

Coding for External Causes of Morbidity in ICD-10-CM

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By Karen Kostick, RHIT, CCS, CCS-P

The ICD-10-CM external causes of morbidity tabular list includes significant enhancements to the ICD-9-CM supplementary classification of external causes of injury and poisonings (E800–E999). The ICD-10-CM list features category restructuring, reorganization, and major code expansion.

This article provides an overview of chapter 20, "External Causes of Morbidity (V00–Y99)," in ICD-10-CM and highlights its coding guidelines.

Chapter 20 Overview

In ICD-10-CM external causes are incorporated into the main tabular listing within chapter 19, "Injury, Poisoning and Certain Other Consequences of External Causes," and chapter 20, "External Causes of Morbidity." Chapter 20 consists of categories V00 through Y99 and is arranged in the following blocks:

- Accidents (V00–X58)
 - Transport accidents (V00–V99)
 - Other external causes of accidental injury (W00–X58)
- Intentional self-harm (X71–X83)
- Assault (X92–Y09)
- Event of undetermined intent (Y21–Y33)
- Legal intervention, operations of war, military operations, and terrorism (Y35–Y38)
- Complications of medical and surgical care (Y62–Y84)
 - Misadventures to patients during surgical and medical care (Y62–Y69)
 - Medical devices associated with adverse incidents in diagnostic and therapeutic use (Y70–Y82)
 - Surgical and other medical procedures as the cause of abnormal reaction of the patient, or of late complication, without mention of misadventure at the time of the procedure (Y83–Y84)
 - Supplementary factors related to causes of morbidity classified elsewhere (Y90–Y99)

The external causes of morbidity codes are used to capture the cause, intent, place of occurrence, activity, and status of the condition or injury. As with ICD-9-CM E codes, multiple external cause codes may be coded to fully identify all the components of the patient's injury or health condition.

Many subcategories in ICD-9-CM have been given a specific ICD-10-CM category, which expands the external cause codes at the fourth-, fifth-, or sixth-character level. Take for example ICD-9-CM code E917.0, In sports without subsequent fall. This code equates to multiple codes in ICD-10-CM, including:

- W21.00, Struck by hit or thrown ball, unspecified type
- W21.01, Struck by football
- W21.02, Struck by soccer ball
- W21.03, Struck by baseball
- W21.04, Struck by golf ball
- W21.05, Struck by basketball
- W21.06, Struck by volleyball
- W21.07, Struck by softball
- W21.09, Struck by other hit or thrown ball

Certain ICD-10-CM chapter 20 categories require a seventh-character extension to indicate whether the episode of care being identified is the initial, subsequent, or sequelae (a secondary consequence or result). The applicable seventh character is required for all external cause codes within the category or as the tabular list notes instruct.

An external cause code with the appropriate seventh character is assigned for each encounter for which the injury or condition is being treated. If a code requires a seventh character but is not six characters long, a placeholder X is used to fill in the empty character.

When reporting transport accident section codes (V00–V99), the tabular list instructs coding professionals to use an additional code to identify an airbag injury (W22.1), type of street or road (Y92.4-), and use of cellular telephone and other electronic equipment at the time of the transport accident (Y93.c-). Land transport accidents (V01–V89) specify the injured individual's mode of transport and are subdivided to identify the injured individual's "counterpart" or the type of event. The type of vehicle the injured person occupies is identified in the first two characters since it is seen as the most important factor to identify for prevention purposes.

The complications of medical and surgical care categories (Y62–Y84) do not require seventh-character extensions. This section includes a new category to report medical devices associated with adverse incidents in diagnostic and therapeutic use (Y70–Y82). This category includes the breakdown or malfunction of medical devices after implementation.

The supplementary factors related to causes of morbidity classified elsewhere categories (Y90–Y99) may be used to provide supplementary information concerning causes of morbidity. They are not to be used for single-condition coding.

For example, a note under category Y90 titled "Evidence of alcohol involvement determined by blood alcohol level" instructs coders to first code any associated alcohol-related disorders from category F10. The familiar ICD-9-CM E codes for place of occurrence, activity, and status are included in this ICD-10-CM section.

Chapter 20 Tabular List Example

V44 Car occupant injured in collision with heavy transport vehicle or bus

Excludes 1: car occupant injured in collision with military vehicle (V49.81)

The appropriate seventh character is to be added to each code from category V44.

