

Home Health ICD-9/ICD-10 Alert

READER QUESTION: Look To Focus Of Care With Breast Cancer Patient

Question: How should I code for a patient with breast cancer who refuses a mastectomy and has a large draining open area on her breast? Our staff is providing wound care daily.

Florida Subscriber

Answer: The draining area is considered an ulcer, so it is coded 707.8 (Chronic ulcer of other specified sites). If the care of the ulcer is the focus of the care your agency provides, code for it as primary with the code for breast cancer as secondary.