Outpatient Facility Coding Alert

You Be the Coder: Understanding What 28730 Can Encompass

Question: The podiatrist completed first metatarsal-cuneiform arthrodesis (lapidus not for bunion correction). It was followed by a naviculo-cuneiform arthrodesis. A screw was inserted from the medial cuneiform to the base of the second metatarsal for a Lisfranc arthrodesis. Should I code the lapidus and naviculo-cuneiform arthrodesis procedures under 28737? Should I also use the code 28615 to cover the Lisfranc portion?

Kentucky Subscriber

Answer: In this kind of treatment plan it is a good idea to report the procedure as a single plan and code it as 28730 (Arthrodesis, midtarsal or tarsometatarsal, multiple or transverse) since the code covers all the procedures the podiatrist completed.

Key point: The key word with the 28730 code descriptor is "multiple." When your podiatrist treats several joints in the same area, this is your best code choice