

ICD-10 Documentation Tip Sheet

Coding of Pathologic Fractures

REVISED

- The cause of the pathologic fracture (e.g. osteoporosis, malignancy) should be documented.
- The location, including laterality, should be documented for most accurate code selection
- The 7th character A is for use as long as the patient is receiving active treatment for the fracture. Examples of active treatment are: surgical treatment, or casting. Note that medication is not listed as active treatment. **NOTE: Although a patient may see new physicians through the course of the healing phase, ICD-10 no longer considers this active treatment. Use the 7th character D for treatment by a new physician.**
- The 7th character, D is to be used for encounters after the patient has completed active treatment. (This is the healing/recovery phase).
- The other 7th characters, listed under each subcategory in the Tabular List, are to be used for subsequent encounters for treatment of problems associated with the healing, such as malunions, nonunions, and sequelae.
- Care for complications of surgical treatment for fracture repairs during the healing or recovery phase should be coded with the appropriate complication codes.