Eli's Rehab Report

Reader Question: Chronic Pain Management

Question: Is there an ICD-9 code for chronic pain management?

Iowa Subscriber

Answer: There is no specific ICD-9 code assigned to designate chronic pain management. Your best bet is to use 729.1 (Myalgia and myositis, unspecified) or 780.9 (Other general symptoms [including generalized pain]). If the patient is suffering from chronic pain in a more specific body site (such as lumbar pain, 724.2), you should code that first. The more accurate you can make your diagnosis, the better your chances of being reimbursed without delay.