

Urology Coding Alert

ICD-10: Pinpoint the Reason Behind Urethral Stricture to Code Correctly

Your most common choices will fall in three code families.

Urethral stricture is not an uncommon diagnosis for urologists to see, which means you need to be familiar with the multiple coding possibilities. As long as you remember to check the reason behind the stricture, you should be able to pinpoint the correct code without too many problems.

Remember: A urethral stricture is a narrowing of the urethra. It can be caused by injury, instrumentation, infection, and certain non-infectious forms of urethritis. Symptoms can include bloody or dark urine, discharge from the urethra, a strong urge to urinate, frequent urination with a decreased urinary stream, pain in the lower abdomen or pelvic area, and others.

When the urologist diagnoses urethral stricture, most of your code choices focus on the cause of the stricture and the stricture location. Note that the diagnoses are also specific to males or females.

Your current ICD-10 choices for post-traumatic urethral stricture include:

- N35.010 Post-traumatic urethral stricture, male, meatal
- N35.011 Post-traumatic bulbous urethral stricture
- N35.012 Post-traumatic membranous urethral stricture
- N35.013 Post-traumatic anterior urethral stricture
- N35.014 Post-traumatic urethral stricture, male, unspecified
- N35.021 Urethral stricture due to childbirth
- N35.028 Other post-traumatic urethral stricture, female.

If the urologist determines that an infection contributed to the stricture, you have a different set of diagnoses:

- N35.111 Postinfective urethral stricture, not elsewhere classified, male, meatal
- N35.112 Postinfective bulbous urethral stricture, not elsewhere classified
- N35.113 Postinfective membranous urethral stricture, not elsewhere classified
- N35.114 Postinfective anterior urethral stricture, not elsewhere classified
- N35.119 Postinfective urethral stricture, not elsewhere classified, male, unspecified
- N35.12 Postinfective urethral stricture, not elsewhere classified, female.

Your current ICD-10 choices for post-procedural urethral stricture include:

- N99.110- Postprocedural urethral stricture, male, meatal
- N99.111- Postprocedural bulbous urethral stricture
- N99.112- Postprocedural membranous urethral stricture
- N99.113- Postprocedural anterior bulbous urethral stricture
- N99.114- Postprocedural urethral stricture, male, unspecified
- N99.15- Postprocedural fossa navicularis urethral stricture
- N99.12- Postprocedural urethral stricture, female.

If the patient's clinical circumstances do not fall into one of these diagnostic categories or if the record does not have enough detail to determine the most appropriate code, ICD-10 gives you a "catch-all" choice: N35.8 (Other urethral stricture).

