

Internal Medicine Coding Alert

You Be the Coder: Diagnosis Codes for Blood Tests

Test your coding knowledge. Determine how you would code this situation before looking at the box below for the answer.

Question: I am using 790.5 for elevated CPK and 790.6 (Other abnormal blood chemistry) for elevated MCV. Is this correct?

Arizona Subscriber

Answer: MCV is the abbreviation for mean cell volume. This test measures the average volume of red blood cells and is a standard component of the complete blood count (CBC). The correct code for an abnormal laboratory finding such as this is 790.09 (Other abnormality of red blood cells).

Codes for abnormal laboratory tests are also in the ICD-9 index under the heading ""Findings abnormal without diagnosis.""

CPK the abbreviation for creatine phosphokinase is an enzyme found predominantly in the muscles of the heart and brain. The code you are using 790.5 (Other nonspecific abnormal serum enzyme levels) for an elevated CPK is correct.

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