

Home Health ICD-9/ICD-10 Alert

Coding Guidelines: Make Adverse Effects Coding A Breeze -- Get To Know The Table Of Drugs And Chemicals

Hint: Don't forget to cross-reference your code in the tabular list.

To code correctly for the adverse effects of a drug prescribed and taken correctly, you must know your way around the Table of Drugs and Chemicals.

The table, located in Section 2 of the alphabetic index, provides a classification of drugs and other chemical substances to identify poisoning states and external causes of adverse effects.

The first column for each drug or other chemical substance provides codes to indicate that your patient was poisoned. The five remaining columns describe the circumstances surrounding the poisoning or the adverse effects. These include:

- **Accidental poisoning (E850-E869)** --- An accidental overdose of a drug, the wrong substance given or taken, a drug taken inadvertently or accidents in the usage of drugs and biologicals in medical and surgical procedures. Also used to show external causes of poisonings classifiable to categories 980-989 (Toxic effects of substances chiefly nonmedicinal as to source).
- **Therapeutic use (E930-E949)** --- A correct substance or substances properly administered in therapeutic or prophylactic dosage as the external cause of adverse effects. With therapeutic use, everything was done right, but despite everybody's best efforts, something bad happened, says **Sparkle Sparks, MPT, HCS-D, COS-C**, consultant with Redmond, WA-based **OASIS Answers**.
- **Suicide attempt (E950-E952)** --- Self-inflicted injuries or poisonings.
- **Assault (E961-E962)** --- Injury or poisoning inflicted by another person with the intent to injure or kill.
- **Undetermined (E980-E982)** --- Used when the intent of the poisoning or injury cannot be determined whether accidental or intentional.