

Eli's Rehab Report

Reader Question: Clicking Hands

Question: One of our patients presented because her hand "clicks" when she moves her fingers. The physiatrist found that she is probably at risk for arthritis, but does not currently have it. How should I code "clicking hands"?

Virginia Subscriber

Answer: You will have to code according to the closest possible diagnosis -- ask the physiatrist if the patient had joint pain or discomfort, whether the patient had any conditions such as bursitis, or whether she had any bone problems. Diagnoses such as "joint pain, hand" (719.44) might be appropriate for a patient with this prearthritis condition. Do not use the diagnosis listed alphabetically in the ICD-9 guide as "click, clicking (785.2.)" This refers to a cardiac condition, not a musculoskeletal problem.