

Eli's Rehab Report

Reader Questions: Note How Rule of Nine Can Change

Question: Does ICD-9 Codes always stick to the percentages for the Rule of Nines? How about for infants?

South Carolina Subscriber

Answer: The percentages for the Rule of Nines (9 and 18 percent) are slightly different for babies, due to the relative large size of their heads (19 percent compared to 9 percent in adults). While back and front remain at 18 percent, arms remain at 9 percent and genitalia remain at 1 percent, the guidelines trim the legs to 13 percent each to account for the increased size of the head and face.