

Internal Medicine Coding Alert

Reader Question: Ask Your Physician for More Hepatitis Info

Question: If a patient once had hepatitis but is now free of the disease, should we still consider the person a carrier? Which ICD-9 code should we use?

Michigan Subscriber

Answer: The correct code you should choose depends on which type of hepatitis the patient had and whether the physician identified that the patient was a carrier. In situations like this one, you should obtain more detailed information from the physician so you can select the appropriate code.

If the physician does suspect that the patient carries the disease, then you or the physician should select from four V codes:

1. V02.60 - Persons with potential health hazards related to communicable diseases; carrier or suspected carrier of infectious diseases; viral hepatitis carrier, unspecified
2. V02.61 - ... Hepatitis B carrier
3. V02.62 - ... Hepatitis C carrier
4. V02.69 - ... Other viral hepatitis carrier.