ICD-10-PCS Coding Tip

Root Operation: Control

In an effort to aid Health Information Management Coding and Medical Billing Professionals with ICD-10, the following training tip is provided with an educational intent.

The third character in PCS defines the root operation, or the overall objective of the procedure. The root operation of ‘Control’ represents the third character value ‘3’ for codes in Sections for Anatomical Regions: W (General), X (Upper Extremities) and Y (Lower Extremities).

Definition of Control: Stopping/attempting to stop post-procedural bleed. Site of procedure: Anatomical region.

Explanation: CONTROL includes irrigation or evacuation of hematoma done at the operative site. Both irrigation and evacuation may be necessary to clear the operative field and effectively stop the bleeding. CONTROL is used to represent a small range of procedures performed to treat post-procedural bleeding. If performing BYPASS, DETACHMENT, EXCISION, EXTRACTION, REPOSITION, REPLACEMENT, or RESECTION to stop the bleeding, then CONTROL is not coded separately.

Reference 2013 3Q ICD-10 Coding Clinic

Examples of Control

- Hysteroscopy with cautery of post-hysterectomy oozing and evacuation of clot: 0W3R8ZZ
- Open exploration and ligation of post-op arterial bleeder, left forearm: 0X3F0ZZ
- Control of post-operative retroperitoneal bleeding via laparotomy: 0W3H0ZZ


Coding Clinic is the official resource and authority for ICD-10 coding rules and conventions.

This tip sheet was developed by the CHIA Coding and Data Quality Committee as an educational resource. The information in this document is not intended to impart legal advice. This overview is intended as an educational tool only and should not be relied upon as legal or compliance advice. If you have any legal questions about the information contained herein, you should consult your attorney or other professional legal services provider. California Health Information Association, AHIMA Affiliate, 2015.