
 - Open Fractures of forearm, femur, lower leg:**
Gustilo Classification-I, II, IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC
 - ⇒ **Phase of treatment/episode of care** (Initial, subsequent, sequela)
 - ***For subsequent:**

Routine healing	Delayed healing
Nonunion	Malunion
 - ⇒ **Complications?** Intraoperative/postprocedural?
 - ⇒ **Infections?** Specify infectious organism, if known (MRSA?)
- ### Pain Medicine
- ⇒ **Specific location of pain** (Lumbar, T-5, left lower leg, etc.)
 - ⇒ **Pain level** (7/10, severe, intractable, etc.)
 - ⇒ **Cause?** (Lupus, sequela of MVA, neoplasm related, postoperative, etc.)
- ### Emergency
- ⇒ **Glasgow Coma Scale** (would help support “history obtainable because...”) State when scale recorded (Field, on arrival, admission, ≥24 hours)
 - ⇒ **List trimester for any pregnant patient** (in addition to condition)
 - ⇒ **Alcohol ?** (use, abuse, dependence, blood alcohol level) **Tobacco?** (cigarettes, chewing tobacco, use, abuse, exposure, history of)
 - ⇒ **Stroke-hemorrhagic or infarction?**
 - ⇒ **STEMI or NSTEMI, initial or subsequent?** Specify location if known (anterior wall, inferior wall, subsequent transmural [Q wave] MI, etc.)
Specify date of previous MI, if applicable
 - ⇒ **Poisoning / Underdosing / Adverse Effects** (substance, condition, intent)

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