



# Root Operation: Bypass

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, the objective of the procedure. The root operation of bypass, third character value '1' for codes in the Medical Surgical Section.

**Definition of Bypass: Altering the route of passage of the contents of a tubular body part.**

**Explanation:** Bypass involves rerouting the contents of a body part to a downstream area of the normal route, to a similar route and body part, or to an abnormal route and dissimilar body part..

**Example:**

Three Vessel Coronary Artery Bypass Graft

An open three vessel coronary artery bypass was done by grafting two coronary arteries using the right greater saphenous vein, harvested percutaneously, and the third coronary bypassed using the left internal mammary artery. Two codes are assigned for the three vessel coronary artery bypass and another code is assigned for excision of the right greater saphenous. These codes are 021109W and 02100Z8. The first code identifies the use of the saphenous vein as the autologous graft. The second code does not use a device because the right internal mammary artery the vessel from which the bypass originates. A third code is necessary to identify the excision of the greater saphenous vein for the graft.

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

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