

Home Health ICD-9/ICD-10 Alert

READER QUESTIONS: Avoid Dialysis Coding Confusion

Question: I have a patient with end stage renal disease who is on dialysis and the catheter is infected. Can I include a code for the infected dialysis catheter when coding this case?

Answer: Caring for infected dialysis catheter sites is not a covered service under the Medicare home health benefit unless the site has been abandoned and is no longer being used for dialysis. If the site has been abandoned and the agency is providing care, then use the code 996.62 for infection/inflammation of a vascular device or 996.68 for infection/inflammation of a peritoneal dialysis catheter.

If care is not being provided, don't code it. Do count it as a non-healing surgical wound however.