ICD-10-PCS Coding Tip

Character 3: Root Operation

In an effort to aid Health Information Management Coding Professionals for ICD-10, the following coding tip is provided with an educational intent.

The third character (root operation) defines the objective of the procedure. There are a total of 31 root operations used for PCS coding and each root operation has its own definition for proper use. In the Medical and Surgical and related sections, the root operation is used as the main term in the Index.

Alteration Division Inspection Reposition
Bypass Drainage Map Resection
Change Excision Occlusion Resection
Control Extirpation Reattachment Revision
Creation Extraction Release Supplement
Destruction Fragmentation Repair Transfer
Detachment Fusion Replacement Transplantation
Dilation Insertion

Coding Clinic is the official resource and authority for ICD-10 coding rules and conventions.
This coding tip sheet was developed by the CHIA Coding and Data Quality Committee as an educational resource 2012.