A initial encounter

D subsequent encounter

S sequela

V44.0 Car driver injured in collision with heavy transport vehicle or bus in nontraffic accident

V44.1 Car passenger injured in collision with heavy transport vehicle or bus in nontraffic accident

V44.2 Person on outside of car injured in collision with heavy transport vehicle or bus in nontraffic accident

V44.3 Unspecified car occupant injured in collision with heavy transport vehicle or bus in nontraffic accident

V44.4 Person boarding or alighting a car injured in collision with heavy transport vehicle or bus

V44.5 Car driver injured in collision with heavy transport vehicle or bus in traffic accident

V44.6 Car passenger injured in collision with heavy transport vehicle or bus in traffic accident

V44.7 Person on outside of car injured in collision with heavy transport vehicle or bus in traffic accident

V44.9 Unspecified car occupant injured in collision with heavy transport vehicle or bus in traffic accident

Coding a Transport Accident, Initial Encounter

A driver of a car collided with a bus on a business street during rush hour traffic. The driver stated to being on his cell phone at the time of the accident.

Codes to report this transport accident include:

V44.5xxA Car driver injured in collision with heavy transport vehicle or bus in traffic accident

Y92.414 Local residential or business street as the place of occurrence of the external cause

Y93.c2 Use of cellular telephone and other electronic equipment at the time of the transport accident

New and Revised Coding Guidelines

Many of the Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting for External Causes of Morbidity in chapter 20 of ICD-10-CM are consistent with the ICD-9-CM E coding guidelines. A few new and revised coding guidelines for chapter 20, "External Causes of Morbidity," are highlighted below.

External cause code used for length of treatment. Assign the external cause code with the appropriate seventh character (initial encounter, subsequent encounter, or sequela) for each encounter for which the injury or condition is being treated. (Coding Guideline I.C.20.a.2)

Combination external cause codes. Certain external cause codes are combination codes that identify sequential events that result in an injury, such as a fall that results in striking against an object. The injury may be due to either event or both. The combination external cause code should correspond to the sequence of events, regardless of which caused the most serious injury. (Coding Guideline I.C.20.a.7)

No external cause code needed in certain circumstances. No external cause code from chapter 20 is needed if the external cause and intent are included in a code from another chapter (e.g., T36.0x1-, Poisoning by penicillins, accidental (unintentional)). (Coding Guideline I.C.20.a.8)

Unknown or undetermined intent. If the intent (accident, self-harm, assault) of the cause of an injury or other condition is unknown or unspecified, code the intent as accidental. All transport accident categories assume accidental intent.

External cause codes for events of undetermined intent are only for use if the documentation in the record specifies that the intent cannot be determined. (Coding Guideline I.C.20.h.1)

Late-effect external cause codes. Late effects are reported using the external cause code with the seventh character extension "S" for sequela. These codes should be used with any report of a late effect or sequela resulting from a previous injury. (Coding Guideline I.C.20.i.1)

Cause of injury identified by the federal government (FBI) as terrorism. When the cause of an injury is identified by the federal government (FBI) as terrorism, the first-listed external cause code should be a code from the terrorism category (Y38). The definition of terrorism employed by the FBI is found at the inclusion note at the beginning of category Y38.

Use additional codes for the place of occurrence (Y92.-). More than one Y38 code may be assigned if the injury is the result of more than one mechanism of terrorism.

When the cause of an injury is suspected to be the result of terrorism, a code from category Y38 should not be assigned. Suspected cases should be classified as assault. (Coding Guideline I.C.20.j.1,2)

Medical Devices Associated with Adverse Incidents

Some examples of codes for medical devices associated with adverse incidents in diagnostic and therapeutic use (Y70–Y82) include:

Y71 Cardiovascular devices associated with adverse incidents

Y71.0 Diagnostic and monitoring cardiovascular devices associated with adverse incidents

Y71.1 Therapeutic (nonsurgical) and rehabilitative cardiovascular devices associated with adverse incidents

Y71.2 Prosthetic and other implants, materials and accessory cardiovascular devices associated with adverse incidents

Y71.3 Surgical instruments, materials, and cardiovascular devices (including sutures) associated with adverse incidents

Y71.8 Miscellaneous cardiovascular devices associated with adverse incidents, not elsewhere classified

References

National Center for Health Statistics. "ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting." March 1, 2011. www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd9/10cmguidelines2011_FINAL.pdf.

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Karen Kostick (karen.kostick@ahima.org) is a practice resource specialist at AHIMA.

Article citation:

Kostick, Karen M.. "Coding for External Causes of Morbidity in ICD-10-CM" *Journal of AHIMA* 82, no.7 (July 2011): 56-58.

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