

Outpatient Facility Coding Alert

Reader Question: Stick to ICD-10-CM Index for Orbital Erosion of the Skull Diagnosis

Question: What diagnosis code would you report for orbital erosion?

Alabama Subscriber

Answer: Assuming the documentation elaborates that this is a case of orbital bone erosion, then the ICD-10-CM index should lead you directly to the correct code. Erosion ⇒ bone will lead you to "see Disorder, bone, density and structure, specified NEC."

There, Disorder ⇒ bone ⇒ density and structure ⇒ specified type NEC ⇒ skull will lead you to code M85.88 (Other specified disorders of bone density and structure, other site).

The only tricky portion of this diagnosis is making sure that you know that the orbit is a component of the skull. Otherwise, you might not find a suitable candidate since the ICD-10-CM index does not specifically reference "other site" next to M85.88. Rather, you'd only know that M85.88 states "other site" in the code description by looking it up in the tabular.