



ICD-10-PCS Coding Tip

Z Codes That May be Principal/First-Listed Diagnosis

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

Z codes are a special group of codes provided in ICD-10-CM for the reporting of factors influencing health status and contact with health services. Z codes are designated as the principal/first listed diagnosis in specific situations such as:

- To indicate that a person with a resolving disease, injury or chronic condition is being seen for specific aftercare, such as the removal of internal fixation devices such as orthopedic pins.
- To indicate that a person is seen for the sole purpose of special therapy, such as chemotherapy, immunotherapy and radiation therapy.
- To indicate that a person not currently ill is encountering the health service for a specific reason, such as to act as an organ donor, encounter for medical observation for suspected diseases and conditions ruled out, administrative examinations (pre-employment exam, recruitment to armed forces), plastic and reconstructive surgery following medical procedures or healed injury (breast reconstruction following mastectomy).
- To indicate the birth status of newborns.

Source: Leon-Chisen, N. (2014) ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS Coding Handbook 2015. Chicago, IL: AHA Press.

Source: ICD-10-CM Draft Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting 2015.

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

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